



**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	

11477 E AVENUE
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
TELEPHONE: (530) 889-7372
FAX: (530) 823-1698
www.placer.ca.gov

MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

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

Members Absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2014 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2014. Motion to approve with amendment removing the Sierra College Agriculture Program Update for the Agenda: Jordan/Macon/MPUV

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

IV. AGRICULTURAL AGENCY DROUGHT RESOURCES

- A. University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor - Roger Ingram and Cindy Fake
Roger Ingram gave an informational power point presentation, providing statistics on previous and current drought conditions. After the presentation, Roger discussed livestock grazing strategies.
Cindy Fake discussed strategies to reduce water usage and crop stress.
- B. Placer County Resource Conservation District – Elisa Noble
Elisa Noble - Placer County Resource Conservation District is partnering with PCWA to evaluate existing irrigation systems. California Resource Conservation District has a cost share program for updating wells.
Mike Brenner with NCRS discussed the \$20 million made available for agricultural water conservation efforts throughout California by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to combat the effects of drought. Thirty-two proposed practices are eligible and application will be accepted March 3, 2014.
- C. Farmer to Farmer Drought Facebook Page – Dan Macon
The closed discussion group facebook page has 50 to 60 active members discussing drought strategies.

- D. Placer County Agricultural Department – Josh Huntsinger
Member of Placer County Drought Task Force being led by the Office of
Emergency Services. Cities and water agencies are participating.
- E. USDA Farm Services Agency – Ted Van Steyn
The USDA's Emergency Conservation Program is currently funded, with the
initial focus being to provide assistance to livestock producers with
emergency water needs.

The Agriculture Commission decides not to appoint a drought sub-committee at
this time.

V. UPDATE STATUS OF SIERRA COLLEGE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM –
Michelle MacFarlane, Sierra College

Due to medical issues, Michelle MacFarlane was unable to attend this meeting.

VI. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Schedule a PlacerGROWN update.
- Standardizing the event promotion request form.
- Placer County Wine Trail, "Sweets, Treats & Trivia", will be February 15th.
- PlacerGROWN week will be held October 11, 2014 through October 18,
2014.

B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey

- District 2 MAC (Rural Lincoln) accepted the Community Center
recommendation on the condition code enforcement would be available on
weekends.
- Working to expand the Lincoln Airport.
- Economic Development Board is developing a website.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- The California Grazing Academy will be held April 25th and 26th, in Browns
Valley.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

- Farm Marketing Academy will be held February 21st and 22nd.

E. Agricultural Water Supply Issues – No Report

- NID reported getting 23,000 acre feet from the last storm.
- Key water agency dates:
 - NID Board of Directors meeting. February 26, 2014.
 - PCWA Board of Directors meeting, February 20, 2014.
- CDFA has a drought website.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Josh Huntsinger

- Fish and Wildlife issued a staff report about the grey wolf in California.

- The Farm bill passed. Some of the highlights are:
 - King amendment removed.
 - Aquatic pesticide removed.
 - Enhanced pest detection.
- Statement of Economic Interests Form 700 is due April 1, 2014.
- PNSSNS Subwatershed will hold the annual meeting February 26, 2014.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)

Wayne Vineyard announced that the Placer County Farm Bureau will be celebrating 100 years on February 22, 2014.

Dan Macon announced that this year, the governor's budget changed funding allocation for high school agriculture programs. Instead of the funding being specific for agriculture programs, school districts are being given the funding without restrictions. Placer Union High School District will be holding a strategic planning meeting Thursday, February 13, 2014.

IX. ADJOURNMENT