SOLANO COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
FINAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON
June 9, 2010

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, Moira Burke, Barbara Comfort, Don Johnson, Craig Leathers, Russ Lester, Sue Lippstreu, Mary Helen Seeger, James Wallace

Others Present:

Jim Allan	Agricultural Commissioner
Simone Hardy	Asst Agricultural Commissioner
Peggy Nelson	Aide to Supervisor Vasquez
Fred Zaragoza	Aide to Supervisor Reagan
Carole Paterson	UC Cooperative Extension
Mike Yankovich	Resource Management

Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Russ Lester at 3:07 PM.

Item 2 Introductions of Members and Guests

The Members and Guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Item 3 Changes and Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was approved unanimously.

Item 4 Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2010 and May 12, 2010

The minutes for April 14, 2010 were approved. The minutes on May 12, 2010 were accepted as record of the proceedings.

Item 5 New Business

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

On June 22, 2010 the Board will review the Middle Green Valley specific plan. The Planning Commission has reviewed and recommended approval. The new development will consist of 1900 acres of land; with the majority of the land designated for agricultural and open space. Click here for more information http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/boardscommissions/middle_green_valley_cac/documents.asp

The Board was presented with the 2009 Crop report which is available on line at http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/agriculture/crop_report/2009_2018.asp

(b) Solano County Branding- Simone Hardy

Website is in process of development and Ms. Hardy has put out a Request for Quote (RFQ) to design a Solano Grown logo; the deadline for the RFQ is June 18, 2010. The process of acquiring the Solano Grown trademark and URL's has begun. On June 14, 2010 Nevada Grown and Placer Grown have agreed to meet and discuss how they created their non profit organizations and offer any insight on how to be successful.

Ms. Hardy also encourages growers to attend the working group meetings to participate in upcoming decisions and brainstorm ideas regarding workshop topics.

Item 6 Continuing Business

(a) General Plan Update/Agricultural Regions Study

Resource Management will be taking back to the Planning Commission the rezoning of properties in Suisun Valley under Williamson Act Contracts as well as making amendments to the land conservation contract policies and procedures. The strategic plan calls for Ag tourism centers which are not currently allowed under Williamson Act. Solano County is considering partial cancellations of Williamson Act properties to allow removal of that portion of property to be used as the ag tourism area. Here is the link with more information regarding Williamson Act http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca/Pages/index.aspx

Here are some related links to Suisun Valley Strategic plan
http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/planning/suisun_valley_strategic_plan.asp
Dixon Ridge Strategic Plan
http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/planning/dixon_ridge_agricultural_region_strategic_plan.asp

(b) EGVM Update- Jim Allan

The Agriculture department has three scheduled meetings for growers to sign forms and conditions for compliance agreements developed by CDFA for complying with State interior quarantine for EGVM. Here is a link with regulatory information http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PE/InteriorExclusion/egvm_quarantine.html

The NRCS announced this week there is a cost share for growers who have made EGVM treatments and are 200 meters from an EGVM find. Here is a link for more information
http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/European_Grapevine_Moth20930.pdf

(c) Delta Water Issues

AAC members have attempted to join forces with similar groups to form alliances in regards to water issues. Ms. Burke is concerned about the level of public awareness regarding the water issues.

(d) Williamson Act Update

No comments at this time.

(e) Solano County Fair Plan

The Board of Supervisors hired a firm to prepare the EIR. Here is the link to the Solano County Fair
http://solano360.org

(f) Climate Action Plan- Working group members

Climate action plan has been created and the consultants are writing up the documents for approval by the Board of Supervisors. http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/planning/climate_action_plan/agendas.asp

(g) Pesticide Update-Jim Allan

Aluminum Phosphide is going through emergency rule making at the federal level. A situation in Utah where a landscaper misused the product and two young girls perished. The EPA is going to rescind all residential uses and include a significant set back from dwellings in other uses. All new labels will have new restrictions on them. Here is additional information http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/alphosphide/aluminum-magnsm-phos-fs.html

Methyl Iodide will be replacing Methyl bromide to replace field fumigations. Methyl bromide has been used as pre plant fumigation for strawberries. It has been determined that Methyl Bromide depletes the ozone. There will be some uses still allowed under the new regulations. Here is additional information http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/director/pdf/mei_keyfacts.pdf

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

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

a. Delta Water Issues-Ongoing
b. EVGM Update- Jim Allan
c. Williamson Act Update- Ongoing
d. Solano County Branding- Ongoing
e. Solano County Fair Plan- Ongoing
f. Climate Action Plan- Ongoing
g. Guideline on the Use of Prime Farmland- Report from Working Group
h. Direct Sales-Environmental Health Dept

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

(b) Announcements

Spray Safe class offered on June 23 at Yolo County Fairgrounds.

(c) Correspondence

Item 9 Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., first floor conference room, 501 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Item 10 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.