



**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**

**JANUARY 12, 2015**

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

**Members Absent:** James Brenner, Wayne Vineyard

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:00 pm by John Nitta
  - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JANUARY 12, 2015 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2014.** Motion to approve: *Jordan / Macon /MPUV*
  - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
  - IV. **LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL FARM UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** – Barret Hess and Jessica Armistead – introduction by Josh Huntsinger
    - Lincoln High School has a 405 acre farm and will be adding another 500 acres in the near future. Acquired farm in the 1970's via lease, property deeded over in 2004. Program has grown to include environmental resources education, agri-science, agricultural mechanics and stewardship programs. FFA has always been a big part of program.
    - 2014 introduced California Career Pathways Trust Grant. Lincoln High School applied and awarded \$4.6 million.
    - Plan to revamp entire program and open it district wide.
    - Currently there are 4 classrooms, 1 barn and a shop all built from scraps. New plan will restructure 2 old classrooms, build 4 new classrooms, a 3200 sq ft shop, a foyer and a greenhouse. Plan will also add one additional bus to bring more students to the program.
    - Farm will be ADA access so anyone can visit.

- Students often don't know where to begin or figure out their career path too late, so plan is to start the introduction to agricultural careers in Middle School. There are also plans to continue the career path into Yuba, Sierra and American River Colleges as there is a huge disparity of exiting high school students into college.
- Call to Action: Farm Advisory Program – reconnecting with agricultural community industry. Develop agriculture partners to offer tours, internships, industry experiences for students as well as in-house demonstrations.
- Adding an Ag Program to Middle schools that feed into district, “Agricultural Explorations” explores all the different pathways in the Ag industry.
- Ag instruction model features classroom Instruction, FFA component and SAE (Supervised Agriculture Experience). This new program will follow the same format.
- Basic overview at middle school will cover: animal science, plant science, ag mechanics, and the FFA.
- Putting together curriculum, using lesson plans from a variety of sources and states who are ahead of California in this field.
- Packets were distributed with more information on the program.

## **V. REPORTS**

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

- Slow time of year
  - Wrapping up Mandarin season
  - Winery and Brewery Promotions
- Merlot will be presenting at the next Board of Supervisors meeting on February 3, 2015
- Contract with Merlot ends in June of 2015, happy with all their work, open to suggestions and options to increase growth of the program.

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

- None.

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

- GRAP handouts provided to commission members with more information on the Grazing Regulatory Action Project.
  - Concerns over a “one size fits all” program
  - Those affected most feel least heard
  - Stakeholder meetings were held in SLO county with no attendance from the Lahontan Water District, the main supporters of program.
  - Plan could stretch from Imperial to Siskiyou County.
  - There may be some value in Agriculture Commission drafting a letter in the future, but not at this time.
- PNSSNS Sub Watershed group forms – if help is needed filling out the farm evaluation plans, Roger is happy to help you complete them.
  - Several sessions to answer questions:
    - Jan 20, 2015 at PCWA 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
    - Jan 21, 2015 at Materials Recovery Center in Lincoln also from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
    - Jan 23, 2015 at PCWA 9 a.m. to 2 p.m
    - Feb 13, 2015 at Materials Recovery Center in Lincoln also from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
    - Feb 25, 2015 at PCWA 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. followed by annual meeting
- Plenty of upcoming workshops:
- Nevada County Sustainable Farm and Food Conference on Jan 10 & 11, 2015 with workshops on:
  - Livestock – protection from predators
  - Marketing using tech and social media
- Shepherding School held by Dan Macon to begin on Jan 15, 2015 with a field day on Jan 17. More in March 2015 – Lambing and wool handling with Shearing class in May.
- Multi-species Grazing Academy scheduled for September 2015.

### **D. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake**

- CDFA Specialty Crops grant ends in June.
- Program performed 58 tastings, 21 cooking demos and 22 consumer dot surveys.
  - audit shows the program reached 78865 consumers in 2 years.
  - \$32734 increase in farmer’s pockets of which \$21K was from consumer vouchers
  - 73% reduction rate for vouchers

- 12k direct produce purchases from farms due to tastings and food banks.
  - Facebook page needs at least 500 likes – almost there
  - Estimated 20% of tasters would purchase, 30% would increase purchase of specialty crops and 20% would be able to identify what produce is in season.
  - Conversion rate was actually 32.6%, 39.7% and between 83%-92% respectively
- Foothill Farmers website scheduled for upgrade this winter. Close to 2k page views per month
  - Farmer to Farmer breakfast Paul Muller spoke and invited attendees to his farm.
  - Food Safety Modernization act training of trainers at Cornell University. Act to be implemented sometime this year.
    - Certification of farm is dependent on gross annual income.
    - Currently 2 trainers in the State of California. Only one will train farmers outside of their own organization.
    - 7 hours of information involved in the training.
    - No set class dates, FDA still finalizing what the actual requirements will be.
    - More information as it is known at future meetings.
  - Advanced Farm Business Planning course beginning end of January 2015
  - Sierra College Direct Farm Marketing Jan – May for final year
  - Pest Management Classes begin in February 2015 – will also be taught drought and stress management.

**E. Agricultural Water Supply Issues – Josh Huntsinger**

- Regarding the farm evaluation for PNSSNS sub watershed coalition, the Agriculture department can help with creating a map of your farm. Ag department can print or walk you through the process to do it yourself. Currently permittees are issued maps at renewal – if you did not receive one, please let us know.
- PCWA press release of January 5 stated snow pack is fairly light and reservoirs are in good shape based on the water conservation of last year and early rains we had.
- Thursday, January 8, 2015 PCWA meeting to go over more information regarding water supply and Josh will attend

**VI. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Josh Huntsinger**

- John Wilson, former Agriculture Commissioner has died. He worked in the agriculture department for over 20+ years.
- Local Lincoln Rancher, Tom Lavelle suffered an accident and is paralyzed. Benefit dinner and silent auction held for him on January 24, 2015 at Bean Park Pavilion. Tickets available at Lincoln Chamber.
- Agriculture Commission Roster distributed for corrections and please return to Elizabeth for updating.
- Agriculture department is still moving forward with field work portion of Environmental Health inspections
- Winery Ordinance expected to return to Agriculture Commission, possibly in March 2015.
- There will be a Williamson Act application for the Wurst family for February 2015 agenda.
- 6:30 p.m. still ok for winter season meetings is confirmed.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)**

- Mandarin season coming to an end – everyone was successful and everyone did okay this year, even with the rains
- SF Chronicle Wine competition had 6000 wineries competing this year. Placer County wineries took home 48 medals.
- Next Meeting: February 9, 2015.

**X. ADJOURNMENT - 7:50 p.m.**