



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER
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

March 14, 2011

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

Members Absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 14, 2011 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011.

Motion to approve: *Jordan/Aguilar/MPUV*

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATE – Mark White for Rick Gruen, District Manager, Placer County Resource Conservation District

- Distributed pamphlet listing Placer County Resource Conservation District services.
- Developing conservation planning, also known as farm planning.
- Introduced Matt Dunnahoe, recently hired Conservation Planner. Will be providing technical assistance and planning skills to develop farm plans.
- Annual Agriculture Tour is Thursday, June 9th. The theme will be the Agri-Culture of Western Placer County.

V. PlacerGROWN 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW REPORT – Karen Killibrew, Board President, Placer GROWN

- Annual Food and Farm Conference was held February 5th. Secured a USDA grant to help with expenses of conference. For the first time used online registration and survey.
- Will launch Master Advocate Program in May. This program will train a core group of 18 to 20 community members in all agriculture components. Hewlett Packard is supplying a small grant for the program.
- On February 23rd, hosted a speed-dating event at Paul Martin's American Bistro, introducing 21 growers to 10 industrial buyers.
- Approached to provide 600 box lunches for the Amgen volunteers.
- PlacerGrown's annual meeting will be held at the Loomis Veterans Hall, May 2, 2011.

VI. DRAFT MOSQUITO SOURCE REDUCTION POLICIES – Joel Buettner, District General Manager, Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District

Presentation and distribution of the Draft Mosquito Source Reduction Policy

- Mission is to reduce mosquito and other vector populations.
- West Nile Virus is active in our environment.
- Subscribe to integrated vector management approach.
- Placer County has the most diversity of mosquitoes in California.
- Identify areas of land management that can help minimize mosquitoes.
- New requirements under Clean Water Act require conducting statewide water quality monitoring for adulticide treatments.
- Under mandate to pursue non-pesticide control measures.
- On no particular time line to finalize the policy.
- Rice growing single largest source of mosquitoes in Western Placer.

Christine Turner, member of Placer County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, found the Draft Mosquito Source Reduction Policy dated 2/14/10 to be heavy handed in tone and presumptuous in directing best management practices for production agriculture. She requested the Agriculture Commission to request the district and their board of directors to reconsider their current approach and policies. They need to start a policy development process with meaningful input from agriculture experts.

Roger Ingram, Placer County Farm Advisor, distributed letters from Rick Gruen of Placer County Resource Conservation District and UC Cooperative Extension listing concerns with the Draft Mosquito Source Reduction Policy. Found the tone of the presentation allays some of the concerns with the draft. The district needs to seek more input from the agriculture community.

Walter Fickewirth, Western Placer Rice Farmer, appreciates comments of previous speakers, and has concerns with tone on the document.

Josh Huntsinger stated he appreciated the presentation because it contrasts with the way the document reads.

Joel Buettner stated he would take the comments and concerns back to the district and board of directors.

VII. Update - PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO SIERRA COLLEGE PROGRAM VIALITY COMMITTEE–Josh Huntsinger

- Michelle McFarland met with Cindy Fake, Dan Macon, Roger Ingram and Josh Huntsinger on February 16, 2011 to outline the Agriculture core courses.

Michael Garobedian spoke of the importance of offering Agriculture courses at the junior colleges.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Placer County Resource Conservation District Agriculture Tour will be June 9th.
- Placeragguide.com website is moving forward with interactive mapping concept.
- Partnering on the Placer Visitor Guide.
- Still in planning stage for next fiscal year requirements.

B. Economic Development Board - Lyndell Grey – No Report

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor - Roger Ingram

- March 19, 2011, Beef Quality Assurance Program to be held at Lincoln High School Farm.
- The Sierra Field Day in Browns Valley will be held on April 9, 2011.
- April 29th and 30th holding the Grazing Academy.
- The mobile poultry processor will be discussed at the High Sierra RCD board meeting on Friday March 18, 2011.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor - Cindy Fake

- Foothill Farming has a Facebook page.
- March 15, 2011 Grape Pest Management and Mandarin meeting.
- Greenhouse workshop at Bryan Kaminski on April 13, 2011.

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

F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update - William Morebeck – No Report

G. Agricultural Water Supply Issues - Josh Huntsinger

- Distributed a copy of Bruce Houdesheldt e-mail providing update water issues.
- Received a letter from Army Corps of Engineering regulates some aspects of agriculture and refers you to a website.

VI. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Josh Huntsinger

- CDFA budget cut \$15 million.
- The state is eliminating all noxious weed eradication programs.
- Rodent baits have been reclassified as federally restricted.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT