

# KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHARLES DRAXLER – DAIRY INDUSTRY  
JIM GREGORY – AG CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM  
RYAN BERTAIO – 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 SPECIAL MEETING September 27, 2007

### **Call to Order:**

Since the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman were not initially present, Secretary Zumwalt called the special meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. in the Admin Multipurpose Room of the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, 680 N. Campus Dr., Hanford, CA. Secretary Zumwalt requested nominations from the Committee for Chairman Pro-tem. Bill Tos made a motion to nominate Jim Gregory and the motion was seconded by Gerald Theodore and carried unanimously by the Committee.

### **Members Present:**

Jim Gregory, Bill Tos, Charles Draxler,  
Johnny Starling, Ryan Bertao,  
Gerald Theodore

### **Members Absent:**

Bob Prys, Don Mills, Jim Maciel

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

Bill Zumwalt, Kathy Sargent,  
Les Wright, Kyle Sand

### **Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

Larry Spikes

### **Auxiliary Members Present:**

Peggy Gregory, Jay Salyer,  
Carol Collar, Kerry Arroues

### **Auxiliary Members Absent:**

Jeff Tyner

### **County Staff Present:**

Mark Sherman, Terri Yarbrough

### **Visitors Present:**

Mary Cameron, Brandi Martin,  
Jay Pezoldt, Doug Fletcher

### **Minutes: May 1, 2007 and September 13, 2007:**

A Motion was made and seconded (Tos/Theodore) to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting and the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 13, 2007. The Motion carried unanimously.

### **Dead Animal Management Relating To New Or Expanding Dairy Applications – Bill Zumwalt**

Mr. Zumwalt stated that due to the inability of the rendering industry to keep up with the amount of dead cows at times in the past due to capacity issues and heat related emergency conditions, it appeared that rather than the amount of manure generated by dairies being the limiting factor on approving new dairies in Kings County that it appeared that dead animal carcass processing capacity might actually be the limiting factor. He asked the Committee to review and discuss current animal mortality issues on dairies and confined animal feeding facilities as they relate to capacity issues of the Dairy Element. He also asked if the Ag Advisory Committee should recommend to the Board of Supervisors to suspend processing applications for new or expanding dairies until the capacity of the current method (rendering) is demonstrated to be adequate for responding to emergency situations, or another acceptable disposal method is available.

A round table discussion was conducted among Committee members and the invited visitors. Committee members asked several questions of Jay Pezoldt and Doug Fletcher who represented the Baker Commodities rendering plant concerning permits, capacity and the health of the industry in the central valley. The committee members also asked for input from dairy owners and others in attendance and discussed numerous points as they related to the dairy industry in Kings County.

Chairman Pro-tem Gregory asked Secretary Zumwalt to summarize the points of the discussion and at the conclusion of discussion, the Committee upon a motion by Committee Member Draxler, and seconded by Committee Member Tos, made the following recommendations to the Board of Supervisors by unanimous committee vote:

1. There are sufficient safeguards in place to address mortality emergencies, and no moratorium on the issuance on zoning permits for new or expanding dairies is recommended.
2. Support Baker Commodity's permitting efforts to expand their Kerman facility to increase capacity to process dead dairy stock.
3. Support the continuing research for composting of dead dairy stock, and changes in regulation to allow composting if the research yields positive results. Support legislative and regulatory changes to allow composting to be used in emergency situations if the research yields positive results.
4. Contact surrounding counties (San Joaquin to Kern) to determine whether they are addressing emergency dairy stock mortality emergencies.

### **Mortality Management Working Group - Report – Brandi Martin**

Ms. Martin explained that she worked for the Ag Commissioner and gave an overview of the Mortality Management Working Group meetings. She explained that there are three (3) sub-committees currently reviewing issues with animal mortalities. She stated that the first sub-committee was dealing with the issues concerning the immediate impacts of animal mortalities on the dairy, swine and poultry industries. The second sub-committee was dealing with pilot projects such as composting and the third dealt with permit issues concerning dairies and rendering plants. Ms. Martin passed on to the Committee that the Ag Commissioner would like to see Planners involved in the working groups.

### **Unscheduled Comments:**

None

**Correspondence:**

None

**Meeting Schedule:**

Chairman Pro-tem Gregory stated that the next scheduled meeting will be on January 9, 2008 at 12:00 in the Agricultural Multi-Purpose Room of the Kings County Government Center.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Zumwalt, Secretary