



COUNTY OF PLACER  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

CHRISTINE E. TURNER  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	John Nitta
Dan Macon	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 14, 2010

**Members Present:** Tony Aguilar, Patricia Beard, Larry Jordan, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

**Members Absent:** James Brenner, Dan Macon

I. FFA CALL TO ORDER CEREMONY

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 14, 2010 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2010 – *Aguilar/Beard/MPUV* to approve the agenda and minutes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.***

IV. PlacerGROWN Organization Update – Karen Killebrew, President.

- Projects:
  - 1) Food & Farm Conference
  - 2) Responsible for PlacerGROWN website
  - 3) PlacerGROWN Farmer of the Year
  - 4) Sponsor of Mobile Poultry Processor
  - 5) Merchandise on consignment to Placer County Visitor Center
- 2010 membership consists of 9 sponsor member; 91 producer members; 11 business members; 39 community members; 2 affiliate organization members.
- Strategic Planning:
  - 1) Sponsor on-farm and chef events
  - 2) Continue fundraising through events, product sales and donations
  - 3) Launched marketing and advertising program
- Outreach :
  - 1) Participate in community events
  - 2) Produce quarterly electronic newsletter.

V. Proposed Changes to the Temporary Outdoor Event section of the County Zoning Ordinance – Crystal Jacobsen, Placer County Planning Department

- Ordinance change has been continued by the Planning Department and Crystal Jacobsen requested the ordinance review be placed on the July agenda.

## VI. REPORTS

### A. **Agricultural Marketing Program** – Christine Turner

- 2010 Agriculture Guide has been published, and is ready for distribution.
- Carol Perrine is working two days a week. She is currently working on the Farm and Barn poster. She is also working on updating the wine trail map.
- The Spring 2010 *Food Wine Art* magazine included 7 pages with references to Placer County agriculture.
- The Placer County Real Food cookbook has received a lot of good press.

### B. **Economic Development Board** - Lyndell Grey

- Discussed exploring the feasibility of a rice mill operating in Placer County.

### C. **Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor** - Roger Ingram

- The mobile poultry processor is in its second year and is based in Nevada County.
- The Placer County Resource Conservation District annual Ag Tour is Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. It will focus on agriculture education and feature tours of the Del Oro and Lincoln High School Farms.
- The Meat Buyers Club reported \$13,000 in sales from July 2009 through June 2010.
- Sinclair Concrete & Storage is completing the permit process for a cold storage facility (refrigeration and freezer units).

### D. **Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor** - Cindy Fake

- The *Beginning Farm Planning* course for beginning farmers/ranchers is full and has a waiting list. Planning to hold a second session sometime in July.
- Vineyard Field Day is planned for June 19, 2010 at Naggiar Vineyards in Nevada County.
- A new invasive pest to be aware of is the European Grape Vine Moth.
- Spotted Wing Drosophila (Cherry Vinegar Fly) has been found throughout California. It attacks cherries, but has also been found in peaches and nectarines.
- The Ag Futures Project met with FFA teachers to discuss more opportunities for collaboration between the agriculture community and FFA.
- Mentors are needed for senior high school students and ideas for senior projects.
- Farm and Barn Tour poster is being worked on. In the process of reviewing possible venues.
- The recent frost and hail caused only spotty damage.

### E. **Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas** - Patti Beard – No report

### F. **Placer Parkway Meeting Update** - William Morebeck – No Report

### G. **Agricultural Water Supply Issues** - Christine Turner

- The Placer Nevada South Sutter North Sacramento (PNSSNS) Subwatershed Group will be providing comments on the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Long-term Irrigated Lands Program. The subwatershed group is still actively pursuing a Low-impact Monitoring Plan for this subwatershed.

## VIII. **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT** - Christine Turner and Josh Huntsinger Christine Turner

- Lincoln High School Farm:
  - 1) Mark Fowler has retired.
  - 2) Other local schools are sending younger students to work with the juniors and seniors on various projects (planting pumpkin patch, weaning lambs and calves, etc.).
  - 3) Discussions have been initiated about the possibility of moving the shop class out to

the school farm site too.

- 4) Working with Cal-Trans to acquire the Mariner/Rockwell property.
- In January 2010 and April 2010, CDFA rescinded Korea's and Japan's, respectively, "free from" status for Foot and Mouth Disease.
  - Assembly Bill 1960 would require state agencies of buy CA produce whenever possible, if the quality is comparable to other produce and the price is equal to or less than the imported alternative.
  - European Grape Vine Moth – NRCS has dedicated \$1 million for IPM program.
  - Rural/Urban Connection Strategy – The SACOG six-county regional program is trying to increase opportunities of buying local foods by schools and hospitals.
  - May 21, 2010, *Sacramento Bee* article on Sacramento County's issue with septic tanks and an estimated 16,000 abandoned wells.

Josh Huntsinger

- SACOG sent out survey regarding total regulatory costs to do business to growers. The response was so poor the information could not be used.
- The Sacramento County Detection Dog Team will be staying in Sacramento County.
- The California Agriculture license plate can now be ordered.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM) –**

- Wayne Vineyard has referred to Chris Petersen of MWH (Montgomery Watson Harza), a couple of farmers who are willing to have their wells measured as part of the Western Placer County Groundwater Project.
- Roadside vendors have been observed on weekends selling cherries on Sierra College Boulevard.
- Article on Jim Brenner in *Sactown Magazine*.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**