

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 APRIL 11, 2007

Call to Order:

Chairman Gregory called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, 680 N. Campus Dr., Hanford, CA.

Members Present:

Jim Gregory, Don Mills
Johnny Starling, Bob Prys

Members Absent:

Bill Tos, Charles Draxler,
Ryan Bertao, Gerald Theodore

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Larry Spikes
Bill Zumwalt, Kathy Sargent
Les Wright for Tim Niswander

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Pete Moock

Auxiliary Members Present:

Kerry Arroues, Peggy Gregory

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Jeff Tyner, Jay Salyer
Carol Collar

County Staff Present:

Paavo Luoma

Visitors Present:

None

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Minutes: March 7, 2007:

Bill Zumwalt proposed an amendment to the March 7, 2007 meeting minutes under the *Call to Order* heading to include the word "...special meeting" (of the Kings County Advisory Committee).

A Motion was made and seconded (Starling/Gregory) to approve the amended minutes of the March 7, 2007 meetings. The Motion carried unanimously.

New Members:

Chairperson Gregory introduced Bob Prys as a new committee member representing Feed/Seed and Grains.

Correspondence:

A copy of a Memo from Joe Neves, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors was distributed to all Committee members which informed them that Resolution No. 01-016 had been amended by the Board to change the term of office for Committee members from three years to four years and to eliminate the term limit for Committee members.

Election of Officers:

Bill Zumwalt stated that he had been informed by Mark Sherman that two Members, Charles Draxler and Jim Gregory, were reaching the end of their second consecutive terms on the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Bill Zumwalt stated that the memo received from the Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, citing Resolution 01-016, amended the length of terms from three to four years, and that the two term limit had been eliminated. Bill added that members may still resign from the Committee whenever they wished, however.

Don Mills asked if the Board of Supervisors felt that the Agricultural Advisory Committee still had an important role in the County, and did they feel it was worth continuing the Committee. Bill Zumwalt affirmed that, yes, the Board did indeed value input from the Committee.

Bill Zumwalt pointed out the need to elect a new Chairperson before the July meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Jim Gregory acknowledged the need and stepped aside for the election of a new Chairperson. Don Mills nominated Ryan Bertao as the new Agricultural Advisory Committee Chairperson. Bill Zumwalt called for secondary nominations. There being none, the Motion was made and seconded (Starling/Mills). The Motion was carried unanimously.

Dead Animal Management Plan:

Bill Zumwalt introduced the *Draft Dead Animal Management Plan* and stated that per Doug Fletcher, Baker Commodities' capacity to receive dead animals is projected to double by May 15, 2007. Bill stated that during recent months, Baker Commodities has been unable to issue any new "will serve" letters to existing dairies. It is hoped that with the new capacity increase, Baker Commodities will be able to serve new dairies. Bill added that if not, dairies will have to find alternative ways of disposing of dead animals, though currently the composting of dead animals is not allowed under California state law. Bill referred the Committee members to page three of the *Emergency Action Plan for Dead Animal Management* for current and emergency procedures for the disposal of large animal carcasses.

Bill Zumwalt next referred Members to page four of the *Emergency Action Plan for Dead Animal Management* to discuss emergency contacts and procedures for the burial of carcasses. Bill stated that in the event of emergency, dairies may be permitted to bury carcasses as was done last summer, but to do so dairies will have to submit an on-site plan, designating a suitable area for carcass burial and verifying they have the proper equipment to bury the animals. For existing dairies, the burial sites may have to be in their manure storage areas.

Questions were raised as to enforcement of the *Dead Animal Management Plan* rules. Bill explained that, should dairies fail to comply, one of two adverse actions were possible:

- 1.) Revocation of Dairy Permits (though whether this would apply retroactively to existing dairies is unclear at this point), or
- 2.) Fines.

Bill stated that he is disinclined towards fines as, in his experience, too many dairy owners have been unconcerned about paying fines which could lead to the improper disposal of animal carcasses.

Jim Gregory put forth a Motion to approve the *Draft Dead Animal Management Plan* as submitted. The Motion was made and seconded (Mills/Prys) and approved unanimously. A copy of the approved *Draft* will be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Miscellaneous:

- a. Member Comments: Bill Zumwalt answered questions about current and future projects within Kings County. Bill cited upcoming General Plan Amendments, the Quay Valley Ranch project, and that he continues to monitor relevant issues and legislation at the State level for possible ramifications to Kings County.

Bill added that Kleinfelder & Associates were chosen as the consultant firm for the Quay Valley Ranch project. He stressed, however, that the project is in its preliminary stages at this point and what has been put forward to date is little more than a vision statement. The water agreements for the project are not final either; Bill referred to water supply for Quay Valley Ranch as being “paper water only” at this time.

Bill was asked whether any agricultural land was being taken out of production by the Quay Valley Ranch project. Bill stated that only a small amount of agricultural land was prospectively involved at the north end of the project, currently owned by McCarthy Farms.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is set for July 12, 2007, and will be held at the Kings County Fair Grounds Agricultural Luncheon.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Zumwalt, Secretary