

**SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
June 13, 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, Alan Freese, Craig Leathers, Russell Lester, Susan Lippstreu, John Mangels, Betty Mason, Albert Medvitz, Mary Helen Seeger.

Others Present:

Jearl Howard	Agricultural Commissioner
Birgitta Corsello	Director, Resource Management
Kathy Gibson	County Administrator's Office
Sabine Goerke-Schrode	Aide to Supervisor Spring
Dave Marianni	Farm Bureau
Peggy Nelson	Aide to Supervisor Vasquez
Kurt Richter	UCD Ag Issues Center

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m., a quorum was 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.

Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2007

Betty Mason asked that she be added to the list of Members Present at the May 9th meeting, as she was inadvertently left off. Also, Mr. Lester asked that the language in paragraph two of Page 4 be changed. He felt that land no longer being used for agricultural production should not be referred to as "retired", rather that it be referred to as land that is no longer available for agricultural use. He also felt that the intent of his statements was not made clear by what was written. He said that the term "retired" made it sound as though the land could be brought back into production at a latter date which is not the case. When agricultural land is converted to other uses, it will never be brought back into production.

Item 5 New Business

<p>(a) Report on Board of Supervisors Meetings – Board Topics Related to the Subject Matter of the AAC – Birgitta Corsello</p>
--

Ms. Corsello reported that at the end of May the Board of Supervisors reviewed the first set of guidelines (overview) related to the General Plan that came from the Citizen's Advisory Committee. She indicated that there was not a great deal of direction from the Board to change things, more of a review. She also said that the Citizen's Advisory Committee has expanded the

public input process. More information will be going out to the public such as where we are in the General Plan process, and also website information.

Ms. Corsello said that at the June 12, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting, an application for agricultural easement for the Kidwell Farm, which had previously been tabled, had been approved. However, it was made clear to the Land Trust that the Board's preference is that these types of easements no longer be approved, and that agricultural easements should not be in transportation corridors. If future conversation easements come forward, the Board of Supervisors feels strongly that they should be under a Williamson Act Contract.

(b) New Requirements for Securing Loads on Trucks-Impacts to Agricultural Product Haulers-Craig Leathers

Mr. Leathers stated that the California Highway Patrol has implemented federal regulations relating to agricultural haulers. These regulations were effective January 1, 2007. He attended a meeting held by the CHP which addressed how these agricultural loads must be tied down, bundled, etc. A handout "ACTION ALERT: Cargo Security Regulations" was provided to each member. This handout went into detail as to what specifically is required.

Mr. Leathers indicated that the California Trucking Association has filed suit against CHP because no due diligence has been done. The CHP said they would give a 45-day education period. The California Trucking Association is asking for a 145-day educational period, which would cover the growing season.

Ms. Comfort suggested that the Committee could send a resolution or letter (whichever is appropriate or has the most strength) to the Board of Supervisors, asking them to support objections to this legislation as being counter-productive to agriculture. Mr. Howard said that a letter to the Board of Supervisors could be drafted by the Ag Advisory Committee.

Ms. Gibson said that the Board of Supervisors has adopted priorities with regard to legislation, and felt that the Chair would sign a letter and send it to the state. The question was raised as to whether it would be possible to ask for an immediate moratorium on implementation of this legislature for the agricultural community.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be drafted to ask for an immediate moratorium on implementation of the legislature for 180-days, and that methods used in the past to secure agricultural loads be continued during the moratorium. Mr. Howard stated he would forward the letter on behalf of the AAC, as well as a letter from the Agricultural Commissioner. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members.

(c) Williamson Act Subventions-Craig Leathers

A member suggested that it should be made known to the Board of Supervisors, perhaps in the form of a letter, to express the value the Ag Advisory Committee and agricultural industry place on maintaining the Williamson Act in preserving agricultural land. Also, that the Ag Advisory Committee supports them in their fight to keep the Williamson Act, as it is a valuable, cost-effective tool to preserve agricultural land.

Ms. Gibson noted that when the Board of Supervisors was faced with this same issue five years ago, they voted to continue the Williamson Act regardless of what the State did.

It was moved and second that a letter be drafted to the Board of Supervisors as stated above. The motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members.

