

**SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
July 11, 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, California.

Members Present:

Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer, Alan Freese, Donald Johnson, Russell Lester, Susan Lippstreu, John Mangels, Betty Mason, Albert Medvitz, and Mary Helen Seeger.

Others Present:

Jearl Howard	Agricultural Commissioner
Birgitta Corsello	Director, Resource Management
Kathy Gibson	County Administrator's Office
Fred Zaragoza	Aide to Supervisor Reagan
Sabine Goerke-Schrode	Aide to Supervisor Spering
Patricia Gatz	Citizens Advisory Committee Member
Peggy Nelson	Aide to Supervisor Vasquez
Terry Schmidtbauer	Resource Management
Susan Garbim	UC Davis
Kurt Richter	UC Davis Ag Issues Center

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

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.

Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2007

A typo in Item 5(c) on Page 2 was noted; correct "Williams Act" to "Williamson Act". It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2007 meeting with this one correction. The motion was 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

Mrs. Corsello stated that other than the Williamson Act and possible lack of funding of same, there were no other items from the last Board of Supervisors meeting due to the budget hearings. The Board of Supervisors reconvenes on July 24th.

- (b) Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) – Jearl Howard

Mr. Howard announced that a light brown apple moth (LBAM) had been trapped at Mare Island on June 27, 2007. This marks the first LBAM found in Solano County. The moth was submitted for identification, and the Solano County Agriculture Department received a presumptive positive on July 2 pending

confirmation by USDA. This confirmation arrived on July 9, 2007. A find in Los Angeles County coincided with the Solano County find. This brings the total to 11 infested counties. California is the first infestation of LBAM on the North American continent. However, to date there is no federal funding available to offset the costs that occur to survey, trap, etc.

He stated that the entire County will be placed under federal quarantine, which requires compliance agreements for interstate shipments. This will affect some local businesses and growers who ship outside of state. Trapping has been expanded from trap per 10 acres to 5 traps per 10 acres in shipping nurseries. For production areas, one trap per square mile will be placed. CDFA has given verbal commitment in helping to get traps placed serviced. With regard to nurseries, there will be an initial inspection of the entire grounds. If this is met with negative results, then once a compliance agreement is signed they can ship as normal.

The question was asked whether or not LBAM is asexual. Mr. Howard said that it was not. When asked how long the flight distance of the moth is, Mr. Howard replied that it was about 800 meters.

There was no answer for the question about how long the quarantine remains in place, and the priority has been to identify and prioritize crops that may be affected and what to do first. Hines Nursery has been a priority because of the daily movement of plants. It was asked what a business who is planning to ship out of state and/or country could do? Mr. Howard said to call the Agriculture office with crop/commodity/destination information. He also stated that Canada and Mexico had quarantines governing plant shipments from infested counties.

LBAM is a potential environmental threat as well as a threat to agriculture production. It has been known to infest over 250 plant species, including ornamentals. Mr. Howard agreed to post information on the Solano County Agriculture website with regard to any actions taken as well as any restrictions on shipping agricultural commodities.

(c) Yolo Solano AQMD Agricultural Engine Registration Development Plan – Jearl Howard-ACTION ITEM

Mr. Howard attended a meeting two weeks ago, regarding the Air Resources Board adopted air contaminant regulations that will apply to ag diesel engines. Yolo/Solano AQMD is developing a registration process for diesel engines in excess of 50 HP. He asked if anyone on the AAC would like to participate in a committee which will assist the District in the rule-development process. There were no volunteers.

Mr. Howard said that all engines will be required to be registered, and there would be a fee. Hopefully there would be a multi-tiered rate if there were a number of engines to be registered by the same company/person. He again stated that the committee would be developing the rules that will govern the registration, and in that process would be looking to keep costs as low as possible. The meetings will be held monthly (at 3:00) at the District Office in Davis. They want to have the regulatory package hammered out by early fall (September-October) and submitted to their Board for adoption in November-December. Again he pointed out that if anyone wanted to volunteer for the committee, it would be an opportunity to participate in that process. He also said that the Yolo/Solano Fee had not yet been established. This requirement does not apply to tractors, only stationary diesel engines.

It was suggested by a member that this matter required more information, and discussion. Mr. Howard suggested that perhaps a representative could make a presentation at the next AAC meeting. Due to the agenda items that will require in-depth discussion at the October meeting, it was suggested that a separate, public informational meeting be scheduled, which would also include more information on LBAM. Mr. Howard agreed to contact an AQMD representative and schedule a public meeting.

(d) Land Application of Bio-Solids “Draft” Ordinance Status – Terry Schmidtbauer-ACTION ITEM

On August 28, the Board of Supervisors will be presented with all research to-date. Mr. Schmidtbauer reviewed the proposed amendments to Chapter 25, and summarized the key points as presented on the handout. Mr. Mangels called the AAC’s attention to the draft of proposed amendments and asked if there were any comments, since the AAC would not be meeting before Board of Supervisor action on this. It

was pointed out that if this ordinance is allowed to expire, state and federal guidelines then come into play.

