

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

June 11, 2012

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patricia Beard, James Brenner, Larry Jordan, William

Morebeck, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Dan Macon, Stewart Perry

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 11, 2012 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2012. Motion to approve: Beard/Jordan/MPUV

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL MARKETING PROGRAM UPDATE – Debi Hammond and Susan Belknap, Merlot Marketing

Debi Hammond made a PowerPoint presentation on the strategy (target audience, social media) Merlot Marketing has put together for the AG Marketing Program.

V. PLACER COUNTY CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE – Loren Clark, Placer County Planning Department

Loren Clark made a PowerPoint presentation on the current status of the Placer County Conservation Plan.

- Placer County Conservation Plan nearing completion.
- A second agriculture representative is still need on the committee. Looking for volunteer from the agriculture community.
- VI. FARMWORKER HOUSING ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT Loren Clark, Placer County Planning Department

Loren Clark presented the changes to the Farmworker Housing zoning that will bring the zoning into compliance with state regulations. This would limit the county discretion and would allow farmworker housing in all agriculture zoned districts.

VII. REPORTS

- **A.** Agricultural Marketing Program Josh Huntsinger Covered by Merlot Marketing
- B. Economic Development Board Lyndell Grey No Report
- C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor Roger Ingram
 - Sierra Field Station reports snow pack 18 % short this year.
 - Discussed upcoming workshops:
 Grazing & K-Line Irrigation Workshop July 24. 2012
 Poultry Workshop July, 2012, date TBD
 Multi-Species Grazing/Browsing Academy September 3
 - Multi-Species Grazing/Browsing Academy September 14 16, 2012
- D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor Cindy Fake
 - The Farmer to Farmer Breakfast will not be held until July and August.
 - Direct Farm Marketing class at Sierra College has ended.
 - Commercial Mushroom Production Workshop was held on June 7, 2012.
 - 1.9 million wasps were released in orchards to control pests.
- E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas Patti Beard No Report
- F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update William Morebeck No Report
- G. Rotating Agriculture Industry Update Rice, Wayne Vineyard
 - Rice is the number one crop in Placer County with 13 to 17,000 acres in production, and the number one food in the world.
 - Market outlook for this year and next year looks good.
 - Jim Brenner will be the next Commissioner to give an overview of the Fruit Nut Farm Industry.
- H. Agricultural Water Supply Issues Josh Huntsinger
 - May 21, 2012, attended the American River Watershed Tour. Toured from below Nimbus Dam to Folsom Lake, the old Auburn Dam site, and the confluence of the Middle and North Fork of the American River. Many representatives from various state agencies attended, and received a first-hand look at our water system.

VIII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Josh Huntsinger

- Placer County Agriculture Tour was held Friday, June 8, 2012, and featured Placer County's wine industry.
- Two wineries are going through the Minor Use Permit (MUP) process to hold more
 events at their facilities. The biggest problem is the "community center" definition being
 applied to the facilities. Item has gone to the Lincoln and Penryn MACs.
- Rick Gruen has moved to Oregon, and Katy Malone is acting director of RCD.
- Still only one backyard citrus tree in Southern California identified with the Huanglongbing (HLB) disease.
- The state budget reflects cuts to Agriculture. Border stations may reduce their hours of operation.
- Crop report is almost complete.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)

X. ADJOURNMENT