

# SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 3:00 P.M.**

### **Teleconference Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 3:01 by Russ Lester

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

Members absent: Al Medvitz

Guests present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Priscilla Yeane, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner; Allan Calder, Resource Management Planning Manager; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Dax West, Lt. Sheriff; Morgan Doran UCCE, Wendy Rash, NRCS; Tanis Hicks, Office Supervisor; Letitia Perkins, Office Assistant; Ashton Sturr, Office Assistant.

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

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 2020 were unanimously approved as prepared.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity  
Denied a citizen appeal of a Planning Commission approved use permit for business operations at Mankas Corner.
- B. Update on recent Planning Commission activity  
No updates – Recent meetings have been canceled.
- C. Committee Openings  
Ed will follow up with Supervisor Spring's office to see if they may have a recommendation for the vacant wine grape seat. Mary Helen suggested inquiring about a representative from Hines Nursery.

#### CONTINUING BUSINESS

- A. Agriculture-Bicyclist Issues
  - Current bicycle issues and identified potential action items:
    - Identify specific roads and issues of concern
      - Roads: Putah Creek, Silveyville, Pleasants Valley

- Issues: increase in bike traffic (particularly since COVID began), disregard for traffic laws, concern for serious accidents, difficulty moving ag equipment and transporting livestock, olives on Putah Cr. Rd.
- Get new bike traffic data (Matt Tuggle can put out bike counters – last data count is from 4+ years ago)
- Invite Matt Tuggle to future AAC meeting to talk about road improvements (shoulders, signage) to include in the County's Capital Improvement Plan
- Communicate issues and specific problem areas to CHP so they can focus outreach efforts and enforcement
- Outreach to Davis bike groups
- Continue to work with Solano Transportation Authority Bike Advisory Committee (BAC) on outreach and solutions
- Press releases to local papers: Vaca Reporter, Daily Republic, Davis Enterprise, Dixon Tribune, Winters Express
- Lt. West has a new resident deputy assigned to the northern portion of the county who can restart outreach efforts on Pleasants Valley Rd. Will also look into conducting bike team patrols.
- Ed will share AAC concerns with the STA BAC and plan next steps.
- Other current ag issues:
  - Barbara reported that motorized hang gliders are landing in ag properties which may present a threat to crops and livestock.
  - Craig reported that public trespassing into sunflower fields was particularly bad this year. Lt. West noted that at times there were as many as 75 cars on an I-80 frontage road with people accessing the nearby sunflower field. Sheriff plans to increase outreach to the public.

B. LESA – no update.

#### C. Agricultural Updates - Ag Department Staff

- The 2019 Crop & Livestock Report was presented to the BOS on August 4. Total calculated gross value was \$372 million. The top five crops were almonds, tomatoes, cattle, nursery products and walnuts.
- Continuing to conduct COVID outreach including distribution of almost 60,000 face coverings. Ag Department is available to come on-site to hold COVID safety trainings for ag workers.
- Hemp ordinance still in progress. Planning to hold a public meeting in Elmira to share the draft ordinance and field comments.
- The Ag Department has been responding to calls from residents who received unsolicited shipments of seeds apparently originating from China. The department is collecting the shipments for proper disposal.

D. Farmbudsman

The BOS did not renew the Farmbudsman contract for the current fiscal year. The Small Business Development Center is retaining Sarah Hawkins in a part-time role to work with ag businesses.

E. GSA Report

Board meeting scheduled for 8/13 to discuss the first draft of the GSP introduction, current fiscal year budget and the new stakeholder advisory committee. Second draft of the water budget technical memorandum is also being reviewed. Documents available at [solanogsp.com](http://solanogsp.com).

F. State Water Resilience Portfolio

DWR published the final version of the SWRP in July. Solano County previously submitted comments on the draft. Notable SWRP objectives include continued SGMA implementation and advancement of a single tunnel Delta conveyance project. DWR will likely release environmental documents later this year for proposed modernization of Delta conveyance. DWR will also start additional geotechnical investigations in the Delta including in-water and levee borings in further preparation for the single tunnel project.

G. Ag Futures Study for Solano County working group

Ag Department does not have budget or capacity to lead this effort. Possible option may be to connect with UCD Ag Issues Center. Morgan and Ed will follow up.

G. Flannery Associates Land Acquisitions

No new parcel sales recorded since July 17<sup>th</sup>. Total acquisition is 27,000+ acres.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. Public Comments – None.

B. Announcements

Morgan/Misty – Bill Emlen promoted to Assistant County Administrator; Terry Schmidtbauer is now interim Resource Management Director.

Misty – County is continuing development of the Cache Slough Habitat Conservation Plan. The plan will provide special status species take coverage for water intake operators in Cache Slough as the State proceeds with various restoration projects in the area. Outreach efforts will start this winter.

C. Correspondence – None.

Next Meeting Date – October 14, 2020

ADJOURN MEETING – 4:50 p.m.