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
January 8, 2015

Call to Order:
At 4:07 Vice Chairman Bill Tos called the meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee in the Ag Commissioner's Admin Multi-Purpose Room, 680 N. Campus 1400 W. Lacy Blvd, Hanford, California to order.

Committee Members Present:
Jim Gregory, Brian Potter, Bill Tos,
Johnny Starling, Dennis Tristao, Bob Prys

Committee Members Absent:
Charles Draxler,

Ex-Officio Members Present:
Tim Niswander, Greg Gatzka
Kathy Sargent

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Auxiliary Members Present:

Auxiliary Members Absent:
Charles Buhl, Jay Salyer,
Carol Collar, Jim Sullins

Committee Coordinator Present
Joe Neves

Committee Coordinator Absent

County Staff Present:
Erik Kaeding, Chuck Kinney,
Terri Yarbrough, Dan Kassik, Jordan Davis

County Staff Absent:

Visitors Present:
Michael Miya

Unscheduled Comments:
None

Minutes: October 10, 2013 and August 25, 2014
Minutes were approved as presented.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:
Mr. Gatzka opened nominations for the election of Officers for the Agricultural Advisory Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Tos/Starling) to nominate Jim Gregory for Chairman. Mr. Gregory declined since he is currently the Chair for the Kings County Planning Commission. A motion was made and seconded (Tos/Prys) to nominate Johnny Starling for Chairman. Motion carried with five in favor and with Draxler absent. A motion was made and seconded (Gregory/Tos) to nominate Bob Prys as Vice Chairman. Motion carried with five in favor and with Draxler absent.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS

Commercial Solar Facilities and Agricultural Land:
Mr. Davis provided an overview of a proposal to amend Section 1908.H.2 of the Kings County Zoning Ordinance related to findings required to approve solar photovoltaic facilities on agricultural land. Mr. Davis reported that this will only affect very low and low priority agricultural land and solar projects less than or equal to 3 megawatts. Mr. Tos asked if solar projects were allowed on prime ag land for the purpose of supplying power for the existing business. Mr. Davis explained that a solar project would be allowed on prime agricultural land as long as it is for the business and not for the intent of supplying commercial income generating power. Mr. Gregory reported that Tulare County has become more restrictive with their solar requirements causing more interest for solar projects in Kings County.

Correspondence: None

Member Comments: Mr. Kassik mentioned that the legislature approved the removal of AB 1265's sunset clause. AB 1265 was due to sunset in January 2016.

Mr. Niswander reported that if there is no pink bowl worm this year, the Pest Control Board will declare it eradicated. If the pink bowl worm is declared eradicated the facility may be converted to do sterile releases of the naval orange worm.

Staff Comments: None

Adjournment
With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4.45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Gatzka, Secretary

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