

**SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
March 12, 2007**

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, Jeff Dittmer, Susan Lippstreu, John Mangels, Betty Mason, Albert Medvitz, and Mary Helen Seeger.

Others Present:

Jearl Howard	Agricultural Commissioner
Carole Paterson	Director, UCCE
Birgitta Corsello	Director, Resource Management
Kathy Gibson	County Administrator's Office
Sabine Goerke-Schrode	Aide to Supervisor Spering
David Marianno	Solano County Farm Bureau
June Guidotti	
Matt Tuggle	Resource Management Department
Nick Burton	Resource Management Department
Paul Wiese	Resource Management Department
Patricia Gatz	Citizens Advisory Committee
Don Pippo	Solano County Farm Bureau
Janet Jessen	Department of Agriculture

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m., a quorum was not present.

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

Members and Guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda offered. Action to approve the agenda was deferred pending a quorum being present.

Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2007.

Action to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2007 meeting was deferred pending a quorum being present.

Item 5 New Business

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

Mrs. Corsello reported that the recently re-organized Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was meeting for the first time this (March 12) evening in the Multi-purpose Room at the County Administration Building. She said that the CAC would be meeting twice a month until the General Plan process is complete.

Mrs. Corsello also reported that the Board of Supervisors would be reviewing all proposed General Plan Amendments that were received during the established window period and providing direction to her department on how to proceed with the proposals on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

Mrs. Corsello reported that a proposed Land Conservation Easement from the Solano Land Trust was sent back to Resource Management by the Board of Supervisors because the land involved is not enrolled in the Williamson Act. She stated that the land subject to the proposed easement is located between Vacaville and Dixon in proximity to the Green Belt. She stated that the Board did not approve the Conservation Easement because if the land is not subject to a Williamson Act Contract, the County will not receive subvention funds to offset the reduced land value.

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) Work Group Report on “Draft Grading Ordinance” and possible action – Nick Burton/Work Group.

Discussion of this item was deferred pending a quorum being present.

(b) U.C. Davis Ag Futures Project Update – Carole Paterson

Mrs. Paterson reported that work on Phase II and Phase III of the study is continuing and appears to be on schedule.

(c) AFT Suisun Valley Study Update – Jerry Howard

Mr. Howard reported that the Final report was received on March 9th and will be scheduled for presentation to the Board of Supervisors in the near future.

(d) SAREP Project Update – Carole Paterson

Mrs. Paterson informed the AAC members that the fourth and final Workshop under the SAREP Grant was scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 15th. She stated that the theme was Agricultural Entrepreneurship and encouraged the AAC members to attend.

Mrs. Paterson reported that proposals for SAREP Grants for 2007/08 are now being solicited. She stated that projects in three areas will be considered; 1) Energy costs in

Agriculture, 2) Innovative Agricultural Marketing Strategies and 3) Impacts of Global Climate Change on Agriculture. She stated the application deadline is April 11, 2007 and requested input from the members of the AAC on topics of greatest interest. Interest was expressed in using Global Climate Change to encompass all of the topic areas. There was also interest in continuing with the development of agricultural marketing strategies and expanding on the work that has been done in this area under the current SAREP Grant.

(e) General Plan Update – Birgitta Corsello

Mrs. Corsello reported that EDAW will continue as the primary consultant for the General Plan update. She stated that every meeting of the CAC will be intense as policy decisions are expected to be made at each meeting in order to meet the completion target date of January 2008.

Ms. Guidotti raised an issue involving a land designation in the revised General Plan.

(f) Dixon Downs (Racetrack) Project Status – Birgitta Corsello

Mrs. Corsello reminded the AAC that the Project goes before the voters in Dixon on April 17th.

(g) Agricultural Pesticide/Hazardous Material Waste Disposal Day Update – Janet Jessen

Mrs. Jessen reported that she was investigating the costs associated with establishing an ongoing small business hazardous waste collection program. The AAC membership encouraged Mrs. Jessen to continue her investigation and felt that an ongoing program would be beneficial to the agricultural community.

Note: Mr. Dittmer arrived at 3:35 p.m., a quorum of the AAC Committee was now present.

