

# KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHARLES DRAXLER – DAIRY INDUSTRY  
JIM GREGORY – AG CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM  
RYAN BERTAO – KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

DON MILLS – WATER  
BILL TOS – NUT CROPS  
GERALD THEODORE – SMALL FARMS

JOHNNY STARLING – AG PROCESSING  
BOB PRYS – FEED/SEED & GRAIN  
JIM MACIEL – AG EQUIPMENT

STAFF: MARK SHERMAN (559) 582-3211 EXT. 2675

## MINUTES OF January 9, 2008

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Bertao called the regular meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, 680 N. Campus Dr., Hanford, CA.

### **Members Present:**

Don Mills, Bill Tos, Charles Draxler,  
Johnny Starling, Ryan Bertao,  
Gerald Theodore, Jim Maciel, Jim Gregory,  
Bob Prys, Joe Neves

### **Members Absent:**

### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Bill Zumwalt, Tim Niswander,  
Kathy Sargent

### **Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

### **Auxiliary Members Present:**

Carol Collar, Kerry Arroues,  
Jay Salyer

### **Auxiliary Members Absent:**

Peggy Gregory, Jeff Tyner

### **County Staff Present:**

Mark Sherman, Greg Gatzka,  
Jeremy Kinney, Terri Yarbrough

### **Visitors Present:**

None

### **Unscheduled Comments:**

None

### **Minutes: September 27, 2007 Special Meeting:**

A Motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Maciel) to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2007 meeting. The Motion carried unanimously.

### **Election of Officers:**

Chairman Bertao opened nominations for the election of Officers for the Agricultural Advisory Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Mills) that the current officers continue to hold the same office. The Motion carried unanimously.

### **Dairy Stock Mortality Emergencies:**

Tim Niswander provided an update on the Statewide Mortality Working Group. The committee is meeting every 2 – 3 months. One of the subcommittees is working on issues addressing regulatory prohibitions and will be holding a conference call on Friday. They are trying to get away from having to have a state wide state of emergency declared in order to bury the carcasses in landfills. Some landfills, such as Chemical Waste Management, are permitted to bury animal carcasses but most are not permitted for this activity. The group is currently working to determine the capacity of the landfills.

Carol Collar heads the compost research committee. The committee is preparing to conduct testing and research on pathogen reductions for dead animals. Carol reported that the research hasn't begun because they found that a permit for the pathogens is required. Once the permit is obtained, they will be able to move forward with the research. The Water Board is concerned with the leachate and would like to include the entire state regarding composting of dead animals. Tim Niswander attended a class at the University of Maine on composting and obtained a great deal of information from studies that were conducted throughout the country on composting. He also said that California seems to be the only state that is concerned with air emissions from composting. Carol Collar reported that the project has grown into something larger than was initially planned and there are not enough funds to address other environmental impact issues that are arising. The group is looking for additional funding to address these other issues.

### **Preliminary FEMA Flood Zones:**

Greg Gatzka provided a new Preliminary Flood Zone Map and an overview of FEMA's changes to the flood zone designations. The flood zone designations are preliminary information and can't be changed unless the County is willing to certify the levees. Since *Katrina*, regulations have become more stringent for certifying levees and it is anticipated that California will not be certifying their levees. The Planning Department has been working to get the new flood zone designations out to the property owners so that they have an opportunity to purchase flood insurance at a lower rate before the designations are put into effect.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- a. **Correspondence:** The Committee was informed that the Report of Recommendations concerning dairy cow mortalities was presented to the Board of Supervisors on October 16, 2007 and that copies were available upon request.
- b. **Member Comments:** Tim Niswander reported that he had received a phone call from the Fresno Bee regarding reporting where pesticides and fuels are stored to Home Land Security. None of the members were aware of this.
- c. **Staff Comments:** Greg Gatzka reported that the county is reorganizing the Kings County Water Commission to address urban and agriculture. The recommended make-up of the board is 1 member appointed from each Board district, 2 appointed by the cities (must be a City Council member), 1 appointed by Community Service Districts (a board of directors member), and 1 at large from the board.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is set for April 9, 2008, and will be held at the Agricultural Multi-Purpose Room of the Kings County Government Center at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Zumwalt, Secretary