

Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting  
Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
3:00 PM  
501 Texas Street, Downstairs Conference Room  
Fairfield, California 94534-9700  
Phone 707-784-1310

MINUTES

Ag Advisory Meeting June 12, 2019

Meeting called to order at 3:20 by Russ Lester

Members present: Lisa Howard, Russ Lester, Craig Leathers, Barbara Comfort, Moira Burke, Mary Helen Seeger

Members not present: Al Medvitz, Bruce Brazelton, Jennifer King, Ian Anderson, Jeff Dittmer

Guests present: Marisa Alcorta, Center For Land Based Learning, Jose Arriaga, Acting Agricultural Commissioner; Doug Stonebreaker, possible AAC recruit; Sharon Garrett, Agricultural Office Staff; Sarah Hawkins, Farmbudsman;

Craig Leathers moved and Lisa Howard seconded approving the minutes, passed unanimously.

Craig Leathers moved and Mary Helen Seeger seconded approving the agenda

New Business

A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity

No update

B. Planning Commission

No update

C. Planning Report for Ag Tour Working Group

Planning over, tour went very well, really appreciate the work that Morgan did, especially all the last minute changes. Came in under budget, had 54 attendees. Most heard comment was to not wait another ten years before the next farm tour. The Supervisors who went were very impressed with what they saw. The committee was supportive of starting to plan the budget so the next tour can happen in a few years instead of ten.

D. Discussion of Committee Openings

Doug Stonebreaker came to the meeting as a possible new member, told the committee about his various farm businesses and involvement in the Green Valley.

E. California Farm Academy Apprenticeship for Beginning Farm and Ranch Managers-  
Marisa Alcorta, Center for Land-Based Learning

Marisa gave a presentation to the group about their state registered apprenticeship programs. Wanted to create a legal apprenticeship program as farm managers were starting to age out of the business, and there wasn't much of a pipeline to train up new ones. Both current farm employees and non are eligible to join the apprenticeship program, so if you have a person who seems like they just need some training up, they would be good candidates for the program. Applications can be submitted year round. They are looking for more mentor-farmers to participate, and people to be on the apprenticeship board to help steer the program.

## CONTINUING BUSINESS

a. LESA progress

No Update

b. Agricultural Updates

New commissioner starting July 8, Ed King from Placer County- currently the deputy ag commissioner. Will be meeting him at the August AAC meeting.

Some industrial hemp regulations have passed to allow growing- have had three parties come in to apply to grow in the county, which would put about 300 acres into cultivation. Regulations aren't quite in place, so growers have to know that some things may change after they put seeds in the ground.

CDFA is going to ban chlorpyrophos, which will take effect in two years

Nutria found in San Joquin County, southern Solano County included in the eradication watch area. CDFA and Fish and Wildlife are aggressively taking action.

June 25, the crop report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors

Exotic Pest Update:

c. Farmbudsman

Contract for another year was approved. Farmbudsman shared a success story of a client who is now selling at farmer's markets.

d. Bicycles

Barbara Comfort raised concerns that there may be too many bike events eventually. Feels like there events all the time out in the country, wonders about bringing up a limit to the number of events to the Supervisors.

e. GSA report

Board has not met and next one has been cancelled as well. Consultants are doing the ground work now to produce information for the board to do their work down the road.

- f. Ag Futures Study for Solano County working group  
Tabled until the next meeting since attendance at this meeting was a bit low.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Vacaville Museum currently has an agricultural history exhibit on display now until early September.

Next meeting will be August 14, 2019

Adjourn meeting at 4:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Hawkins, Farmbudsman