

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHARLES DRAXLER – DAIRY INDUSTRY
JIM GREGORY – AG CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM
DIANA PECK – 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 April 14, 2010

Call to Order:

Chairman Mills called the meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to order at 12:10 p.m. in the Admin Multipurpose Room, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

Committee Members Present:

Don Mills, Diana Peck, Gerald Theodore,
Charles Draxler, Jim Maciel, Bill Tos
Jim Gregory, Johnny Starling

Committee Members Absent:

Bob Prys

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Tim Niswander, Kathy Sargent, Greg Gatzka

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Auxiliary Members Present:

Peggy Gregory

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Jeff Tyner, Jay Salyer, Kerry Arroues,
Carol Collar

Committee Coordinator Present

Joe Neves

Committee Coordinator Absent

County Staff Present:

Chuck Kinney, Mark Sherman,
Terri Yarbrough, Kyle Schumacher

County Staff Absent:

Visitors Present:

Joan Vernon, Manual Cunha, Deb West, Darren Palm, Keith Seymour, Eric VonBerg, Cheryl Lehn,
Vince Roos, Carrie Bowen, Tom Tracey, Keith Seymor

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Minutes: January 13, 2010 Meeting:

A Motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Gregory) to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2010 meeting. The Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mills requested a change in the agenda order because the speaker for the Kings River Corridor Preservation and High Speed Rail had not yet arrived at the meeting.

Right to Farm:

Mr. Chuck Kinney reported that the Kings County Right to Farm Ordinance is currently mailed to title companies and realtors every March and September as required by the Right To Farm Ordinance. Mr. Kinney also outlined proposed changes to the ordinance. He proposed that the Right to Farm Ordinance be emailed to realtors who are listed on local realtor's board, and suggested sending the notification once a year rather than twice a year. The Commissioners recommended continuing with the twice a year notification, but did agree with email notification rather than regular mail.

Kings River Corridor Preservation:

Mr. Darren Palm provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the state of development along the Kings River Corridor. He expressed a concern that estate homes were being constructed along the banks of the river which is resulting in removal of river habitat and foliage. Mr. Palm presented examples of the damage that was being caused along the river banks and explained that the Kings River Conservation District is charged with the oversight of the river but they are currently understaffed. Mr. Gatzka responded that the County is aware of the problem and stated that changes along the river are happening after building permits are completed and that construction of boat ramps and docks are usually constructed after the homes are built.

High Speed Rail:

Ms. Carrie Bowen of the California High Speed Rail Authority provided an overview of the High Speed Rail project and the proposed locations of the rail corridors. Ms. Bowen announced that public information meetings would be held in Hanford and Corcoran. Mr. Kurt Kringle, Chairman of the High Speed Rail Authority, addressed issues regarding the Environmental Impact Report, preferred alignments and funding. He stated that the Fresno to Bakersfield portion of the project was in the Environmental Review process and that the plan was to break ground in 2012. An announcement was made that a public information meeting would be held on April 27, 2010 in Hanford.

Mr. Manual Cunha, representing Nisei Farmers League, expressed a concern that the rail will be going through prime farm land and that there had not been any communication with the agricultural industry. Mr. Cunha stated that the proposed rail alignment would, in many cases, divide existing family owned farming operations.

A motion was made by Bill Tos to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they encourage the Rail Authority not to deviate around Hanford. Mr. Gatzka stated that this was an information only agenda item and that an action item on the High Speed Rail issue would need to be placed on the next agenda as an action item. The Committee asked to have the item placed on the next meeting agenda as an action item.

Miscellaneous

Correspondence: none

Member Comments: none

Staff Comments: none

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting on July 14, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. is cancelled and the Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, July 8, 2010 at the annual Kings County Fair Agri-Business luncheon.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory R. Gatzka', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gregory R. Gatzka, Secretary