

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 (539) 582-3211 EXT. 2675

REVISED MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING March 20, 2008

Call to Order:

Chairman Bertao called the special meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, Hanford, California.

Members Present:

Don Mills, Charles Draxler,
Ryan Bertao, Gerald Theodore,
Jim Maciel, Jim Gregory,
Bob Prys

Members Absent:

Johnny Starling, Bill Tos,
Joe Neves

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Bill Zumwalt, Tim Niswander

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Kathy Sargent

Auxiliary Members Present:

Carol Collar, Jay Salyer

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Peggy Gregory, Jeff Tyner,
Kerry Arroues

County Staff Present:

Chuck Kinney, Mark Sherman,
Terri Yarbrough, Keith Winkler,
Jeff Taber

Visitors Present:

See attached sign-in sheet

Unscheduled Comments:

The following members of the public gave comments regarding hail cannon use in Kings County: Manuel Cunha, Grant Anderson, Stan Palm, Penny Workman, Vernon Peterson, Mike Jackson, David Rosedale, Jerry Staggs, Hal Workman, Dave Clenny, and Jim Rook.

The concerns of those who commented included: That cannons are loud and should require restrictions; that their use impacts wildlife; that cannons protect crops and jobs; and that there is no scientific proof that the cannons work. The question of what would happen if one of these cannons were to blow up was raised. Cannon owners also gave testimony to the Committee regarding how long their cannons typically run during an event and the methods used to activate the cannons.

Minutes: February 28, 2008 Special Meeting:

A Motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Prys) to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting. The Motion carried unanimously.

Hail Cannon Subcommittee Report:

Mark Sherman presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee summarizing the Subcommittee's examination of the noise effects of the hail cannon at Chico and 5th Avenue. Jeff Taber, Kings County Environmental Health Services, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the sound readings he took at Chico and 5th Avenue and the effects of unwanted noise. He reported that the cannon operated for thirty one (31) minutes at intervals of 4 – 4.5 seconds.

Discussion Concerning Hail Cannons:

Mr. Theodore asked if increasing the height of the peach crates around the cannon would baffle more of the sound. Mr. Taber responded that concrete is the best material for absorbing sound and that hay bales or other acoustic controls would also help to reduce the sound. Mr. Winkler, Kings County Environmental Health Services Director, noted that the testing was done under different weather conditions than when cannons would normally be operated to protect crops from hail damage. He also noted that if it was cloudy, a different sound level reading would be recorded. Don Mills had questions regarding the Committee's possible recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Zumwalt explained that if the Committee considered the use of hail cannons to be a normal and customary farming practice under the context of the *Right to Farm Ordinance*, no recommendation would be needed. If the Committee found that the cannons were not a normal and customary farming practice under the context of the *Right to Farm Ordinance*, the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors could include regulation of the hail cannons.

Mr. Gregory motioned to have County Counsel recommend grandfathering existing cannons. No second was made, motion died. Mr. Zumwalt noted that cannons would not be grandfathered in because there was no previous regulation.

A motion was made and seconded (Mills/Theodore) that the use of hail cannons are not considered to be a normal and customary farming practice under the context of the Right to Farm Ordinance and recommended that the Board of Supervisors consider regulating hail cannons. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Correspondence: none

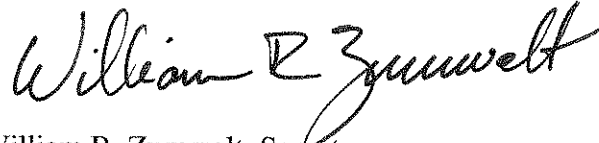
Member Comments: none

Staff Comments: none

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next regularly 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Zumwalt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

William R. Zumwalt, Secretary