

SOLANO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 3:00 PM

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 3:00 by Russ Lester.

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

Members Absent: Bruce Brazelton

Guests Present: Ed King, Agricultural Commissioner; Allan Calder, Resource Management Planning Manager; Morgan Doran, UCCE; Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager; Priscilla Yeane, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner; Amy Sharp, District 5 Board Aide; Danette Mercado, District 5 Board Aide; Sunshine Garside, CHP; Chris Rogers, Management Analyst CAO; Alicia Draves, Chief Deputy Clerk CAO; Teri Knight, NRCS Vacaville; Elena Karoulina, Sustainable Solano; Matt Tuggle, Public Works Engineering Manager.

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

Review/Approval April 2021 Meeting Minutes: April meeting minutes approved as prepared. Barbara Comfort abstained; had not received the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Update on recent Board of Supervisor's activity
 - On April 6th, 2021, the BOS adopted an urgency interim ordinance prohibiting new commercial wind turbine generators and wind farms within the unincorporated areas of the County. This interim ordinance is in place for 45 days. On May 11th, the BOS adopted a 22 month and 15-day extension of interim ordinance providing time for the County to evaluate policies and implementation measures required to reduce radar impacts from wind turbines on Travis Air Force Base. Possible 75 turbine project north of Highway 12 with 800-foot-tall turbines is being considered. Previous project with turbines up to 600 feet was rejected due to interference with Travis' radar system.
 - On April 27th the BOS adopted an urgency interim ordinance prohibiting new short-term vacation rental home applications in the rural residential zoning districts. Ordinance in place for 45 days. Planning staff will request a 22-month 15-day extension to the Board. Extension will give County time to review and evaluate policies and implementation measures required to reduce the impact of short-term rentals in the County. On April 27th the BOS also adopted a permanent ordinance amending Chapter 28 (Zoning Regulations) of the Solano County Code requiring a minor use permit rather

than an administrative permit for certain public assembly and tourist land uses, including special event facilities and vacation rental homes, located on properties served by private roads within unincorporated Solano County.

- B. Update on recent Planning Commission activity
Allan Calder – Planning Commission met May 6th to consider an amendment to the existing policy plan in the overlay district located on Northgate Road north of Travis AFB. Includes modifications to existing development plan and removal of land uses not compatible with the transitional nature of the overlay district. Objective is to allow more flexibility during permit processing. Planning Commission recommended approval to the BOS with a provision Travis AFB has input on projects with potential to impact base operations.
- C. Ag Advisory Committee Review Project
Board members are directing a review and assessment of the AAC including a report on agricultural changes in recent years and current ag issues with the intent of positioning the committee to best advise the BOS in coming years. Ed received an initial proposal from Ag Innovations. The proposal will be reviewed by Board members and will give updates at the next ACC meeting.
- D. Department of Water Resources *Community Benefits Program* for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project
DWR developing this program in the event the tunnel project is approved and constructed. The program would return investments to Delta communities that would be affected by the tunnel project, could support various types of developments/projects. DWR is holding public meetings and feedback sessions for ideas. Ed asked the committee if they would be interested in identifying specific agricultural items that could be included in the program for recommendation to the Board. The committee voiced their opposition to the project and does not want to contribute any efforts that would move this project forward.
- E. Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-82-20 *Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy* and *30 x 30* initiatives
The Climate Smart Strategy and 30 X 30 Initiative are intended to utilize ag and ranch lands in conservation measures to counter climate change, protect biodiversity and safeguard food supplies. The Natural Resources Agency will release a draft Climate Smart Strategy this summer for public comment and a draft 30 x 30 plan this fall for public comment. CNRA is holding a workshop on June 8th about these projects. Ed will give updates as these executive orders progress.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- A. COVID-19 Impacts on Solano Small Farms
No Updates

B. Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Partnership

The Partnership is a 15-member group comprised of Federal, State and local agencies. An Ag Assurances work group has been formed within the partnership to discern what programs are needed to support agriculture as habitat protection and flood control projects are implemented in the Bypass and Cache Slough areas. The work group is developing a planning tool to be used across various projects to consistently ensure the needs of agriculture are met as projects progress and that the ag community is informed and engaged. The Partnership is looking to DWR's Ag Lands Stewardship Framework and Strategies to assess projects.

C. GSA

Russ Lester – GSA Board meeting tomorrow night, 5/13/2021. 10 sections in the groundwater sustainability plan. Sections 1 and 2 are out for public review on the Solano Subbasin GSP website. Draft sections 3 and 4 to be previewed during the board meeting as well as initial consideration of possible project management actions.

D. Ag-Bicycle Issues

Sunshine Garside - Patrol units are going out more on county roads to keep traffic moving safely. Public Affairs Officer is also reaching out and doing more community events for bike safety.

E. Agricultural Updates - Ed King

- Currently compiling the 2020 crop report to present to the BOS in July.
- Deploying fruit fly traps.
- Inspecting sunflower fields. Also working on sunflower field issues with growers to minimize trespassing issues this summer.

F. Flannery Associates Land Acquisitions

Recently closed on additional parcels bringing total holding to over 28,000 acres.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. Public Comments

Concern was voiced over AAC meetings being recorded. A note will be added to the agenda regarding the meetings being recorded.

B. Announcements

Jenny Lester-Moffitt has been nominated by President Biden to be the next USDA Under Secretary of Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

C. Correspondence

None.

Next Meeting Date – June 9, 2021

ADJOURNED MEETING – 5:07 p.m.