

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting called to order at 3:10 by Chair Lester.

Members Present: Russ Lester, Moira Burke, Jeff Dittmer, Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson, Jen King

Members Absent: Al Medvitz, Barbara Comfort, Craig Leathers, Bruce Brazelton

Guests Present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Allan Calder, Planning Manager; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Amy Sharp, District 5 Aide; Jim Currie, Sheriff's Office; Steve West, CHP; Matt Tuggle, Public Works Engineering Manager; Dick Tzou, Resource Management; Nedzlene Ferrario, Planning.

Teleconference Meeting Resolution:

Resolution approved by unanimous committee vote authorizing the meeting to proceed via teleconference as a result of the continuing COVID pandemic state of emergency.

Approval of the Agenda: Agenda approved with no additions or deletions.

Review/Approval November 2021 Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved as prepared with one minor edit.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

In November the Board held a public hearing to review draft supervisorial redistricting alternatives and on December 7th introduced an ordinance to adjust district boundaries based on updated census data. The Board adopted resolutions in support of a Solano RCD grant application for habitat restoration work along Ulatis Creek and authorizing the Resource Management Director to apply for stormwater and flood improvement grants. The Board also adopted the County Public Works Improvement Plan for the coming year.

B. Update on recent Planning Commission activity

December 16th hearing will consider a special events center on Morrison Lane in Suisun Valley as well as a proposed zoning text amendments affecting highway commercial uses along I-80 and agriculture. The committee will receive additional outreach on the proposed amendments before they go to the board.

On November 17th the county hosted a Pleasants Valley area vision and zoning project public workshop. Attendees were asked to share opinions of land uses in the area and ranked preferences and support for possible options moving forward. Planning staff are working on

a summary report that will be presented at a future AAC meeting. A second workshop will likely be scheduled in March.

C. 2022 County Ag Study

Supervisors Vasquez and Mashburn along with Terry Schmidtbauer, Director of Resource Management, Ed King, Ag Commissioner, Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager, and Morgan Doran with UCCE will be leading the new county ag study project with support from consultant Ag Innovations. In February-March 2022 Ag Innovations will be holding interviews with a cross-section of growers and ag stakeholders. Information gathered during the interviews will contribute to a final report to the Board next summer with an aim of describing the current state of agriculture in the county and providing recommendations aimed at the continued long-term viability of local agriculture.

D. 2022 County Ag Tour

The Agriculture Department has a small funding allocation for a 2022 county ag tour. Options may include coinciding a tour with the new ag study or hosting the tour later in the year, pending being able to do so safely during the pandemic emergency.

E. 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion approved by unanimous committee vote to accept the committee's proposed 2022 meeting schedule with meetings scheduled every month except July and September.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Partnership – Ag Sustainability Work Group

The group is attempting to align projects to assist and sustain agriculture in the Bypass and Cache Slough areas. Recent work includes feedback on a technical memo produced by SAFCA that looked at ag stewardship activities.

B. Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan

The next Solano GSA board meeting is December 9th. The board will be considering adoption of the GSP for submittal to DWR in January.

C. Drought-Dry Wells

Nothing new to report.

D. Ag-Bicycle Issues

CHP and Sheriff will look to perform outreach to cyclists prior to beginning of harvest season in 2022.

E. Agricultural Department Updates

On November 15th CDFA issued an emergency proclamation declaring the Browns Valley area in Vacaville a glassy-winged sharpshooter infested area based on confirmed Ag Department detections made in October. The proclamation outlines the need to eradicate the infestation and authorities to do so. Treatments have been underway since late October and no new detections have been identified in over three weeks, in part due to cooler temperatures, but also as a result of treatment work. The infestation remains confined to a

residential area.

Walnut losses from the October and November rains are being tallied to determine if impacts are severe enough to qualify for a USDA disaster declaration.

Crop report surveys have been mailed to growers.

The Ag Department is hosting a pesticide use continuing education class on December 16th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Next Meeting Date: January 12, 2022

Meeting Adjourned: 4:45 p.m.