

# *Kings County Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes*

## *September 13, 2006*

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Gregory at 1:33 p.m. in the Agricultural Multi-Purpose Room, in the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, Hanford, CA.

### **Members Present:**

Jim Gregory, Chuck Draxler, Gerald Theadore, Ryan Bertao

### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Bill Zumwalt, Peggy Gregory, Larry Spikes, Kathy Sargent

### **Auxiliary Members Present:**

Peggy Gregory, Jay Salyer

### **County Staff Present:**

Mark Sherman, Greg Gatzka, Marti Seniff

### **Visitors Present:**

Doug Fletcher from Baker Commodities Inc., Les Wright from Kings County Ag Dept., Joe Neves from K.C. Board of Supervisors, Seth Nidever from Hanford Sentinel, Keith Winkler from K.C. Environmental Health, Greg Gatzka from K.C. Planning, Robert Henry from CWMI-KHF, Susan Good from Senator Dean Florez office, Kevin Abernathy from Cal Dairy Campaign, David Valadao from Valadao Dairy, Kristy Rocha from Western United Dairymen

### **Unscheduled Comments:**

None

### **Minutes: April 12, 2006**

Minutes were tabled due to the lack of a quorum.

### **New Members:**

Chairperson Gregory recommended recruiting for new members since there are vacancies open.

### **Dead Animal Management and Dead Animal Emergency Plans for Dairies:**

Mr. Zumwalt summarized the emergency plan that was affective during the last part of June, July and early August due to the death of hundreds of cows and the difficulty disposing of them. He opened up a roundtable discussion for ideas for an Emergency Plan for the future. There was a list of ideas suggested i.e. composting, burial, disposal to landfills, incinerating, and educating dairymen of new methods for keeping cows cool during the hot summer heat.

Mrs. Peggy Gregory suggested a sub committee, who would gather information, compile it and create a document that would give a list of guidelines, steps and disposal choices in the event of an emergency of

excessive dead animals. There was discussion that the document would be distributed to all dairy, poultry, swine and goat businesses as part of their Emergency Plan.

Chairperson Gregory nominated Mr. Zumwalt as Chair to delegate the sub committee, all members unanimously agreed. Mr. Zumwalt asked Joe Neves to present the idea to the Board of Supervisors.

**SB 1056 – Agricultural Bio-Technology Bill:**

Mrs. Good summarized that the SB 1056 would have set a uniform statewide standard for seeds and in particular the genetically-modified seeds. She stated that the Bill passed the Assembly 54-24 but never got a final vote in the Senate because it ran out of time but it will be re-introduced again next year. She passed out the latest amended copy to members present. Chairperson Gregory stated that the Ag Advisory Committee is in favor of the Bill and asked Mrs. Good to pass that information on to the Senate. Mr. Spikes stated that the Board of Supervisors did submit a letter in favor of the Bill.

**Miscellaneous:**

- a. Correspondence: Mr. Zumwalt stated that a new application was submitted to the Planning Agency for a new town in Kings County. He stated that the proposed name is Quay Valley Ranch. He summarized the project and showed the members a site map of the proposed town, and stated that he would keep the committee informed of the project progress.
- b. Member Comments: None

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is October 11, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Zumwalt, Secretary