

**SOLANO COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON  
November 8, 2006**

The meeting of the Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) was held at the Department of Agriculture, Downstairs Conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA.

**Members Present:**

Bruce Brazelton, Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer, Alan Freese, Donald Johnson, Craig Leathers, Russell Lester, Susan Lippstreu, John Mangels, Betty Mason, and Albert Medvitz.

**Others Present:**

Jearl Howard	Agricultural Commissioner
Carole Paterson	Director, UCCE
Birgitta Corsello	Director, Resource Management
Kathy Gibson	County Administrative Office
Mike Yankovich	Department of Resource Management
Ellen Mary Wilson	D.V.M., Dept of Food and Agriculture
Michael Poulos	D.V.M., Dept of Food and Agriculture
Harry Englebright	Consultant
Michael Yankovich	Resource Management
Matt Walsh	Resource Management
Mario Moratorio	UCCE

**Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m., a quorum was not present. Russell Lester arrived at 3:08 p.m., which made a quorum.

**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 October 11, 2006**

It was moved and seconded to approve the meeting minutes of October 11, 2006 as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Note: Albert Medvitz and John Mangels arrived at 3:12 p.m.

**Item 5 New Business**

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

Ms. Corsello reported that the Board of Supervisors recently authorized Public Works to proceed with Regional Road Improvement Agreements and with the development of Impact Fees for projects that impact County Roads. She stated that the Board of Supervisors approved a \$3,500,000 loan to begin preliminary work on several projects including McGary Rd., North and South Gates of Travis AFB. Other projects included Vanden Rd. and the North Connector for Highway 12.

Ms. Corsello also addressed bridge projects that are being undertaken. She stated the Public Works is working on an agreement for retrofitting or replacing the Stevenson Bridge and the Winters Bridge.

It was noted that there is an interest by some in converting the Stevenson Bridge to a foot bridge.

Members of the AAC commented that the bridges need to be adequately sized to accommodate the movement of agricultural equipment from one side of Putah Creek to the other.

Ms. Corsello stated that she would provide additional information on this matter at the December meeting.

**(b) All-Hazards Emergency Response Planning/Large Animal Carcass Disposal – Dr. Ellen Wilson, DVM - CDFA**

Dr. Wilson provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee that emphasized the need to plan in advance for incidents/events that may result in the death of high numbers of large animals such as cattle, horses and sheep. She noted that large scale incidents can over tax normal carcass disposal facilities very quickly and create a threat to public health if carcasses are not or can not be properly disposed of in a timely manner. Dr. Wilson cited the examples of this summer's heat wave that resulted in the death of thousands of cattle and hundreds of thousands of poultry in the Central Valley and the Yolo County fire that killed more than a thousand sheep as reason to plan for the proper and timely disposal of large numbers of carcasses. She also discussed the need to plan for an outbreak of a foreign animal disease that could result in euthanasia of high numbers of animals in order to eradicate the disease.

Dr. Wilson stated that it is important to assess actual as well as potential consequences of a large scale animal related incident that requires alternative methods of carcass disposal. Coordination, management and implementation of the response must be planned in advance of the incident. Planning should involve livestock producers, state and local agricultural officials, air quality management districts, environmental health officials, regional water quality control officials as well as local emergency services staff. Planning should include locating potential disposal sites, selection of preferred potential disposal methods, determination of livestock population centers and mapping such sites

and populations. Dr. Wilson complimented the AAC for initiating discussion of this issue and encouraged Solano County to initiate the planning process and the development of an Agricultural Emergency Response Plan.

It was moved and seconded to recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize and direct appropriate staff to initiate the development of a Large Animal Carcass Disposal Emergency Response Plan. The Motion carried on a unanimous vote of the members present.

Note: Jeff Ditmer arrived at 3:45.

<p>(c) Review of General Plan Amendment Process/Prime Agriculture Land Definitions/Difference between General Plan and Ag Zoning in Certain Areas of the County Harry Englebright</p>
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Mr. Englebright described the General Plan Amendment Process. He noted that the process requires two public hearings one before the Planning Commission and one before the Board of Supervisors. He also noted that the Orderly Growth Initiative requires amendments to agricultural and open space land use designations approved by the Board of Supervisors to also be approved by a vote of the people with two exceptions for redesignations to Rural Residential and for low income housing if specific findings are made.

Mr. Englebright was questioned about the availability of the current General Plan. He stated that due to the age of the plan that it is not available on the County Website. He further explained that it is available for review by the public at the Resource Management Department and at the libraries. He stated that all the members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee have been provided complete copies of the document. Finally, he stated the Resource Management Department is in the process of making the General Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies available electronically.

Mr. Englebright provided the members of the AAC with the definitions of "Prime Agricultural Land" used in various codes. He noted there is no definition of "Prime Agricultural Land" in the current General Plan. He stated that proposed subdivisions must be consistent with both the General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of using the "Prime Agricultural Land" designation as the basis of determining agricultural value/viability. It is suggested that there are more meaningful methods available such as the "Land Evaluation Survey Assessment" (LESA) method. The use soil designation as a means of determining viability is no longer relevant in the opinion of some who noted that 40 acre parcels are no longer economically viable. It was suggested that there is a need to use some other system of determining agricultural viability.

It was moved and seconded to invite Phil Holden, Yolo NRCS Office to discuss alternative methods of determining agricultural viability. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of the members present.

**Item 6 Continuing Business**

**(a) Ag Sustainability Study Update – Carole Peterson**

Due to the length of the foregoing discussions, no update was given.

**(b) General Plan Update – Mike Yankovich**

Due to the length of the foregoing discussions, no update was given.

**(c) Dixon Downs (Racetrack) Project Status – Mike Yankovich**

Due to the length of the foregoing discussions, this item was not discussed.

**(d) Agricultural Advisory Committee Report – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard provided a copy of the final AAC Report that was being presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 14<sup>th</sup>. He also invited any members who so desired to attend.

**(e) Ethics Training – Jerry Howard**

Mr. Howard provided the AAC members with dates of future Ethics Training Classes that are available. He also informed the members that they could take the required training online. Mr. Howard advised the committee that completion of Ethics Training by 12/31/06 is a requirement of state law. He further stated that members who do not complete the training by the end of the year will no longer be eligible to serve on the committee.

**(f) AAC Members Appointments – Jerry Howard**

Due to the length of the foregoing discussions, this item was not discussed.

**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 – Ongoing
- c. Trails – Update on Regional Project Efforts
- d. Horse Facilities/Farming Operations Update – December
- e. Agricultural Pesticide Hazardous Waste Disposal Day – Ongoing
- f. Large Animal Carcass Catastrophe/Carcass Disposal Plan – Fall/Winter
- g. Agricultural Disaster Notification Network
- h. Agricultural Center
- i. Antiquated Maps – Ongoing
- j. ABAG Green Business Program – December

**Item 8 Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence**

**(a) Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**(b) Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**(c) Correspondence**

There were no correspondences.

**Item 9 Next Meeting Date**

December 13, 2006 at 3:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

**Item 10 Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.