

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
3:00 PM
501 Texas Street, Downstairs Conference Room
Fairfield, California 94534-9700
Phone 707-784-1310

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Russ Lester at 3:15

Members Present: Moira Burke, Russ Lester, Morgan Doran, Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson, Mary Helen Seeger, Craig Leathers, Jeff Dittmer,

Members not present: Barbara Comfort, Al Medvetz, Jennifer King, Bruce Brazeltine,

Guests present: Sharon Garrett, Sarah Hawkins, Simone Hardy, Chris Rogers, Mike Yankovich

Craig Leathers moved and Lisa Howard seconded to approve Jan 2018 minutes- motion passed with Russ Lester abstaining.

Ian Anderson moved and Craig Leathers seconded to approve the Jan 11, 2017 minutes, motion passed unanimously.

Craig Leathers moved and Mary Helen Seeger seconded to approve the December 2017 minutes, motion passed unanimously

Mary Helen Seeger moved and Ian Anderson seconded to approve August 10, 2016 minutes, motion passed with Lisa Howard and Craig Leathers abstaining.

New Business

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity- nothing to report

B. Planning Commission

Permanent ordinance on marijuana being drafted, going to the Board probably in April. Board probably won't approve any more types of licenses than the cities and the state already has.

C. Select and appoint an Alternate to the GSA TAC in absence of the primary member

Al Medvetz was proposed to be the alternate, will be appointed if he is agreeable. Ian Anderson moved, Mary Helen Seeger seconded Al Medvetz as nominee. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Appoint Board Officers for 2018 term

Moved by Craig Leathers, seconded by Mary Helen to keep Russ Lester as chair of the AAC.

Mary Helen moved, Ian seconded Moira Burke as vice chair, passed unanimously
Mary Helen moved, Russ Lester seconded to make Lisa Howard Secretary. Passed unanimously

E. Discussion on the recruitment for open positions

Open positions exist for the small farm, processing, and grape production seats on the AAC.

One name suggested was Lindsay Hickman- of Hickman Farms in Dixon. They produce eggs, meat chickens, and may be interested in the small farm position. Our brand new secretary will send Ms. Hickman an application for the board.

Suggested that someone from Superior Farm may be a good candidate for the processing position. Feelers will be put out.

F. 2018 Goal Setting Continuation

Discussed list of goals brought up in January, and added updates regarding regional parks.

Group would like to see more discussion of more water issues in the county- flooding, recharging groundwater, manufacturing water processing. Dixon RCD is putting on a seminar about cover crops, orchards and water management March 1. There's an effort to get more education out to farmers about these topics by NRCS and RCDs, but can be a challenge when the land managers are many layers down from the (corporate) owners. Maybe we could add water category and farmer education/RCD/UCE category to Continuing Business. Mary Helen suggested modifying water; GSA, TAC as category.

Interest was expressed in rolling the local foodshed working group into the Farmbudsman update.

Exotic pest update and pesticide update will be rolled into a new category called "Agricultural Commissioner Update" as the first item under Continuing Business.

Suggested that the Renewable Energy Working Group come off the Continuing business agenda and be added as an item as needed.

The board will be adopting the proposed list of goals brought up in the January meeting as the goals for 2018. Except for the farm tour item. The first step of that would be to go to the BOS in October to see if funding for the buses, etc. would be available for that to happen. Would like to see if the Supervisors are interested in a farm tour before planning begins in earnest. This idea will be further discussed.

Solid list will be presented and approved next meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- a. Exotic Pest Updates- Medfly meeting February 20th at the Event Center in Fairfield, Feb 23rd Pesticides Near Schools class will also be held at the Event Center, Room B. Online classes are available for this as well. Not enough heat days yet to have a concern about new finds
- b. Local Food Shed Working Group- somewhat covered by Farmbudsman
- c. Renewable Energy Working Group- SolAgra has been informed that the new design needs to come before the AAC. Heiner is waiting for the permit before he designs a project, sounds like lines are being crossed.
- d. Pesticide Update- see exotic pest update

- e. Farmbudsman- gave update about Sustainable Solano pilot project, and nacent stirrings of a Solano Grown resurgence. Fairgrounds would like more activity, available for commercial kitchen use
- f. Bicycles- no update
- g. LESA progress- Wendy will be back to Vacaville next month. American Farmland Trust may be a source to apply to funding for the county-wide LESA project/process.
- h. GSA Report- Received Department of Water Resources grant in the amount of \$1million, and another \$480,000 to RCD to look at hydrology and groundwater management. Eventually will need maintenance funding for the process, considering usage rates vs. per acre rates. GSA Board last week, money for plan is great. Will be using the SQA personnel, so representation will be consistent even if there is staff turnover. Still working on what is being included in the Solano Subbasin definition, as there are some small pieces of land that may not be within the county boundaries, but make more sense to be included because of subbasin structure.

Public Comments

2017 Solano County Annual Report is out, copies were available

Small discussion of little "military museum" in the Suisun special district. Would like larger discussion of this next month.

Almost every crop/commodity is now under the Food Safety Modernization Act, farmers are supposed to already have plans and have taken training by January. Regular water testing needs to be done for food wash water now. Committee would like to see a presentation or two on this matter in future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10