



**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

FEBRUARY 11, 2013

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

Members Absent: None

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- I. CALL TO ORDER**
 - II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2012. Motion to approve: *Macon/Jordan/MPUV***
 - III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Because Mike Carson, applicant for the Gold Hill Gardens Community Center, was not notified of the October 29, 2012 meeting, he is requesting an opportunity to present his application to the Agriculture Commission.

Jeff Bordelon announced the Gold County Prosperity Summit to be held May 13, 2013 at the Blue Goose in Loomis. The Summit will emphasize opportunities to participate, be heard, meet networking partners, and promote goals and strategies for inclusion in the Placer County Economic Development Board Roadmap Plan, and pending statewide economic development planning.

- IV. INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT – Elisa Noble, Director, PCRCD**

Elisa Noble, recently appointed to the position of Director for PCRCD, introduced herself to the Commission and provided background information.

- V. INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTA DARLINGTON, COUNTY COUNSEL, AND DISCUSSION OF COUNTY COUNSEL ROLE – Christa Darlington, County Counsel**

Christa Darlington, recently assigned as counsel representative to the Agriculture Department, introduced herself to the Commission, provided background information, and discussed the 2012 updates for the Form 700 rules pertaining to gifts.

VI. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussed inviting Mike Carson to the March meeting to present the Gold Hill Gardens Community Center application.

At the conclusion of the Commission's discussion, the following action was taken: **Motion to put Gold Hill Gardens Community Center Application on the March 11, 2013 agenda. Morebeck/Perry/MPUV**

Other subjects the Commission is interested in seeing on future agendas are:

- Presentation by Merlot Marketing.
- Discussion of CEQA as it relates to agriculture.

VII. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Merlot is sending out weekly email updates.
- The new PlacerGROWN website is up and running.

B. Economic Development Board – Josh Huntsinger

- The Lincoln MAC's open forum held on January 28, 2013, garnered numerous comments from the community regarding Community Centers. The Board of Supervisors will be discussing the issue in the near future.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Dan Macon

- The UC Extension Specialty Crop Grant from CDFR, really kicked off the first of the year. Some of the things the grant supports are raising awareness within the community of the health benefits of fresh and local fruits and vegetables, and to increase sales for producers.
- The next Farmer to Farmer Networking Breakfast is February 13, 2013 at Tofanellis in Grass Valley.
- The six week Farm Business Planning Course started February 7, 2013.
- A Marketing Academy will be held February 15th and 16th.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – No Report

E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas – Patti Beard

- The county listened to the community at the Lincoln MAC's open forum and is moving forward.

F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update – William Morebeck

- At the PCTPA Stakeholders meeting everyone wanted more roads.

G. Agricultural Water Supply Issues - Josh Huntsinger

- The last snow survey showed the snow pack at 96%.
- Met with the Regional Water Quality Control Board staff last week discussing parts of the long term irrigated land program.
- NID held a Drought Contingency Meeting on January 14, 2013

VIII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Josh Huntsinger

- USDA has a new micro loan program, for loans up to \$35,000. Applicants can apply through FSA.
- Santa Barbara County is now the leading edge for Asian Citrus Psyllid. Ventura County has gone from an eradication model to a suppression model.

- Pesticide staff are active and the county is finding a lot pesticide violations. Many of the violations are repeat violations. Staff is available to explain requirements, just contact the office.
- Conflict of Interest (Form 700) is due in April.
- 2012 Crop Report letters mailed last week.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)

X. ADJOURNMENT