

SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY MEETING (AAC)
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
December 12, 2012 aka 12.12.12

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, Moira Burke, Sue Lippstreu, Craig Leathers, Mary Helen Seeger, Al Medvitz, Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer, James Wallace

Others present:

Jim Allan, Solano County Agriculture Commissioner
Simone Hardy, Assistant Solano County Agriculture Commissioner
Morgan Doran UCCE Director
Wendy Rash USDA NRCS
Mike Yankovich: Solano County Resource Management staff Senior Planner
Sabine Goerke-Shrode: District 3 BOS
Visitor: Ed Laivo, Four Winds Growers

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Russ L. at 3:14PM.

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

Self-introductions were performed

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

None

Item 4 Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the August Meeting were approved as submitted

Item 5 New Business

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

Jim reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the By-laws changes reducing the quorum requirements for this committee to a simple majority. The Board also received an omnibus report on standing committees.

(b) Action to support the UCCE Pomologist position,
It was MSP to support the position.

(c) Response to proposed Zoning Text Changes

MSP to refer to Zoning working group. Group make-up to be the same as last year; ie., Jeff Dittmer, Barbara Comfort, Russ Lester, Moira Burke.

(d) Calendar 2013 meetings

Jim distributed a proposed calendar that was accepted by the committee. It will be posted on the website as well.

(e) Nominate Officers – 2013

The following Slate of Officers was nominated:

- Chair – Russ Lester
- Vice-chair-- Moira Burke
- Recorder-- Mary Helen Seeger

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) General Plan Update/Agriculture Industrial Region Study Dixon Ridge-Resource Management

Mike Yankovich reported that traffic counts were conducted in Ag industrial area, in Dixon Ridge-Resource Management, particularly around Dixon and the freeway entrances. Discussion that farmers will continue to use overpasses with safety vehicles Rather than take a longer route between their fields.

(b) Exotic Pest Update

Jim gave the group an overview of Asian Citrus Psyllid

(c) Future Budget Planning – Discussion

Jim Allan: since Prop 30 passed, no additional cuts to state programs are anticipated at this time. The fiscal cliff and sequestration could have an unknown effect on federal \$. Al Medvitz heard that federal trapper funds may be cut.

Jim Allan – The billing procedures are changing. There still is a lot of uncertainty on a lot of levels.

Wendy Rauch (sp) – Federal Conservation programs are on hold without Farm Bill being passed.

Morgan Doran -anticipating that Co-operative Extension budget will be flat.

(d) Delta Water Issues

local representatives waiting to see what happens

Gov. Brown could move it forward without any further Legislative Approval.

(e) Williamson Act Update

nothing new to report

(f) Local Food Shed Working Group

North Bay Health and Slow Food

Annual event planned for March 7th, 2013

(g) Renewable Energy Working Group

Gestamp application is still pending in Dixon area. Ned will update soon about applications and pending regulations.

Gestamp- Ag Advisory had issues; Solano County Staff and Supervisor's committees also had issues about taking irrigable land out of production. Supervisors Jim Spering and John Vasquez expressed concerns. An EIR will probably be required.

(h) Pesticide Update

Asian Citrus Psyllid Quarantine to go into effect in areas of Tulare County. There are widespread finds in San Diego, Imperial, Los Angeles Counties. It is a real threat to citrus groves as it can be a carrier of HLB – Huanglongbing, a bacterial disease that kills citrus trees. It will have a big impact on citrus nurseries.

Jim Allan spoke about Pesticide Container Recycling where containers are chipped up and made into pallets. It occurred in Solano County in November. Although it was free to growers, subsidized by the participating manufacturers, there was low turnout. There were pesticide containers recycled for a total of 700 lbs turned in, and 40,000 lbs was what they were hoping for. The Department is trying to figure out why: Yolo Air Quality may allow burning of pesticide containers. It may be that farmers are concerned about turning in contaminated (insufficiently rinsed containers).

Item 7 Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

a. Public Comments:

Wendy: Ag Areas will be included in a study USDA-NRCS BAY- DELTA INITIATIVE -- 500K
Bay Delta - Sacramento and San Joaquin water quality and water conservation, working with irrigated land program
which frees up \$\$ in EQIP Program to cover western southern side of county

b. Announcements - none

c. Correspondence - none

8. Next Meeting Date: January 9th, 2013 3:00 PM

At that same day at 1:30 PM, Jim Allan will conduct Brown Act training for those who have not completed it.

9. Meeting Adjourned at 4.45 PM