



COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	John Nitta
Dan Macon	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 12, 2010

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patricia Beard, James Brenner, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, William Morebeck, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: John Nitta

I. FFA CALL TO ORDER CEREMONY

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JULY 12, 2010 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2010 – *Aguilar/Beard/MPUV* to approve the agenda and minutes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.***

IV. Working Collaboratively to Save Salmon and Steelhead in the Auburn Ravine Presentation – Jack Sanchez and John Rabe.

Slide show presentation, showing and explaining the obstacles and possible remedies for restoring the salmon and steelhead habitat in the Auburn Ravine.

At the conclusion of the presentation and Commission discussion, the following action was taken: Motion to write a letter of support for the SARSAS organization's efforts to restore salmon and steelhead fish in the Auburn Ravine contingent upon: 1) there being no costs to farmers and ranchers; 2) participation is voluntary, and; 3) the efforts do not result in any restrictions, interruptions, or reductions to the existing uses of water by farmers and ranchers adjacent to Auburn Ravine. ***Morebeck/Brenner/MPUV***

V. California Ag Leadership Program Presentation – Josh Huntsinger, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner.

Slide show presentation covering the highlights of the two-year program that focused on leadership skills among agriculture professionals.

VI. REPORTS

A. **Agricultural Marketing Program** – Christine Turner

- Agriculture Marketing Report will be ready for the August 10th meeting.
- Placer County Vintners Association “Grape Days of Summer” will be held August 6th through the 8th.

B. **Economic Development Board** - Lyndell Grey

- There has been no direct response from the Economic Development Board Executive Committee regarding the letter sent on behalf of the Agricultural Commission supporting agriculture as a top priority in the Board’s Development Roadmap. Will be meeting with Jennifer Montgomery, Christine Turner, and Josh Huntsinger next week to discuss lobbying efforts.
- Wayne Vineyard discussed the feasibility of operating a rice mill in Placer County with a representative of Sunwest Foods. It was determined that is not economically feasible due to the amount of tonnage required.

C. **Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor** - Roger Ingram

- K-Line Irrigation Workshop will be held July 19, 2010 at the Elster Ranch in Grass Valley.
- Attended the July 8th Placer County Conservation Plan meeting at the Planning Department. Discussed opportunities to benefit the agriculture community.

D. **Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor** - Cindy Fake

- The second session of the *Beginning Farm Planning* course will be held August 10th and already has twenty-four registrants.
- Vineyard Field Day was held June 19th at Naggiar Vineyards in Nevada County.
- European Grape Vine Moth will affect any vintners getting planting materials from anywhere in California. All shipments must be treated and inspected. Christine Turner stated that EGVM has been found in Del Ray, southeast of Fresno. Sixteen properties have been designated for treatment. Fruit removal begins this week and spraying will begin next week. Josh Huntsinger remarked that the Agriculture Department has been trapping for EGVM since April 8th and would continue through October 2010.
- Spotted Wing Drosophila (Cherry Vinegar Fly) is now a fact of life. Males are sterile at temperatures above 86 degrees.

E. **Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas** - Patti Beard – No report

F. **Placer Parkway Meeting Update** - William Morebeck

- Of the five alternate routes, alternative four (the most northern route) is the most favored. It is also the closest to the proposed university.

G. **Agricultural Water Supply Issues** - Christine Turner and Josh Huntsinger Christine Turner

- California Senate Bill 565
 - 1) Allows the State Water Resources Board to order water users to conduct expensive technical studies of streams and rivers
 - 2) Authorizes penalties for water-right violations
 - 3) Increases penalties for “material misstatements” in water-right reports
 - 4) Establishes fees for pre-1914 and riparian water-right holders to file their statements of water diversion
 - 5) Establishes a presumption of non-use if water-right holders do not include the water-right in their required water diversion statements to the Water Resources Board

- Department of Water Resources and the Agricultural Water Management Council will hold a public listening session on Agriculture Water Conservation Act of 2009 on July 29th in Sacramento.

Josh Huntsinger

- Central Valley Water Quality Control Board's long-term strategy staff recommended a tiered approach for watershed monitoring.
- AB2595 if passed would prohibit an Agriculture Commissioner from issuing an Operator ID to anyone not in the Irrigated Lands Program.

VIII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Christine Turner and Josh Huntsinger
Christine Turner

- Crystal Jacobson, Placer County Planning Department, met with Placer County Engineering, Fire and Public Works staff about the proposed changes to the Temporary Outdoor Event section of the County's Zoning Ordinance. The proposal needs to be reworked. Will come back to the commission in August.
- The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is asking for nominations of events and places for the Geo Tourism website. Workshop on how to nominate will be held July 19th from 3:00 to 4:30 at SNRC in Auburn.
- High Sierra Resource & Development Council is presenting a "Rural Energy for America" workshop on August 18th. Potential grants are limited to \$50,000 for renewable energy feasibility studies.
- CDFA has vacancies on these advisory committees: Citrus, Organic Products, and Standardization.
- Since Prop 2 (related to the humane treatment of egg producing hens in California) passed. Assembly Bill 1437 would prohibit the sale of shelled eggs in California for human consumption if the production does not meet Prop 2 requirements.
- The issue of fruit quality related to ripeness and flavor has come up at local farmers' markets and is being addressed by the Foothill Farmers' Market Association.
- Alvar Tahti, husband of former Agriculture Commission member Jane Tahti, died on June 23, 2010. Christine Turner will send condolence card on behalf of the Ag Commission.
- SACOG will hold a workshop on forest management on July 27th. The subject will be "Innovation to Enhance Economic and Environmental Opportunities in the Central Sierra Nevada." Larry Jordan will be attending.

Josh Huntsinger

- A mated female Oriental Fruit Fly was trapped in Sacramento County on the border with Placer County and triggered a quarantine that included a small portion of Placer County and one wholesale nursery. No additional flies have been trapped to date.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM) –

- Wayne Vineyard reported that the Hutchinson's building permit was approved and they have not drilled a new well yet. They covered the old well and are putting in solar power
- The California Secretary of Agriculture visited the Placer County Fair in Roseville. He only visits 4-5 county fairs each year.

X. ADJOURNMENT