

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting
Wednesday, August 8, 2018
3:00 PM
501 Texas Street, Downstairs Conference Room
Fairfield, California 94534-9700
Phone 707-784-1310

MINUTES

Ag Advisory Meeting August 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 3:00 by Moira Burke

Members present: Bruce Brazelton, Moira Burke, Jennifer King, Lisa Howard, Al Medvitz, Ian Anderson, Jeff Ditmer, Mary Helen Seeger

Members not present Craig Leathers, Barbara Comfort, Russ Lester

Guests present Simone Hardy, Sharon Garrett, Chris Rodgers, Jose Arriaga, Morgan Doran, Emma Torbin, Mike Yankovick, Misty Kaltreider, Dan Sharp, Narcisa Untal,

Ian Anderson moved and Mary Helen seconded approving the agenda, passed unanimously

Bruce Brazelton moved and Lisa Howard seconded approving the minutes, passed unanimously

5. New Business

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

Accessory units and secondary dwelling units. The state has newly limited secondary units to 1200 square feet, which is smaller than the current 1500 and 1800 square feet allowed in two zones of the county. The state does allow for counties to go higher, so the county amended the ordinance to allow for that.

B. Planning Commission

Cannabis ordinance- planning commission decided not to approve the ordinance that prohibited all commercial cannabis. Currently only personal production is allowed in the unincorporated county.

Planning Commission went along with A-20, RR, Watershed (such as the Vaca Hills, Cordelia Hills, etc) being included in allowing short term rentals. As long as there is a manager on site who can handle issues as they arise, short term rental is fine.

C. SGMA Basin Prioritization Update- letter of support for designating the Solano Subbasin as moderate, and the Napa-Sonoma Lowlands Subbasin a low priority listing. The farmers who

have experience with the subbasin, including during years of drought, believe that a moderate designation is appropriate, and believe that further scientific studies will back this up. Al Medvetz moved, Bruce Brazelton seconded supporting a letter stating such, motion passed unanimously. Letter should be sent to Roberta with Resource Management, will be drafted by Simone and reviewed by Moira.

D. Save the Date Letter for Ag Tour Approval- steering committee met before the AAC meeting proper to determine the wording of the save the date letter. Date is April 30 for 2019, with an emphasis on Soil and Water, Agricultural Roots. Focus on water policy, with a tour and then luncheon. Next meeting of the group will be September 12 at 3pm.

E. Discussion of New EIR Water Fix- Not sure if the BOS is going to support the fix or not. County Counsel is following the hearings on this, but position is currently undetermined. Concern that traffic impacts are missing from the EIR. Motion made by Al Medvitz and seconded by Lisa Howard to encourage the BOS to take every opportunity to oppose the construction of the Delta Water Tunnels. Passed unanimously.

F. Planning for Ag Tour Working Group- idea to do a transect of the county- working our way from the hills/Beryessa to Cache Slough and other parts of the county where the water is used for various crops, and discussing the differences in soil and agriculture as you move from one part of the county to the other. Also a potential to focus on some of the dry agriculture activities happening too.

6. CONTINUING BUSINESS

- a. Agricultural Updates- New state proposal to regulate herbicides for groundwater protection. Would require a hazardous materials permit and adoption of best practices by the agricultural producer. DPR has information on their web site.

Medfly quarantine is over!!!!

- b. Local Food Shed Working Group- no update
- c. Renewable Energy Working Group- Marin Community Energy (MCE) – is a quasi-governmental joint powers authority to do the generation side of renewables. The BOS is going to get to decide whether to join or not so they can have a voice on the JPA with MCE. Looking to do 50% renewables, which is a higher percentage than PG&E, at a lower cost; a 100% renewable option would be available as well. Public workshop will happen on August 20. Currently in Solano County only Benicia has joined in with Marin, Napa, and Contra Costa Counties, but Fairfield is currently considering it. Local governments can join this year or will have to wait until 2021. Can find more out on mceCleanEnergy.org
- d. Farmbudsman- not a lot to report
- e. Bicycles- more bicycle traffic turning up in the Montezuma Hills these days

- f. LESA progress- no update
- g. GSA Report- Next meeting is in October

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

New recycling guidelines are being developed by the county, input from the ag community is appreciated as to what information we'd find helpful. Recycle.solanocounty.com is the web site.

The county wants more reporting of dumping of stuff- appliances, household goods, etc on the public right of way. Solano County Sheriff Dispatch is where one should report this to, instead of Public Works, so the dumping gets tracked better so it also gets prevented.

illegaldumping@solanocounty.com is an email you can report this to as well. Working at bringing forward a stronger ordinance to go after the dumpers, but need evidence of the magnitude of the problem in order to do this.

Next meeting will be October 10

Adjourn meeting at 4:35