

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 3:00 P.M.

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting called to order at 3:08 by Russ Lester

Members present: Russ Lester, Moira Burke, Ian Anderson, Bruce Brazelton, Jeff Dittmer, Lisa Howard, Jennifer King, Craig Leathers, Al Medvitz, Mary Helen Seeger.

Members absent: Barbara Comfort

Guests present Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Letitia Perkins, Office Assistant I; Bill Emlen, Director of Resource Management; Matt Tuggle, Engineering Manager; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Morgan Doran UCCE, Wendy Rash, NRCS; Robert Guerrero, Solano Transportation Authority; Mark Headrick, CHP.

Agenda Approval: The Agenda was approved with no additions or deletions.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2020 were unanimously approved as prepared.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

- Ed reported that the BOS recently granted approval for the County to enter into an agreement with Solano Land Trust and Solano Transportation Authority to use an existing balance of grant funding to make public access improvements in the greater Cordelia Sky Valley area, which also included acquisition, pedestrian bike access, and new mobile restrooms.
- Ed reported that the BOS approved recommendations from Solano County Parks & Rec Commission to award three small grants from the County Fish and Wildlife Fund. The grants went to Solano RCD, Suisun RCD, and a bird rescue group.

B. Update on recent Planning Commission activity

No updates – The last couple of meetings have been canceled.

C. Committee Openings

No updates.

D. Agriculture-Bicyclist Conflicts

- Russ – AAC wants to reform the bicycle issues committee to address concerns regarding increased numbers of cyclists on rural roads, cyclists not obeying traffic laws and potential for serious accidents.
- Robert Guerrero, Planning Director, Solano Transportation Authority – invited representatives from the AAC to come to their Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting to address overall concerns; the next meeting is on June 18 via Zoom. Robert will forward their upcoming agenda to Ed for disbursement to the AAC.
- Mark Headrick, CHP – reminder that CHP has primary traffic jurisdiction on county roads. CHP would like to be involved in future meetings to help with outreach and education. The better Mark can understand issues the better he will be able to focus outreach efforts and enforcement.
- Matt Tuggle – previous bike committee met in 2011 and 2015. It would be helpful to clearly define and itemize issues. Can work to reestablish relations with Davis bike groups. Possible to put out bike counters to collect new data on cyclist use on particular roads which may inform actions for possible road/shoulder improvements within the annual County Capital Improvements Plan.

4:15 6. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. LESA

Wendy Rash, NRCS – brought up the idea of organizing a countywide coordination group to address climate issues affecting agriculture and conservation, which LESA could be a part of.

B. Agricultural Updates – Ag Department Staff

- Ed reported that the Center for Disease Control recently released additional guidance for protecting Ag workers during the pandemic.
- A draft industrial hemp ordinance is in progress and will propose restricting hemp growing to the areas south of I-80 and east of Hwy 113; and will likely consider buffers (1-5 miles) from Dixon, possibly Vacaville. Building in the buffers would exclude the problem areas of last year. This most likely will be pushed back to August before presentation to the BOS for consideration.
- The 2019 crop report is being compiled and will be presented to the BOS in late July.

C. Farmbudsman

Sarah Hawkins reported that the Farmers' Markets have been busy during COVID-19. Local CSAs are at full subscription levels. Sarah reported that this would be her last meeting as Farmbudsman, as the program will not be renewed for next fiscal year. Sarah reported that she will be working with the Small Business Development Center as an Ag Specialist.

D. GSA Report

Misty Kaltreider, Resource Mgmt. reported that they are waiting for comments to come back on the draft introduction and initial water budget plans. There is a meeting at the end of the month, and perhaps there will be more info that will come out then. GSA meeting for June 11 has been canceled.

E. State Water Resilience Portfolio

Misty Kaltreider, Resource Mgmt. reported that the Portfolio should be released by DWR probably by the end of summer.

F. Ag Futures Study for Solano County working group

Ed reported that he is working to arrange a call with Al, Moira, and Morgan to look into this issue. No formal action since the last meeting.

G. Flannery Associates Land Acquisition

- Misty Kaltreider, Resource Mgmt. reported that based on Assessor Recorder info, Flannery did not have any more properties recorded since April 28; last total recording was a little under 26k acres.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Public Comments – None
- B. Announcements – None
- C. Correspondence – None

8. Next Meeting Date – August 12, 2020

9. Meeting adjourned – 4:18 PM.