(d) Land Application of Bio-Solids Ordinance Status-Birgitta Corsello

The Land Application of Bio-Solids Ordinance expires on October 15, 2007. The options are to do nothing and let it expire, extend the ordinance, or hold a public hearing. The Board elected to set a public hearing on August 28, 2007. They will consider recommended changes identified in staff report. The Board of Supervisors would like to hear all information that has been gathered, so the scientists have been invited, and will attend, the meeting on August 28. At that point, the Board of Supervisors will make a decision or ask for it to be carried over. Ms. Corsello explained that if the County has no ordinance, it falls to the state to regulate.

A member asked that this issue be placed on next month's agenda.

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) U C Davis Ag Futures Project Update – Kurt Richter

Mr. Richter advised the Committee that Report 1 of the Solano Agricultural Futures Report is final and will be e-mailed.

Mr. Richter advised the Committee that at the next AAC meeting there will be a draft of the complete Phase 2 Report; Commodities and Regions. He received good feedback from drafts he gave this committee, but still would like more. He will be e-mailing these drafts. He stated that the committee should feel free to make comments on the draft.

He stated that they are on target for completion of the study by the end of September-October. Ms. Gibson asked if there would be a Phase 3 Report. Mr. Richter said yes, and that Phase 4 would be recommendations. At this time they are GISing every field in the county. Not parcels, but farm field units.

(b) General Plan Update – Birgitta Corsello

Ms. Corsello addressed most of this subject under 5a "Report on Board of Supervisors Meetings". However, she also stated that the subcommittee of the Citizen's Advisory Committee that is concerned with agricultural issues, which is chaired by Larry Clement, has put out their meeting schedule for the public information meetings. Ms. Corsello encouraged people to attend these meetings so there is good feedback. A schedule of meetings was distributed to the AAC members.

(c) Review of American Farmland Trust Report on Suisun Valley- Jerry Howard/Birgitta Corsello

The Committee viewed a PowerPoint slide presentation which was an overview of the American Farmland Trust Report on Suisun Valley. Mr. Howard narrated the presentation, and there was much discussion throughout. The general feeling was that although the report was on Suisun Valley, many of the recommendations would apply to Solano County overall. Ms. Corsello encouraged the Committee to look over some of the recommendations and decide how they would apply to all areas.

Mr. Howard stated that the final report was presented to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Howard, along with Ms. Corsello, and Ms. Paterson thought it would be beneficial for the group to look at recommendations and prioritize what they felt were the most important issues and what should be dealt with first.

Mr. Howard encouraged the Committee to look through the different categories in the report, and give a numeric value of what is most important and of priority in each member's individual area and expertise. Ms. Corsello felt that feedback on this would also help Mr. Richter get additional feedback for the Ag Futures Project.

(d) Continued Discussion of Compatible and Incompatible Land Uses in Agricultural Zones – Birgitta Corsello

It was suggested by Mr. Howard that this item be tabled until the July 11th meeting.

(e) Status of SAREP Grant and new Farm Advisor, Orchard Specialist Position-Carole Paterson

Ms. Paterson reported that the position of Farm Advisor, Orchard Specialist, is now being recruited, and that Russell Lester, AAC member, is serving on the search committee. July 27 is the closing date to apply, but the filing date may be extended if there isn't a large enough candidate pool.

Thanks to much effort and support, the last SAREP proposal of \$10,000 was funded. Carol thanked the Committee for their letter of support. This money will, in part, fund informational workshops, including food safety, and how to create a website for use as a marketing tool. The focus will be on branding and marketing.

Some other ideas are to hold a celebration or do an expose' about Solano County Agriculture; use the Vallejo Ferry Building for a farmers market to bring in produce and products two different weekends that would be attached to the Farm Family Fun Day to promote what is available in Solano County. Carol stated that there is a real interest across the state in different counties with regard to creating a marketing position to help the local agricultural community promote itself.

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

- a. Items from Board of Supervisors on Subject Matter of the AAC – Ongoing
- b. Dixon Downs (Racetrack) Project Status – TBA
- c. Trails – Update on Regional Project Status – TBA
- d. Agricultural Pesticide/Hazardous Waste Disposal Day – Drop
- e. Antiquated Maps - TBA
- 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 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

Mr. Howard announced that the 2006 Crop Report was presented to the Board of Supervisors.

(c) Correspondence

There were no correspondences.

Item 9 Next Meeting Date

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

Item 10 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.