

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 May 1, 2007

Call to Order:

Vice-Chairman Mills called the special meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, 680 N. Campus Dr., Hanford, CA. Vice-Chairman Mills called roll with the following results:

Members Present:

Don Mills, Bill Tos, Charles Draxler,
Johnny Starling, Ryan Bertao,
Gerald Theodore, Jim Maciel

Members Absent:

Jim Gregory, Bob Prys

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Bill Zumwalt,

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Larry Spikes, Pete Mook, Kathy Sargent
Tim Niswander

Auxiliary Members Present:

Peggy Gregory

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Jeff Tyner, Jay Salyer
Carol Collar, Kerry Arroues,

County Staff Present:

Mark Sherman

Visitors Present:

None

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Correspondence:

Committee members were previously provided a copy of a Memo from Joe Neves, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors 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.

New Members:

Vice-Chairman Mills introduced and welcomed Jim Maciel as a new committee member representing Agricultural Equipment and Bob Prys representing Feed/Seed and Grains.

Minutes: March 7, 2007:

A Motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Theodore) to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting. The Motion carried unanimously. A Motion was made and seconded (Mills/Tos) to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2007 meeting.

Election of Officers:

Vice-Chairman Mills opened nominations for Officers of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and Bill Tos nominated Ryan Bertao as Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Jim Maciel and the vote for Ryan Bertao as Chairman was carried unanimously. Bill Tos also nominated Don Mills for re-election as Vice-Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Ryan Bertao and the vote for Don Mills as Vice Chairman was also carried unanimously.

Dead Animal Management Plan:

Mark Sherman provided the most recent draft of the *Dead Animal Management Plan* and stated that the only change from the version previously provided to members was that the Mortality Intervention Team was now proposed to operate and be supervised under the Ag Commissioner, Tim Niswander. He also pointed out the addition of Tim Niswander's name as the contact point for the Mortality Intervention Team on Page 4.

Gerald Theodore asked about the technical aspects of the Mortality Intervention Team and how they would handle a County-wide emergency. Bill Zumwalt explained that the team would have to respond to each unique emergency and provide on-site assistance which would completely depend on the situation. The members discussed the hierarchy of dead animal disposal and discussed the possibility of composting at length. Bill Zumwalt reminded members that California state law currently prohibits composting of mammalian flesh and that staff is continuing to work with Senator Flores' office to try to change the law. Chuck Draxler asked that he be included in the meeting with Senator Flores if one is scheduled. Mr. Draxler also suggested trying to set up a meeting with Assembly Woman Nicole Parra to try to get the composting prohibition changed and stated that he and Ryan Bertao would try to set up a meeting with her.

Bill Tos asked Committee members if they thought the proposed Emergency Action Plan was acceptable and could be passed on to the Board of Supervisors. Chuck Draxler stated that it was a good start and made a motion that document be submitted to the Board. The motion was seconded by Gerald Theodore and carried unanimously.

Don Mills asked for a motion to approve the *Draft Dead Animal Management Plan* as submitted. The Motion was made and seconded (Draxler/Theodore) and approved unanimously. A copy of the approved *Draft* will be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Miscellaneous:

- a. Member Comments: Vice-Chairman Mills asked if all the Committee members were aware of the discovery of human skeletal remains found during construction of a dairy in

Kings County. He mentioned that he had learned of the discovery of the skeletal remains in a news article. The Committee briefly discussed the matter.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is set for July 12, 2007, and will be held at the Kings County Fair Grounds Agricultural Business Luncheon at 12:00 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Zumwalt, Secretary