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, Denise Moore, Jim Brenner, Rich Ferreira, Larry Jordan, Elisa Noble, Stewart Perry, and Wayne Vineyard,

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR August 12, 2019: Moved and Seconded

III. PUBLIC COMMENT
Josh Huntsinger introduced new Commission Member, Elisa Noble, appointed to represent the Small Farm Industry.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:
A. Vargas Request to Establish a Williamson Act Contract: 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 as PLN 19-00108. This proposed contract consists of one parcel and 40 acres including assessor’s parcel number 021-040-004-000. The property is located at 235 Critter Creek Road in Lincoln and used for cattle and hay production. She presented information about the parcel and qualifying information. Dan Macon, UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor stated he evaluated the property and concluded it meets minimum agricultural production requirement.

Discussion included questions and information on Placer County support of Williamson Act without State support. At the conclusion of the discussion Larry Jordan motioned to take the following action:
1. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that 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 unique characteristics of the agricultural enterprises in the area.

3. The Commission determines to support the property owners’ request for approval of a Williamson Act Contract, direct 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.

Stewart Perry seconded the Motion and it passed without dissent.

B. Nomination of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair – Wayne Vineyard opened the floor to take nominations. Stewart Perry nominated Wayne Vineyard for Chairman and Patty Beard nominated Larry Jordan for Vice Chairman, to be voted on at the next Agricultural Commission meeting.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Nevada Irrigation District Update – Laura Peters, NID Division 4 Director, shared water storage updates and a brief overview of current NID projects. She asked for suggestions for future presentations and invited questions.

Rich Ferreira asked for an update on the testing of alternatives to herbicides for canal maintenance. Laura shared that it was still in testing phase and findings would be presented at a future meeting.

Patti Beard asked that Laura take back to the NID Board that cattleman are struggling to buy water which may result in the closure of their businesses. Laura expressed her support of agriculture needs in Placer County.

B. PlacerGROWN Annual Report – Carol Arnold, CEO PlacerGROWN
   a. A printed Agricultural Marketing Services Contract Budget Recap Report for 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2019 was distributed and highlights presented including a video presentation.
   b. The Ag Marketing contract with Placer County has been renewed for 2 years.
c. Mountain Mandarin Festival advertising cards were distributed with PlacerGrown highlighted on the back.
d. The Farm & Barn Tour is scheduled for October 6th

VI. REPORTS

● Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger
  a. October is PlacerGROWN month
  b. The 2 year renewal contract with PlacerGROWN was approved by the Board of Supervisors.
  c. Commissioners were asked to encourage new farmers to connect with PlacerGROWN so they could be added to the website.

● Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Dan Macon
Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Dan Macon, on behalf of Cindy Fake
  a. Blue Oaks are dropping leaves in rangelands. A UC Berkeley expert has been investigating to determine cause. He hopes to have preliminary answers soon.
  b. Upcoming workshops include:
     i. Beginning Farming Academy - Sept 13-14
     ii. Livestock Protection Tools Field Day - Sept 19
     iii. Preparing Ewes for Breeding - Aug 29
  c. Wolves have been reported near Stampede Reservoir
  d. Fire prevention power outages require power back-up plans. Refrigeration of vaccines especially.
  e. Kate Wilkin, Forestry/Fire Science and Natural Resource Advisor, will be hosting Prescribed Fire workshops for private landowners in Sonora and Sutter Creek.

● Water Supply Update – Josh Huntsinger
  a. No additional updates from PCWA.
  b. Bret Story is asking for input from Commissioners on the updated draft Ground Water Sustainability Proposal. He is asking for the Commission to review and comment within the next week or two.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS – Josh Huntsinger

A. The Industrial Hemp Information Update at MAC meetings is about half completed. Josh is presenting an initial overview and potential issues to think about.
This is a hot topic for many counties that have allowed Hemp growth this year. It has created a lot of workload, lots of questions. At the same MAC meetings, Nicky Streegan from Planning, is presenting the final draft of the Winery-Brewery Ordinance.

B. Statewide Updates:

- There has been a lot of interest in pesticides, specifically significant re-evaluations by the Department of Pesticide Regulation. As science progresses and ability to study ingredients continues to improve, the active ingredients are re-evaluated which can result in changes to approvals.
- There have been many separate findings of Oriental Fruit Flies, Peach Fruit Flies and Guava Fruit Flies. They are scattered and unrelated. DNA analysis is being done to build a database to track country of origin and locations found in California.
- HLB disease spread by the Asian citrus tree. New infected trees have been found in Orange, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties. CDFA is regarding it as a serious matter. They have created a new division and are hiring 60 new staff to address this issue.
- The State Veterinarian is cautiously optimistic about Virulent Newcastle Disease, which was rampaging through Southern California for almost 1 year. The last positive result was in May. They are actively monitoring and it is looking good, that the threat and disease is on the way out.

C. Supervisor Weygandt has been in contact with people who have a proposal to allow urban beekeeping and met with Josh to discuss it. There are also talks about starting a Placer County Bee Keeper Association.

VIII. ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

VIV. ADJOURNMENT: Wayne Vineyard closed the meeting at 8:07