

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHARLES DRAXLER – DAIRY INDUSTRY
JIM GREGORY – AG CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM
VACANT – 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 REGULAR MEETING October 8, 2008

Call to Order:

Chairman Mills called the meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to order at 12:16 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, Charles Draxler,
Gerald Theodore, Joe Neves
Jim Gregory, Johnny Starling, Bill Tos
Bob Prys

Members Absent:

Jim Maciel

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Bill Zumwalt, Tim Niswander
Kathy Sargent

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Auxiliary Members Present:

Carol Collar, Jay Salyer

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Peggy Gregory, Jeff Tyner,
Kerry Arroues

County Staff Present:

Greg Gatzka, Chuck Kinney,
Mark Sherman, Terri Yarbrough

Visitors Present:

None

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Revised Minutes: March 20, 2008 Special Meeting:

A Motion was made and seconded (Gregory/Draxler) to approve the revised minutes of the March 20, 2008 special meeting. The Motion carried unanimously.

Agricultural Preservation Program Development for the Kings County General Plan

Mr. Greg Gatzka provided an overview of the Agricultural Preservation Program. Mr. Gatzka stated that there is a trend with other counties targeting agricultural by requiring mitigation easements and that Kern and Fresno Counties are currently in litigation over agricultural easements. He also stated that cities and unincorporated areas may end up in litigation if a mitigation plan is not developed. Mr. Gatzka also provided a map outlining areas that the county may want to reserve as well as material showing what some other counties are doing. He also stated that mitigation programs are being widely used under CEQA. Jim Gregory provided two handouts he found on this topic, one from The Business Journal and one from The Furrow magazine. Mr. Zumwalt cautioned against using “in perpetuity” language due to the impacts it may cause on future generations. Mr. Draxler provided a letter from the Farm Bureau in opposition of the agricultural preservation program. Mr. Mills asked Mr. Zumwalt to summarize SB375 for the Committee. Mr. Zumwalt stated that he would need to have staff review SB375 and would have a study session with the Planning Commission possibly in December. Greg noted that if we don’t have a farm land preservation program in place we could have issues with State and Federal funding and delays in projects.

Miscellaneous

Correspondence: none

Member Comments: Mr. Draxler informed the Committee that the Farm Bureau would be appointing a new Executive Director on Monday, October 13, 2008.

Staff Comments: Mr. Sherman reminded the Committee that election of new officers is scheduled for the January, 2009 meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for January 14, 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