It was moved and seconded that the ordinance be renewed. The question was raised as to how we are applying road protection standards as compared to the state? Research would need to be done to find this out, and a member suggested that the motion be voted on with the amendment that this information be forthcoming. At this time, a point of order was raised with regard to the fact that a motion had been made and seconded, and that the amendment need to be voted on before the original motion could be voted on.

The amendment was that the County should be consistent with State transportation standards for truck operations, and if not, then that portion of the ordinance should be rewritten. The amendment was voted on and failed. The motion that the ordinance be renewed was voted on, and passed on a majority vote; there was one nay vote and one abstention.

Item 6 Continuing Business

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

Mr. Richter informed the AAC that he is finalizing the heart of the report. This involves a write-up of agriculture in Solano County. He stated the report was divided by regions, then commodities by region. His goal is two-three pages per region and commodity. He said that he would begin contacting committee members on Monday to get further clarification for the report. Mr. Richter expressed that he knew there would be issues, and for everyone to feel free to call him to comment on accuracy, or to contribute more information. He stressed the fact that he needed feedback in order to take the report to the next level, to make it better. The ag context is the heart of the study, and what the rest of the report is based around. As an FYI, he also announced that every field in Solano had been GISed, and that ground truthing would be taking place to verify what is grown where.

(b) General Plan Update – Birgitta Corsello

Mrs. Corsello stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee is meeting every two weeks and was halfway through policy for public facilities and utilities. In August they will be moving into land-use maps and designations. There are 100+ general plan amendments that included items submitted by property owners as well as items caught by staff. There is a massive push underway to get information out to the public, and a newsletter will be going out in about a week's time. Concurrently, things are moving forward with regard to the five study areas.

The meetings conducted by Mr. Clement should be completed by the end of September, and Kurt's piece (completion of report) will dovetail with this. She stated that it is important that the farming community participate with input at these meetings, and by giving Kurt feedback for his report. Discussion ensued when an issue of the Suisun Valley proposal cropped up. A member said that at one of the meetings, it seemed like it all blended together, and they felt that it should be "de-linked" from the Suisun Valley proposal. Other comments were made from members who had attended these meetings that it seemed a lot of the attendees were real estate/land developers suggesting ranchettes as a buffer between agricultural land and residential land. Disappointment was expressed that more farmers did not show up.

Mrs. Corsello reassured the AAC that these issues are being tracked, and that the sign-in sheets give a snapshot of who is attending. She encouraged committee members to attend these meetings. She agreed to forward the meeting schedule to the Agricultural Commissioner's office, who will then forward it to the AAC members. It was pointed out by Mr. Mangels that the General Plan website is a good place to go and look around in. He stated it was very informative; very well put together.

(c) Prioritize Recommendations from American Farmland Trust Study on Suisun Valley Report – Jearl Howard – ACTION ITEM.

Mr. Howard asked the AAC to please take the survey sheet home and prioritize, in order of 1, 2...etc., what were the most important recommendations in each of the categories. He stressed that although the study was done for Suisun Valley, the AAC should think in terms of what they felt were the most important for

Solano County agriculture overall. He informed them that although there is no appropriation in the current budget for a customer-based position to help the ag community, Supervisor Vasquez proposed that Resource Management and the Agriculture Department come back to the Board mid-year with a job description for such a position in their respective departments. He feels that the Board is supporting the agriculture community.

He also offered the committee the option of having the survey e-mailed to them, with a return date back to the Agriculture Department by Friday, July 20. This was met with a positive response, and the survey will be e-mailed to each member.

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

Mrs. Corsello told the Committee that she has decided on a different approach, and will be sending a different type of document to all AAC members. The Committee felt that the original tables they were presented with to complete were too general. Mrs. Corsello agreed to rework these and send a new template. The Committee felt it would be helpful if she could provide them with a clearer idea of what compatibility is.

Mrs. Corsello said that the General Plan has agriculture in one lump, rather than divided up in such categories as “Ag-Service, Ag-Industry, Intensive Ag, etc., which would be more manageable. However, she expressed that it was critical for the members to come to the table with ideas in the September-October timeframe.

(e) New Requirements for Securing Loads on Trucks – Impacts on Agricultural Product Haulers Update - Jearl Howard

Mr. Howard directed the AAC’s attention to an Ag Alert article dated June 20, 2007, which states that ag haulers are exempt from the new rules through this year’s harvest season, with the exception of hay haulers.

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) UC Davis Ag Futures Project; 2) Compatible and Incompatible Land Uses; 3) Farming/Agriculture Education Tour; 4) October meeting be revised to begin at 2:00 and end at 5:00 due to items that require in-depth discussion. The revised Future Agenda Topics and Timing of Discussion are as follows:

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

There were no comments from the public.

(b) Announcements

Mr. Howard announced that unless there was comment from the Committee with regard to the letter to Governor Swarzenegger regarding the Williamson Act subvention funds, it was ready to finalize and send. The suggestion was made that the last paragraph be slightly changed to reflect a more positive tone.

(c) Correspondence

There were no correspondences.

Item 9 Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Item 10 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.