

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Meeting called to order at 3:03 by Chair Lester.

Members Present: Russ Lester, Moira Burke, Jen King, Al Medvitz, Lisa Howard, Ian Anderson, Barbara Comfort

Members Absent: Bruce Brazelton, Craig Leathers, Jeff Dittmer

Guests Present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Priscilla Yeane, Asst. Agricultural Commissioner; Allan Calder, Planning Manager; Jim Currie, Sheriff's Office; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Morgan Doran, UCCE; Nancy Nelson, CAOs Office; Amy Sharp and Danette Mercado, District 5 Aides.

Teleconference Meeting Resolution: Resolution approved to continue meetings via teleconference pursuant to requirements of Assembly Bill 361 and California Government Code section 54953(e).

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

Approval of Minutes: March meeting minutes approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Board of Supervisor's activity:

- Opposing AB 2764 which seeks to ban new or expansions to existing commercial animal feeding operations that have annual revenues of \$100,000 or more.
- Continued an appeal until May 3 of the Planning Commission's approval of EQ Industrial Services waster transfer facility on Schroeder Road outside of Dixon on an A-40 zoned parcel.
- PG&E presented an update on ongoing safety improvements in high fire risk areas.

B. Update on Planning Commission activity
No updates.

C. Review of recently approved agricultural zoning text amendments

The Board of Supervisors approved Zone Text Amendment ZT-21-03 on March 22 that included changes to definitions of ag accessory buildings, ag processing facilities, research facilities, agritourism, added a new definition for greenhouse and made corresponding changes to zoning tables of allowed uses and made specific changes to allowed Suisun Valley land uses including amending requirements for agritourism facilities from allowed by right to requiring a use permit. Changes to become effective on April 22.

Russ suggested the committee continue evaluation and recommendations on improving the attraction to and uses of the industrial ag services zoning district; encourage additional discussion on allowed location of greenhouses; and, GSA coordination of groundwater recharge.

Lisa extended thanks to Allan for offering to continue to discussions on greenhouses, breweries and distilleries and industrial ag zoning.

Barbara recommended further review and attention to the definition of agritourism, needing more than a one-size fits all definition that would consider the county's different ag regions.

Russ recommended an ad hoc group continue to work with Allan and county staff on these issues.

Allan further noted that the county is undertaking a review of Williamson Act uniform rules with an outside consultant and invited participation of the committee on the project.

D. 2022 Committee Goals

Goals adopted as presented with addition of ad hoc committees to participate in the Williamson Act rules update project and continued discussion of land use rules concerning greenhouses, breweries and distilleries and industrial ag zoning.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Partnership – Ag Sustainability Work Group:
No new updates.

B. Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan

Next Board meeting is April 14 in person and via Zoom. The first GSP annual report is scheduled for review and approval. Also, will discuss Governor Newsom's recent Executive Order N-7-22.

C. County Ag Study – Ag Innovations

Study interviews are underway with local representatives from the spectrum of ag commodity groups across the county as well as ag support entities like UCCE and ag processors.

D. Agricultural Department Updates

- Currently preparing to submit a damage report to Cal OES and USDA requesting a disaster declaration for damages from the February freezes. The report projects a 75% loss to the current almond and olive crops.
- Glassy-winged sharpshooter eradication treatments in Vacaville are nearing completion and the first biocontrol releases are scheduled for later in April.
- Ag Department is currently recruiting seasonal staff for pest detection surveys.
- The Solano food bank is looking to supplement produce distributions with local fruit and vegetables and seeking local growers to partner with.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- Morgan – put the CAFO definition in the chat thread for everyone to review.
- Lisa – attended the Fairfield City Council meeting last night. They are continuing discussions regarding annexation of county lands including portions of Suisun Valley.
- Allan – the new Yolo food hub is preparing to open in Esparto. It will serve to aggregate local products for processing, storage and distribution, allowing smaller farmers to reach larger markets.

NEXT MEETING DATE – May 11, 2022

MEETING ADJOURNED – 4:45 p.m.