

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting
Wednesday, May 9, 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 3:05

Members Present: Moira Burke, Russ Lester, Bruce Brazeltine, Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson, Mary Helen Seeger, Craig Leathers, Jeff Dittmer, Barbara Comfort

Members not present: Al Medvetz, Jennifer King

Guests present: Sharon Garrett, Morgan Doran, Wendy Rash, Sarah Hawkins, Jake from Lystek, Lieutenant Rustin Banks, Captain Mark Headrick Simone Hardy, Chris Rogers, Mike Yankovich

Bruce Brazeltine moved and Moira Burke seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Moira Burke moved and Craig Leathers seconded to approve the April 11, 2017 minutes, with a change to the spelling of minutes on the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian Anderson moved and Moira Burke seconded to approve the February 14, 2017 minutes, with a note that Morgan Doran belongs in the guests section, not the members section of the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

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

B. Planning Commission

Study session at the Planning Commission meeting coming up regarding vacation rentals within the county. The County Treasurer wants to make sure TOT collection is included if vacation rentals are approved. Farm stays are already allowed if some sort of agricultural activity is participated in.

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

No names were been brought forward for the alternate

Item e from Continuing Business was moved up on the agenda in the interest of not taking up too much of the Lieutenant and Captain's time.

e. Bicycles

Lieutenant Banks asked for an update from producers as to whether there had been any activity change or new issues with cyclists. All bike event permits now come through the CHP office.

Captain Headrick is making a point to speak with each planner of events about route, rules, expectations, etc. They are putting more officers on the route to help all motorists and participants remember what they are supposed to be doing. The Committee brought up changing the October 2 race to something later in the month or even November to reduce interference with various fall harvests. Committee members also requested signs include permit numbers on them.

Lieutenant Rustin Banks can be contacted at 707-784-6873, rmbanks@solanocounty.com
Captain Mark Headrick can be contacted at 707-428-2100, mheadrick@chp.ca.gov

f. LESA progress

The LESA system has been approved by the State Conservationist, so it is official. Federal projects which will convert farmland in the study area will have to be evaluated through LESA. If the Committee wants land outside the study area to be included, then a funding source/partner needs to be found. Possibly if LESA can be combined with another project that does direct carbon sequestration, that could qualify for greenhouse reduction funds. Probably need \$50,000-\$100,000 to get the rest of the county done.

We then returned to New Business

D. Planning for Ag Tour: dates, working group members

Ideas were brought up about farms to visit, issues to target- such as groundwater recharge, possibly Cache Slough area where the LESA study was done, Rich Collins, Center for Land Based Learning facilities/demonstration area. Morgan and Wendy will help find farms in the Slough area.

Event title proposed "Soil & Water: Agricultural Roots"

Date proposed: May 21, 2019, with event starting around 10:30am

Steering committee to assist Ryan from Supervisor Vasquez's office, with Russ acting as liaison between the committee and Ryan. Steering committee will be made up of Jennifer King, Ian Anderson, Morgan Doran, Mary Helen Seeger, Craig Leathers, Russ Lester, and the new Assistant Ag Commissioner. Members should meet a half hour or so before the AAC meetings as needed starting with the August meeting. Money has been proposed for the farm tour in the County budget but hasn't been approved yet.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- a. Exotic Pest Updates- Nutria are back, with two animals found in Mariposa, San Joaquin County. There is funding for trapping and eradication, and authorities are keeping an eye on the Bay Delta.

Industrial Help committee has been formed at the state level so California farmers may be able to produce it. Getting testing protocols in place, regulations drawn up, more information can be found on the CDFA site.

CDFA workshop is coming up on managing lands for carbon sequestration.

Also: we have a new Assistant Agricultural Commissioner who will be moving up from San Diego County and joining us soon.

- b. Local Food Shed Working Group- somewhat covered by Farmbudsman
- c. Renewable Energy Working Group- SolAgra has not submitted anything new
- d. Farmbudsman- gave update about Sustainable Solano pilot project
- g. Discussed boundaries of various basins and what to include in the GSA. Next meeting is June 11; workshop for growers and landholders in fall- maybe November.

Public Comments/Announcements

Morgan announced a July 11 workshop on water diversions of more than 10 acre feet in Woodland which will train people to be the person who measures these; also pumping from subsurface streams

May 30- Napa Valley College: fire policy and prevention, vegetation management.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50