

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 3:09 p.m. by Moira Burke

Members Present: Moira Burke, Ian Anderson, Barbara Comfort, Jeff Dittmer, Lisa Howard, Jen King, Craig Leathers, Al Medvitz.

Members Absent: Russ Lester, Bruce Brazelton

Guests Present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Morgan Doran, UCCE; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Priscilla Yeane, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner; Amy Sharp, District 5 Board Aide; Teri Knight, NRCS; Matt Tuggle, Public Works Engineering Manager; Dave Harvey, CHP; James Currie, Sheriff; Stephanie Jordan, Sustainable Solano; Dan Carey, grower; Tanis Hicks, Office Supervisor.

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

Review/Approval May 2021 Meeting Minutes: May minutes approved as prepared.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity
 - Extended the interim urgency ordinance on short-term rentals in rural residential zoning districts for 22 months with direction to staff to report back in 6 months.
 - Adopted a resolution recommending Governor Newsom act to resolve a discrepancy in the overtime payment requirements for sheep/goat herders as a result of AB 1066.
- B. Update on recent Planning Commission activity
 - Previous two Planning Commission meetings have been cancelled due to lack of agenda items.
 - Ed will check with E&C Winery project applicant on their availability to attend an upcoming AAC meeting. There is no timeline yet for the project to go before the Planning Commission.
- C. Ag Advisory Committee Review Project

Discussions continue with possible consultant, Ag Innovations, on undertaking a project to review the current state of agriculture in Solano, where it is trending and emerging issues in order to best equip the Board and AAC to advocate for the continued viability of agriculture in the county.

- D. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 *Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy* and 30 x 30 initiatives
Will discuss at August Meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- A. COVID-19 Impacts on Solano Small Farms
No new updates.
- B. Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Partnership – Ag Sustainability Work Group
At most recent meeting discussed how to best engage working lands for Bypass improvements including better flood control preparations in advance of further climate change impacts.

In May, DWR began to rapidly construct a barrier across the False River to limit saltwater intrusion into the central Delta. Committee members expressed concern that the barrier may increase salinity in the Sacramento River potentially impacting Solano agriculture and that DWR should be monitoring salinity changes once the barrier is in place.

- C. GSA
June Board of Directors meeting was cancelled. GSP Chapters 1, 2, and 3 are posted for public review. All sections aim to completed by this fall.
- D. Ag-Bicycle Issues
Per CHP, heavy bike traffic, but no complaints. Sgt. Currie indicated that the Sheriff's Office is also seeing an increase in bike traffic, but no reported issues. Matt Tuggle reported that traffic studies are underway now that traffic is returning to pre-pandemic levels. Public Works is performing traffic counts 7 days/week on major routes and 3 days/week on minor routes as well as bike counts on major connector roads.
- E. Agricultural Updates - Ag Department Staff
- Continuing seasonal pest detection surveys.
 - Completed first round of sunflower field walks. Signs available from CHP to growers to keep people out of their fields.
 - Wrapping up the 2020 Crop Report to present to the Board of Supervisors in July.
- F. Flannery Associates Land Acquisitions
No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ADJOURN MEETING – 4:04 p.m.

Next Meeting Date – August 11, 2021