

**SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY MEETING (AAC)
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
June 13, 2012**

The meeting of the Solano County Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) was held at the Department of Agriculture and UC Cooperative Extension Building, Downstairs Conference Room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA at 3:00 pm

Members Present:

Russ Lester, Barbara Comfort, Sue Lippstreu, Craig Leathers, Moira Burke, Mary Helen Seeger, Al Medvitz, Bruce Brazelton, Don Johnson, Jeff Dittmer,

Others present:

Jim Allan, Solano County Agriculture Commissioner
Solano County Sheriff Jim Currie,
Peggy K Nelson,
Sabine Goerhe-Shrode,
Fred Zaragoza, Supervisor Mike Reagan's Office

Solano County Resource Management staff:

Terry Shmidtbauer, Matthew Geiser, Misty Kattreider, Jeffrey Bell

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Russ Lester at 3:05 PM.

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was approved unanimously.

Item 4 Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of May 9th were not presented for approval.

Minutes for February also need approval

Item 5 New Business

(a) Report on the Board of Supervisor Meeting-Board Topics Related to Subject Matter of the AAC

Nothing to report of relevance to Ag Advisory

(b) Proposed Changes to Solano County Code Chapter 25 - Biosolids

Solano County Resource Management staff:

Terry Shmidtbauer, Matthew Geiser, Misty Kattreider, Jeffrey Bell presented a power point on proposed changes to the code regarding the land application of biosolids in Solano County.

Applications are to dry land grazing fields, mostly in south county. Grazing animals are kept off the fields for a minimum of 60 days. There is a 2 mile buffer around cities. There are sample points monitored by UCD. There has been tracking in fields since 2002.

The proposed change to county code which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors include:

eliminate the sunset date of Oct. 15th, 2012

clarify prohibitions to be compatible with state and fed

clarify exemptions

clarify generator progress report

Metal concentrates are monitored and have been below the limits set
Examples of metal concentrates shown were copper, lead and zinc.

The source of the waste is from cities outside of Solano County,
including San Francisco, Redwood City, Antioch, and others in the greater Bay Area. Where there is
more industrial waste, there is higher rates of metals.

Pharmaceuticals appear to break down in soil, it is not being found in soils or in drainage water from
fields. Aerosols, home owner pesticides, legacy chemicals, background pathogens are also monitored.
Class A Waste has a higher kill rate than class B.

There will be a stakeholder meeting on June 21, 2012.

On August 7, 2012 it will be introduced as the suggested amended ordinance to the Board of
Supervisors.

On Aug 28, 2012 it will be considered for adoption for the Board of Supervisors.

One suggestion by Al Medvitz was to interview the workers in the area which staff took note of.

(c) Rural Law Enforcement and Bicycle Traffic – Deputy Jim Currie

Jim Currie jcurrie@solanocounty.com Solano County Sheriff made a presentation

1. The suggestion from Sheriff Currie is to have higher penalty for illegal dumping.
When people are caught, they are taken to court, but it is not a significant penalty,
and not much of a deterrent.
2. Regarding bicycle events, particularly in the Pleasant's Valley Rd and Putah Creek Rd
areas, and Montezuma Hills: if there are problems for farmers or safety issues, call the Sheriff to report it and that
will get increased monitoring. Check about permits.

Ag Advisory trying to work with County Staff, bike groups, CHP and Solano Sheriff
To have a safer environment for the bicyclists and also to enable normal farm practices.
Sheriff Currie was invited to view the time trials every Weds night 5 -7:30 on Putah Creek Road. There was
discussion of an ordinance, enhanced signage, defining roads with economic importance with enhanced fines

3. Rural Theft

Discussion of a tougher ordinance to discourage rural theft.
Suggestion is for farmers to help themselves by labeling equipment, taking photos of equipment, using game
cameras, motion detection lights, getting photos of people, vehicles, and license numbers.

There is frustration about loopholes in the laws concerning metal recycling.
No vehicle license number is required. Cash can be paid for regular customers - more than 3 visits a month.
Suggestion to get the DA involved.

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) General Plan Update/Agriculture Region Study Dixon Ridge-Resource Management
nothing reported

(b) EGVM/LBAM Updates

Jim Allan reports there are no new EVGM finds. The growers have done a great job controlling it. The "Devastating Grasshopper" has arrived on Pleasants Valley Road in great numbers eating cactus, oleander, and other unlikely plants. Grasshoppers overwinter as eggs, maybe predator insects did not develop normally. Sevin baits are used to control it.

(c) Future Budget Planning – Discussion

Gov. Brown is proposing more cuts to Dept of Food and Agriculture (down \$65 million in two years.) Projected more cuts to border stations, fewer hours at UPS, will trickle down to county payments for pest control and monitoring. If the November initiative doesn't pass, there will be more cuts to education, other services including agriculture.

(d) Delta Water Issues

Science Report is out showing Negative Impact on removal of Water from the Delta
Impact of removal 20,000 to 25,000 CFS could complete dewater the Sacramento River.
It is said there are closed door meetings with the Governor, Salazar and water agencies seeking to build the tunnels. There is talk that they will not require an EIR because of going underground.

Set up Agenda Item for August meeting with Representative Garamendi, Mike Reagan, others.

e. Williamson Act Update

No Discussion

f. Local Food Shed Working Group

Moira had information about the diverse products produced locally.

g. Renewable Energy Working Group

Russ Lester and Mary Helen Seeger met with Mike Yankovich to review Yolo County Ordinance and make suggestions to incorporate into the draft Solano County Ordinance. The goal is to allow appropriate use of renewable energy while protecting farm land. Al Medvitz presented some other information and would like to be included if the working group meets again before the August meeting.

h. Pesticide Update

None

Item 7 Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

There will be a Farm Obudsman forum June 21st, 1 pm meeting at Winters Library for Yolo and Solano County.

No other announcement or correspondence.

8. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 3:00 PM

9. Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 PM