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

Mr. Howard solicited AAC member input on revisions to the list of future topics and timing of discussions. The following input was provided: 1) Schedule Horse Facilities/Farming Operations Update discussion for June, 2) drop the Agricultural Disaster Notification Network as the Agriculture Department now has a system in place, and 3) schedule a discussion of the Bio-Solids Ordinance for May/June. The revised Future Agenda Topics and Timing of Discussion is as follows:

- a. Items from Board of Supervisors on Subject Matter of the AAC – Ongoing
- b. Dixon Downs (Racetrack) Project Status – Ongoing
- c. Trails – Update on Regional Project Status – Ongoing
- d. Agricultural Pesticide/Hazardous Waste Disposal Day – Ongoing
- e. Antiquated Maps - Ongoing
- f. Horse Facilities/Farming Operations Update – June
- g. Large Animal Carcass Catastrophe/Carcass Disposal Plan – Fall/Winter
- h. Agricultural Center - TBA
- i. Bio-Solids Ordinance – May/June

Item 6 Continuing Business - continued

<p>(a) Work Group Report on “Draft Grading Ordinance” and possible action – Nick Burton/Work Group.</p>

With a quorum now present, this item was discussed.

Mr. Burton reported that all but two of the changes requested by the Work Group have been incorporated into the draft ordinance. Mr. Burton stated that County Counsel advised his department that the language in section 31-20 could not be removed from the ordinance. He clarified that this section pertains only to channels within the Suisun Marsh however. Mr. Burton also stated that County Counsel had advised that it would not appropriate to restrict agriculture to “commercial” activities, therefore the Work group’s request to add “for commercial purposes” to the definition of Agriculture was not granted. Mr. Burton did explain that the phrase “for food or fiber” was added to the definition as requested.

It was noted that the concern of the Work Group is that the definition of agriculture in its present form may allow some to circumvent the permit requirements by making them eligible for an agricultural exemption for which they should not be entitled.

Mr. Burton clarified that parcels have to be zoned agricultural in order to qualify for an agricultural exemption.

Mr. Burton stated that the list of agricultural exemptions was revised as requested by the Work Group.

There was a question raised about whether or not permits are required for mitigation ponds. Mr. Burton responded that when a change is made that alters the offsite drainage, a permit is ALWAYS required.

Concern was expressed that the 50 cubic yard limitation on some maintenance projects is too restrictive. It was stated that the 50 cubic yard restriction is established by the Uniform Building Code and that it cannot be modified.

A request was made to change the word “replace” to “place” with respect to graveling existing roads. Resource Management staff and the AAC membership agreed this would be a beneficial change. Staff indicated they would recommend including this change to the Board of Supervisors during their presentation on March 13th.

A question was asked whether or not section 31-20 c (2) prohibited pesticide applications in the Suisun Marsh. Mr. Howard responded that he reviewed the section and discussed it with County Counsel and concluded that it does NOT prohibit pesticide applications in the Marsh.

Concern was expressed about the current method of charging for Grading Permits. It was noted that it appeared to be more like the “sale of permits” by staff in order to fund their jobs. It was stated that the cost of Minor Use Permits sometimes cost more than the cost

AAC Meeting March 12, 2007

of doing the job for which the permit is issued. It was suggested that it would be more appropriate to have a set fee for these permits so the cost could be factored in upfront. It was noted that the Solano County Farm Bureau had requested a separate Grading Ordinance for agriculture. The question of whether or not that had been considered as an opinion was raised. Mr. Burton stated that when that question was asked of County Counsel, the response was that there is only one Clean Water Act and only one Uniform Building Code, so consequently there should be only one Grading Ordinance.

It was moved and seconded to recommend that the "Draft" Grading Ordinance be approved by the Board of Supervisors as presented with the one noted change of "place" rather than "replaced". The motion carried on a vote of 7 in favor and 1 opposed.

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda continued

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2007, continued

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

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

There were no comments from the public.

(b) Announcements

There were no announcements.

(c) Correspondence

There were no correspondences.

Item 9 Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 3:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Item 10 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.