

Kings County Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

January 10, 2007

Call to Order:

After some discussion concerning the Brown Act and clarification by Pete Moock, County Counsel, that the four regular members present of the six filled Committee positions did constitute a quorum as per the Committee Bylaws, Chairman Gregory called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. in the Agricultural Conference Room, in the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, 680 N. Campus Dr., Hanford, CA.

Members Present:

Jim Gregory, Gerald Theadore,
Don Mills, Charles Draxler

Members Absent:

Ryan Bertao, Bill Tos

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Pete Moock, Kathy Sargent
Les Wright for Tim Niswander

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Bill Zumwalt, Larry Spikes

Auxiliary Members Present:

Jay Salyer, Kerry Arroues, Jeff Tyner
Carol Collar, Peggy Gregory

Auxiliary Members Absent:

None

County Staff Present:

Mark Sherman

Visitors Present:

None

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Minutes: January 11, April 12, September 13, and October 11, 2006:

A Motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Theodore) to approve the minutes of the January 11, April 12, September 13, and October 11, 2006 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

New Members:

Chairperson Gregory again discussed recruiting for new members for the open vacancies.

Election of Officers and Nomination of New Members:

Chairperson Gregory opened the nominations for Committee Officers. A motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Theodore) to nominate Jim Gregory for another term as Chairperson and Don Mills for another term as Vice Chairperson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dead Animal Management Plan:

Mark Sherman, Kings County Planning Agency, provided a rough draft of the proposed Kings County Dead Animal Management plan for the Committee's review and discussion, and also provided a copy of

a report by Carol Collar, U.C. California Cooperative Extension concerning the National Carcass Disposal Symposium held in Beltsville, Maryland, December 4-7, 2006. Carol Collar made a presentation to the Committee which outlined different methods and technologies available for carcass disposal which were addressed at the symposium. She pointed out that the scope of the symposium included not just cow mortalities but also pigs, chickens, and other farm and domestic animals and also pointed out that in some areas of the country, animals killed by vehicles (road kill) also present a significant problem that should be considered by the Committee. Ms. Collar stressed that “the human element” should be addressed in the dead animal management plan including training and law enforcement issues as they might apply to an emergency situation including an outbreak of “bird flu”.

Currently, there is no rendering of goats and sheep in Kings County and the disposal of these animal carcasses is not addressed in the draft of the Dead Animal Management Plan. The committee discussed broadening the scope of the Management Plan and recommended including sheep, goats and the poultry industries in the process to try to arrive at an optimum solution. Three possible options were discussed:

1. Composting is probably the most desirable.
2. Request Chemical Waste Management expand their permit to allow land fill of animal carcasses in the event a Kings County emergency is declared.
3. Direct burial is the least desirable option.

The pros and cons of composting and burial of animals in an emergency situation were discussed and suggestions were made to try to explore other public/private partnerships for dead animal disposal. Charles Draxler (Dairy) recommended that education on proper methods of composting should be a priority. The Committee recognized that routine composting of mammalian flesh except in an emergency is not allowed in California but discussed the possibility of pursuing composting as an option and Chairman Gregory discussed the possibility of conducting a composting demonstration. Chairman Gregory asked staff to contact Senator Flores’ office concerning a possible change to composting rules.

The Committee agreed that rendering is currently the best solution for processing dead animals but that other avenues of carcass disposal must be explored in case the rendering industry were to be impacted again as occurred in the summer of 2006. The Committee agreed that a special meeting should be scheduled in order to continue work on the Dead Animal Management Plan.

Miscellaneous:

a. Correspondence: None

b. Member Comments: Members discussed quorum and attendance issues and decided to move the meeting time to lunch time in order to try to maximize attendance and to ensure that a quorum can be met. County Counsel determined a quorum of the Committee is a majority of the appointed committee members. Chairperson Gregory said that next meeting would be held in the Multipurpose Room, Suite F, of the Agriculture Center at 12:00. Lunch will be provided for attending Committee members. Ex-Officio members, Auxiliary members, Staff and visitors are invited to bring a lunch should they so desire.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m. A special meeting was scheduled for March 7, 2007 at 12:00 to address the Dead Animal Management Plan. The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 11, 2007 and will also be held at 12:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Sherman, Planner