

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 8, 2009

Call to Order:

Chairman Mills called the meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to order at 12:10 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, 680 N. Campus Dr., Hanford, CA.

Committee Members Present:

Don Mills, Charles Draxler, Diana Peck
Gerald Theodore, Bob Prys
Jim Gregory, Johnny Starling,

Committee Members Absent:

Jim Maciel, Bill Tos

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Bill Zumwalt, Kathy Sargent

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Tim Niswander

Auxiliary Members Present:

Peggy Gregory, Jay Salyer, Carol Collar

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Jeff Tyner, Kerry Arroues

Committee Coordinator Present

Joe Neves

County Staff Present:

Bill Zumwalt, Greg Gatzka, Chuck Kinney,
Terri Yarbrough

County Staff Absent:

Mark Sherman

Visitors Present:

See attached sign-in list for partial list of visitors

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Minutes: January 14, 2009 Meeting:

A Motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Theodore) to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting. The Motion carried unanimously.

Composting of Dead Animal

Carol Collar, U.C. Davis Extension, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the experimental composting of dead animals project. Carol reported there is a proposal to delay the FDA ruling adopted

April 2008, to reduce the risk of BSE and restricts the feeding of meat and bone meal, by 60 days to June 26, 2009. The FDA is also providing seven days for public comment solely on the question of whether to delay the effective date. Carol reported that composting is currently illegal in California and is regulated by IWMB. The testing looked at alternate disposal options, composting, seasonal effects, and looked to see if the heating that occurred is enough to reduce the pathogens, degradation of carcasses, and air emissions. Carol reported that the results of the study will be published at a later date.

Manual Ponte, with Baker Commodities, reported a 60 day extension has been given on BSE. Meat and bone meal has been used in poultry feed, but the Federal Government is no longer allowing the use of bone meal in poultry feed. Baker Commodities has been having issues splitting the spinal cords and needs help with letters and comments on the delay.

Hail Cannon Update

Les Wright from the Ag Commissioners reported that a committee of growers met and have recommended a Best Management Practices in order to self regulate rather than adopting an ordinance. Mr. Wright presented a copy of the Best Management Practices and stated that if this doesn't solve the problem, the other option is to regulate the hail cannons. Mr. Wright stated that this was a voluntary program and that complaints would be directed to the Ag Commissioner. The following concerns were expressed regarding the best management practices: 300 feet was too close to residences, growers should make reasonable accommodations to test the cannons, a restriction on the decibel level, the concussion isn't addressed.

A motion was made and seconded (Gregory/Draxler) to table the item until the growers address the issues that were brought up at this meeting. Mr. Gregory amended the motion requiring the residents and the growers to meet and finalize the best management practices to be coordinated by the Ag Commissioner. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Correspondence: **Informational Letter from Susan Hildreth, State Librarian of California.** It was the consensus and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that this issue be left with the library.

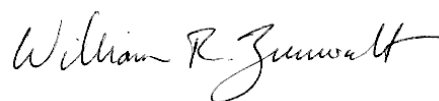
Member Comments: none

Staff Comments: Mr. Zumwalt announced that three committee positions will be expiring in June 2009 and he will be notifying the Clerk of the Board to notice the vacancies. Mr. Gatzka announced that the Joint Use Land Study will be coming up and if this committee wants to be involved with the technical advisory committee or the policy committee they should notify Greg Gatzka.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for July 9, 2009, and will be held at the Kings County Fair kick-off luncheon at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



William R. Zumwalt, Secretary