



COUNTY OF PLACER  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER  
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

July 11, 2011

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

**Members Absent:** James Brenner, Stewart Perry

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR July 11, 2011 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 9, 2011. Motion to approve: *Macon/Beard/MPUV***

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Chappel introduced himself as the new president of PlacerGROWN.

**IV. PROPOSED CREATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE AND WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACT (PAGP 20110179) – Alex Fisch, Planning Department**

Applicants are requesting approval of an Agricultural Preserve and Williamson Act contract covering one parcel totaling 20-acres, for an existing 3.25-acre vineyard, including a small winery.

Mark and Therese Adams own a twenty acre parcel containing a 3.25 acre vineyard with a wine making facility, producing 12 tons of grapes annually from which approximately 600 cases of estate wines is produced. Gross wine sales in 2010 was \$14,500. The parcel is adjacent to a number of Williamson Act enrolled properties.

At the conclusion of the Commission discussion, the following action was taken:

**To recommend the approval of Williamson Act contract. *Beard/Morebeck/MPUV***

**V. PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 6 OF PLACER COUNTY CODE – Michael Winters, Animal Services**

The Agricultural Commission is being asked to provide input on the proposed revisions to Placer County Code, Chapter 6.

After discussing the proposed revision to Placer County Code, Chapter 6, with Michael Winters, Animal Control Services, the Commission made the following recommendations:

6.04.020 (A) add “*or guarding livestock*”

6.08.010 (K)(shelter) add an exemption to the requirement for shelter for dogs guarding livestock. Typically, dogs guarding sheep or goats consider themselves to be part of the flock, and will not leave the flock under any circumstances. These breeds have thick coats, and are more than capable of surviving the elements just as well as the flocks they are protecting.

6.08.020 Nuisance – Excessive Barking, add an exemption for guardian dogs, (and perhaps other guardian animals). The Commission recommended language requiring “*standard farming practice as determined by the Agricultural Commissioner*” necessary to gain the exemption.

6.08.080 - Contact Placer County Environmental Health to ensure that the carcass disposal requirements in Chapter 6 are consistent with Environmental Health’s requirements.

6.24.020 – The Ag. Commission discussed the need for ownership identification, and the fact that sheep and goats utilize ear tags rather than brands as the primary ID of said animals.

**VI. PRESENTATION OF FLOOD AND CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS OF THE CROSS CANAL WATERSHED** - Brian Keating, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is requesting the assistance of the Agriculture Commission in generating interest with the agriculture growers in flood and conservation easements.

**VII. REPORTS**

**A. Agricultural Marketing Program** – Josh Huntsinger

- Distributed copies of Placer County Visitor Guide. Agriculture has a strong presence in the Visitor Guide.
- Placer County Media Services has produced a short video featuring farmers markets and growers.
- Website development on interactive map at a standstill.
- Working on filling Marketing Director position.

**B. Economic Development Board** – Lyndell Grey

- The idea of establishing an action group for members of the agriculture community can go to with complaints or questions is gaining acceptance.

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

- K-Line Irrigation and Grazing Management Workshop, July 19, 2011 at Elster Ranch.
- Pasture Walk at Sinclair Family Farm, August 4, 2011.
- Next Grazing Academy to be held September 16 through 18, 2011 in Auburn.

- **.D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor - Cindy Fake**
  - European Grapevine Moth has been found in Nevada County.
  - Workshops in July: Farm Equipment on July 14<sup>th</sup> . Vegetable Pest Management on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Both are to be held in Nevada County.
- E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas - Patti Beard – No Report**
- F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update - William Morebeck – No Report**
- G. Agricultural Water Supply Issues - Josh Huntsinger**
  - To summarize the past water crisis – the cool and wet weather in May dynamically changed the situation and regulatory officials responded promptly to permit requests. The initial \$10 million loss assessment was high. The loss will be around \$1 to 2 million, mainly due to rice.
  - When asked if the Commission would want to have a presentation on the Bear River Dam proposal, they responded not at this time.

**VIII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Josh Huntsinger**

- There is no funding for Williamson Act in new State Budget
- The new Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, Ed King, started today. He will attend the August meeting.
- There is no funding for the Light Brown Apple Moth which will probably show up in Placer County this year.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM) - None**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**