

Kings County Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

October 11, 2006

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Gregory at 1:30 p.m. in the Agricultural Multi-Purpose Room, in the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, Hanford, CA. Chairperson Gregory declared the meeting to be informational due to lack of a quorum.

Members Present:

Jim Gregory, Gerald Theadore,
Ryan Bertao, Bill Tos

Members Absent:

Don Mills, Charles Draxler

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Bill Zumwalt, Larry Spikes,
Tim Niswander, Kathy Sargent

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Pete Moock

Auxiliary Members Present:

Jay Salyer, Kerry Arroues, Jeff Tyner

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Peggy Gregory, Carol Collar

County Staff Present:

Mark Sherman

Visitors Present:

Keith Winkler from K.C. Environmental Health
Kristy Rocha from Western United Dairymen

Unscheduled Comments:

Secretary Bill Zumwalt announced that Unscheduled Vacancy Notices have been published to help fill existing vacancies on the Committee. Members discussed the structure of the Committee and which positions are currently vacant.

Minutes: April 12, 2006

Due to the lack of a quorum, Chairperson Gregory postponed approving the minutes of the January, 11, 2006, April 12, 2006 and September 13, 2006 meeting until the next scheduled meeting.

New Members:

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

Update on Quay Valley Ranch Project:

Bill Zumwalt presented an overview of the project and updated the Committee on pertinent details. Mr. Zumwalt stated that the project fits the "Smart Growth Strategy" and most of the land involved in the project is non-prime agriculture land and is not under a "Williamson Act" land conservation contract. Committee members asked several questions concerning availability of water, soils, timeframe of development, effects on adjacent properties, etc... and Mr. Zumwalt provided the information.

Illegal Dumping in the Agricultural Zone:

County Administrative Officer, Larry Spikes, gave the Committee an update on the progress of the County's efforts to curb illegal dumping in the agricultural zone. Members were provided copies of a flyer describing a collaborative effort between the Kings County Farm Bureau, Kings Waste Recycling Authority (KWRA), local water districts and the County of Kings offering rural landowners assistance with tipping fees on illegally dumped trash. The program issues vouchers to rural property owners to cover the cost of the tipping fees charged when a property owner takes illegally dumped material to KWRA. Ryan Bertao of the Kings County Farm Bureau said that so far five (5) vouchers have been issued under this program. Mr. Spikes informed the members that this is a pilot program and the Farm Bureau is in the process of trying to get the word out to affected property owners. Kathy Sargent, Farm Service Director, USDA, said that the information could also be provided in the USDA Newsletter. Tim Niswander, Ag Commissioner, also said that he will assist with a mass mailing by including it in the November Ag newsletter. Chairperson Gregory asked Jeff Tyner, Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force, to distribute copies to all patrol officers. Members brought up the issue of dumped tires. Keith Winkler, Environmental Health, stated that the Health Department would issue a letter upon request to property owners in case they are stopped by California Highway Patrol on the way to take tires to KWRA. Jay Salyer, Kings EDC, stated that he is in talks with a company concerning possible establishment of a tire recycling facility in the County and said that he would advise the Committee on any progress.

Miscellaneous:

- a. Correspondence: None
- b. Member Comments: None

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is January 10, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Zumwalt, Secretary