

SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
July 9, 2008

The meeting of the Solano County Agricultural 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:

Bruce Brazelton, Barbara Comfort, Don Johnson, Russell Lester, Sue Lippstreu, John Mangels, Betty Mason, Al Medvitz, Mary Helen Seeger.

Others Present:

Jim Allan	Agriculture
Carole Paterson	UCCE
Birgitta Corsello	Resource Management
Narcissa Untal	Resource Management
Sabine Goerke-Shrode	Aide to Supervisor Spring-District 3
Fred Zaragoza	Aide to Supervisor Reagan-District 5
Mike Darnell	American Farmland Trust
Moirra Burke	Agricola

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting began at 3:10. A quorum was not present at the falling of the gavel, however, two committee members arrived later due to traffic issues, and a quorum was established at approximately 3:35.

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

The Members and Guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

No changes to the agenda were offered.

Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2008

After the establishment of the quorum (time noted above), it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of June 11, 2008 as presented with the small changes of replacing the word "week" with "month" under item 5. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

Item 5 New Business

(a) Report on Board of Supervisors Meetings – Board Topics Related to the Subject Matter of the AAC – Birgitta Corsello

Ms. Corsello stated that the Board of Supervisors had concluded the budget hearings. During these hearings, they confirmed funding for the new positions previously created; the FARM Coordinator in the Agriculture Department, as well as a position in Resource Management.

Two agricultural area studies were approved; Suisun Valley, and Green Valley. A report will be forthcoming at mid year.

(b) Presentation by American Farmland Trust-Mike Darnell

This item was rescheduled to occur after items 5(c) and 5(d) below in order to give more time for the arrival of committee members who were running late due to traffic complications on I-80.

After the arrival of the late Committee members, Mr. Darnell commenced a PowerPoint slideshow presentation on Agricultural Protection Policy. This presentation was intended to encourage discussion and provoke questions as to what Solano County is doing in this area, and to look at other counties and what they have in place.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for Mr. Darnell's presentation, and the discussion that it stimulated amongst the Committee members.

(c) Distribution of AAC Renewal Applications-Jim Allan

Due to the absence of a quorum at the time of this item, Mr. Allan delayed the distribution of the AAC renewal applications, and proceeded with Item 5(d) below.

(d) Discussion of Potential By-Laws Changes-Jim Allan

Mr. Allan suggested that the Committee give thought to revision of the bylaws to represent the 10 agricultural areas rather than commodity groups as is the case at present. The five members appointed by the Board of Supervisors would remain static.

After some discussion, it was suggested by a member that perhaps this was something that should be looked at more seriously when the General Plan is finalized.

It was proposed by a member that the Committee should look over the bylaws during the break and that the topic be added to the agenda in October under continuing business. Further, when the Committee reconvenes it should consider appointing a subcommittee to review any suggested changes. The Committee agreed.

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) General Plan Update-Birgitta Corsello

Ms. Corsello stated that last week the Board received a general overview of the General Plan Update. They opened public hearing on the matter and took public comment. They also received comments from the cities and responded to city comments on proposed changes in land use.

(b) Accept "Concepts to Protect and Enhance Agriculture" Flowchart-Committee

The "Concepts to Protect and Enhance Agriculture" flowchart was accepted as a working document with the following changes: Revise title to "General Concepts to Protect and Enhance Agriculture", add the subtitle "Applied Research" under UCCE, and spell out "example" in B(1.) and B(2.) under "General Plan Update 2008" to make it clear that these are examples, and not the only "prime ag land" and "large blocks".

Moved, seconded, and carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

Item 7 Identify and Clarify Future Agenda Topics and Timing of Discussion

The Future Agenda Topics and Timing of Discussion are as follows:

- a. Agricultural Regions Study – Fall/Winter
- b. Bylaws Discussion – Fall/Winter
- c. Large Animal Catastrophe/Carcass Disposal Plan – Fall/Winter
- d. Horse Facilities/Farming Operations Update - TBA

Item 8 Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

This is the opportunity to address the committee on a matter not listed on the agenda, but within the subject jurisdiction of the Committee.

(a) Public Comments

Moira Burke, visitor, asked if it is legally possible to limit the size of houses put on parcels. Ms. Corsello stated that it is legally possible.

She also asked if there were ways to encourage/help leasees to agriculturally use the land that they are leasing. This generated some discussion among the Committee members.

(b) Announcements

Narcissa Untal from Resource Management announced that Solano County is recipient of \$30,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for Tire Amnesty Days. Solano will be partnering with the two Solano County landfills and one garbage company. It will be open county-wide to all residents (9 per person-DOT regulation).

Although the County applied for the grant, they have agreements with cities and they help advertise for the event. This is all types of tires, not only passenger tires. It is hopeful that the first event will be hosted at the Hay Road landfill in September. Verification of residency is required.

Narcissa sought feedback from the Committee to help identify what is the best way to reach out to agricultural community in order to get the word out, as well as best possible days. She received numerous ideas on how to do this, including an offer from Ms. Paterson of the UCCE to put a blurb in the newsletter that goes out from their office.

Ms. Corsello suggested that a time be set aside for the agricultural community, and this idea was well-received from the Committee.

Ms. Paterson announced that UCCE is circulating a survey for a SAREP proposal and grant which include the concept of branding. This survey has been circulated to consumers and the agricultural community. Consumers are responding, but no feedback has been received from farmers. Ms. Paterson distributed the survey and encouraged the Committee to complete and return them to her..

At this time Mr. Allan reminded the Committee that renewal applications were available for those Committee members whose terms are expired/will expire by October.

(c) Correspondence

There were no correspondences.

Item 9 Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, October 8 at 3:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Item 10 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20.