I. CALL TO ORDER: the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Wayne Vineyard. Roll Call- Present: Patricia Beard, Patrick Bollinger, Jim Brenner, Rich Ferreira, Larry Jordan, Denise Moore, Stewart Perry, and Wayne Vineyard, Absent: Shanon Whamond.

II. NEW BOARD MEMBER Josh Huntsinger introduced new board member Denise Moore. She was appointed by the Board of Supervisors in April to represent the Nursery Industry.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR May 13, 2019 Moved and Second: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 8, 2019: Moved and Second: No discussion

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Establishment of a New Agricultural Preserve and Williamson Act Contract (PLN18-00014) – Kally Kedinger-Cecil, Placer County Planning Services, asked the commission to provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution to establish a new Williamson Act contract and Ag Preserve for a 20 acre parcel at 9820 Mt Vernon Road, Auburn CA. She presented maps, photos, background information and owner’s plans for future production.

The property is adjacent to a large block of Williamson Act land. Although the property is not in active production, property has planted vineyard, trellis and irrigation. The Williamson Act contains a provision allowing contracts to be considered if the property owner demonstrates the site has installed irrigation, if the site has been planted with vines for vineyard operations and that the sight can eventually produce a minimum income of $4,500. (Section 17.64.070 of the Placer County Williamson Act Ordinance)
Questions were asked and answered regarding additional dwellings, water availability and the prime agriculture land qualification.

The property owner provided additional back ground information and stated his commitment to the property.

At the conclusion of the presentation Stewart Perry Motioned to take the following action:
1. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors if the establishment of the proposed Agricultural Preserve is consistent with the Placer County General Plan.
2. The Commission finds that the establishment of the proposed Agricultural Preserve which is comprised of less than 100 acres, would preserve the agricultural enterprises of the area, make findings describing those characteristics for staff to present to the Board of Supervisors.
3. The Commission finds the agricultural use would meet the criteria of prime agricultural land, make findings describing those characteristics for staff to present to the Board of Supervisors.
4. The Commission determined to support the property owners’ request for approval of a Williamson Act Contract and directed staff to prepare a report to the Board of Supervisor’s detailing the Agricultural Commission’s recommendation that the Board approve a Resolution to establish an Agricultural Preserve and authorize the new Williamson Act Contract.

Patty Beard seconded the Motion and it passed without dissent.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Placer County Winery and Farm Brewery Ordinance and EIR updates, presented by Josh Huntsinger Agricultural Commissioner. Placer County Planning Services has released the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public comment which will run through June 3, 2019. On May 23, 2019 the ordinance will be presented to the Planning Commission. Sometime this summer it is expected to come to the Agricultural Commission for a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. It is expected to go before the Board of Supervisors in the fall. Josh shared a few of the important topics within the ordinance and directed commissioners to the website for details.

B. Industrial Hemp Update presented by Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner. Josh presented an overview of Industrial Hemp, including current legal status of industrial hemp and existing industry dynamics. Wayne Vineyard
shared information he had regarding industry concerns with consistent certified seed resources and processing the hemp fibers. There was discussion of additional uses and ongoing research.

VI. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger reported that the current 2 year contract with PlacerGROWN ends June 30, 2019. The County is currently talking with PlacerGrown organization about what has been accomplished, what their vision is for the future and reviewing possibilities of a future contract.

The Celebrating Women in Agriculture Dinner at Twin Peaks Orchard scheduled for early June is sold out.

The Farmers Market summer schedule is due out within the month. Although some markets are strong some of the small seasonal markets are struggling.

B. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Dan Macon provided a brief rainfall and forage growth report from SFRC. He stated that handouts will be provided for the Business and Targeted Grazing Workshop scheduled for May 23, 2019. He shared a list of research projects he is working on. He was working on adding to the Ag Tour a visit to bring attention to the significate issue of labor on sheep operations that could affect the future of fuel load reaction.

C. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Dan Macon reported that Cindy Fake had to leave the meeting and that she has been conducting Mandarin related workshops and research. Commissioners can check the UCCE website for details of upcoming workshops.

D. Water Supply Update – Josh Huntsinger informed Commissioners that their meeting packets contain an e-mail water supply report from Sue Sindt of NID.
VII. **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS** – Josh Huntsinger

Josh will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors his Industrial Hemp presentation May 14, 2019 and is working on a Honey Bee ordinance.

The Ag department’s busiest months are May and June with a lot of nursery stock shipments to inspect. Then Rice Pesticide season begins.

Wayne Vineyard asked if any additional Asian Citrus Phyllids have been found in Placer County. Although there are no new findings Josh does not expect the quarantine to be lifted.

Rich Ferreira asked if a pesticide ban reported on the radio is used in Placer County. Josh reported that the Department of Pesticide Regulations and CalEPA are moving to ban Chlorpyrifos which is rarely used in Placer County.

Patrick Bollinger asked about a recent herbicide application at the Bear River campground that seemed to be excessive. Josh reported that Placer County Parks has taken over management of the campground and that the County has received complaints about the application. Josh has not seen the site and could not comment on the application. Later this week four County departments that apply herbicides will meet to discuss a cohesive County communication plan about County herbicide use. NID is preparing a 2 year study on organic alternatives to Roundup. Josh hopes to have their findings presented to the Commission.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** 8:18 p.m.