

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHARLES DRAXLER – DAIRY INDUSTRY
JIM GREGORY – AG CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM
VACANT – KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

DON MILLS – WATER
BILL TOS – NUT CROPS
VACANT – SMALL FARMS

JOHNNY STARLING – AG PROCESSING
BOB PRYS – FEED/SEED & GRAIN
BRIAN POTTER – AG EQUIPMENT

STAFF: DAN KASSIK (559) 582-3211 EXT. 2655

MINUTES OF April 11, 2013

Call to Order:

Chairman Johnny Starling called the meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to order at 12:10 p.m. in the Ag Commissioner's Admin Multi-Purpose Room, 680 N. Campus 1400 W. Lacy Blvd, Hanford, California.

Committee Members Present:

Brian Potter, Don Mills, Jim Gregory
Johnny Starling

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Kathy Sargent

Auxiliary Members Present:

Committee Coordinator Present

Joe Neves

County Staff Present:

Johannah Hartley, Sandy Roper,
Terri Yarbrough, Dan Kassik

Visitors Present:

Doug Verboon, Steve Schweizer, Diane Friend, Hugo Calvillo

Unscheduled Comments:

None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Kassik introduced Diane Friend who will be representing the Kings County Farm Bureau. Ms. Friend is scheduled to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors on April 16, 2013 and will be a voting member for the next Ag Advisory Committee meeting.

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Draxler, Bob Prys,
Bill Tos

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Tim Niswander, Greg Gatzka

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Charles Buhl, Jay Salyer, Carol Collar

Committee Coordinator Absent

County Staff Absent:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Acting Secretary Kassik opened nominations for the election of Officers for the Agricultural Advisory Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Gregory/Mills) to nominate Ms. Diana Friend for Chairman contingent upon being appointed by the Board of Supervisors and close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously with Draxler, Tos and Prys absent. A motion was made and seconded (Mills/Gregory) to nominate Mr. Bill Tos for Vice Chairperson and close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously with Draxler, Tos and Prys absent.

Minutes: April 12, 2012 and October 11, 2012 Meeting:

A motion was made (Mills/Gregory) to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously with Draxler, Tos and Prys absent.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Walnut Theft Ordinance:

Johanna Hartley presented the draft Prevention of Walnut Theft Ordinance. She reported that the goal of the ordinance was to establish a means of verifying valid ownership of walnuts in order to prevent and deter theft, and to provide a means for local enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to the purchase and sale of walnuts. It was recommended that the grower identification number needs to be linked to the field.

A motion was made and seconded (Mills/Gregory) to recommend approval of the Walnut Theft Ordinance and adding a provision to link the grower identification with the field to the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried unanimously with Draxler, Tos and Prys absent.

Correspondence: None

Member Comments: Mr. Steve Schweizer, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer, provided an update on hail cannons. He reported that the members of the community and the growers held a meeting on March 14, 2013. He also discussed some modifications that have been made to one of the hail cannons in order to muffle the sound. The decibels were reduced by 20 decibels. Mr. Schweizer stated the reading was taken on a clear sunny day and they would like to take another reading during an actual event. He reported that best management practices have been put into place.

Kathy Sargent reported they are waiting for the new Farm Bill to be enacted. They don't know what the effects will be on their office, possibly cutbacks and/or furloughs.

Staff Comments: None

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12.55 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 11, 2013 at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Kassik, Acting Secretary