

SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY MEETING (AAC)
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
June 12, 2013

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.

Members Present:

Jim Wallace, Craig Leathers, Mary Helen Seeger, Don Johnson
Moira Burke, Russ Lester, Sarah Hawkins

Others present:

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| Jim Allan | Solano Co Agriculture Commissioner |
| Nedzlene Ferrario | Solano Co Resources Management staff |
| Matt Walsh | Solano Co Resources Management staff |
| Peggy Nelson | Staff Board of Supervisors District #4 |
| Carrie Teiken | NRCS - Resource Conservation Services |
| Michelle Stephens | Farmbudsman |
| Wendy Rash | USDA - NRCS |
| Morgan Duran | UCCE Director |

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

Agenda approved as presented

Item 4 Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from last meeting were not presented, to be approved at next meeting.

Item 5 New Business

(a) Report on the Board of Supervisor Meeting –

Board Topics Related to Subject Matter of the AAC

Jim Allan – Approval by Board of Ag Advisory Committee reappointments and approval of new member, Sarah Hawkins.

(b) Introduction of Proposed Nut Theft Ordinance

Jim Allan -

Anyone in possession of unprocessed nuts will have to have documentation of source.

Any processor has to get name, address, phone of anyone one bringing nuts to processor

There will be weigh master audits by Weights / Measures and other measures to minimize Nut Theft.

Butte County has an ordinance now which is working well for them.
CAO, Birgitta, Jim Curry (Ag sheriff) and County Counsel support
After discussion, Draft Ordinance was voted on and supported by the committee.

(c) Dixon Movie Studio Development

Five page article in the Sacramento Bee

Might be a nice concept, but developers have had some financial impropriety,
It has been proposed in other counties, states and failed to materialize.
Proposal is for 3 parcels in A40 around Dixon as well as parcels in the City of Dixon

Ag Advisory Board agrees to send letter to Board of Sups with concerns from the Ag
Perspective.

(d) Committee Membership Update

See 5 A above

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. General Plan Update/Dixon Ridge

Matt Tuggle said that Jim Louie, Planner, said it is best to focus on the Ag triangle
first, do the rest of the area later, there is no new status update.

B. Exotic Pest Update

C. Future Budget Planning

Got \$100,000 for future budget - lost revenue from funding from special project pest
control, Don Johnson -Jim Allan instrumental in effectively dealing with exotic
pests, esp. grapes – need for funding for quick action should be acknowledged.

D. Delta Water Issues –

20,000 page doc to support the tunnels, with Gov. Brown, Feds on board
Local groups in opposition because of impact to local county Delta resource.

E. Williamson Act

In the Assembly, a Bill is proposed with similar protections for Urban areas
Urban Homesteading Act for inner city farming
Committee discussion about whether or not that makes sense for small urban parcels.

Comment from Don Johnson – in the enterprise zone in Suisun Valley,
farmers not taking advantage of it, because it jeopardizes W. Act protection.

F. Local Food Shed working group - nothing new to report

G. Renewable Energy Working Group -

Discussion of Draft Ordinance regarding Commercial Solar Energy Facilities in Ag Zoning.

At this point, “prime soil” are a criteria, at a later date, “prime” could be replaced by LESA rating, only commercial facilities are being addressed on A40, A80

Motion made and carried to support the Draft, unanimous with one abstention

H. Pesticide Update nothing new to report

I. LESA - updates for Solano County

request to send letter implementing taking a good look at LESA, to ask BoS to think about program, how to implement, who are stake holders- also County would have to provide funding.

Jim Allan - suggests farm bureau, land trust be involved and show support. Farm Bureau has a July 1 meeting.

A working group- Michelle, Wendy, Carrie, Russ Lester, Moira Burke, Al Medvitz will proceed to investigate developing and using the criteria.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE - None

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – August 14, 2013 at 3:00 PM
501 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA

9. Adjourn Meeting 4:35 PM