



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Suite 100, Stockton, CA 95206

MINUTES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, March 1, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 209-645-4071 United States, Stockton (Toll)

Conference ID: 196 187 743#

Present: Brandon Bates, Bruce Blodgett, Josh Cheney, Chuck Hammond, Brent Holtz, Scott Johnson, Tim Pelican, Robert Rickman, Joseph Seimas, Jeremy Terhune, Terry Violet, Ken Vogel, Charles Winn

Excused: Richard Marchini, Ernie Pombo

Absent: Joseph Bacchetti, George Biagi, Terry Ann Paoletti, Jeff Torres

I. Call to Order – Chair Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2020 and August 10, 2020, minutes approved.

III. Correspondence - None

IV. Old Business

a. Delta Issues:

- i. Supervisor Winn shared information regarding water issues. We continue to work with the state in regards to ongoing outreach to delta communities and members of the Board of Supervisors from each county. Had an interview with DWR, with their list of questions with any benefits they can provide the delta communities to offsetting or mitigating the impact.

b. Ag Commissioner's Report:

- i. Nutria eradication update, there has been 2,208 nutria taken to date of this number 108 in the county.
- ii. Upcoming regulatory packages DPR attempt to raise Mill fees on pesticide going to a tiered Mill Fee which will raise the cost of restricted materials. This will have to go through the legislative process.
- iii. Currently on a working group regarding Neonicotinoids regulatory package or mitigations, we are meeting next week you can expect the proposed mitigations to come out soon. The same with Telone mitigation package there are three pilot projects that are beginning in Merced, Stanislaus, Fresno and

Kern Counties. The first one is in Stanislaus County with sweet potato growers, there will be another one in Fresno and one in Kern County. They are going to take those pilot projects to help determine what their mitigations are going to be for the use of that product.

- iv. Decontamination regulations is in the beginning phases.
- v. Apiary legislation regarding adulteration of honey, Queen breeders in the northern tiers of counties are trying to get an area that's protected from Africanized honey bees and a few other issues.
- vi. Martin Brockman will be retiring at the end of the month.
- vii. Sent out letters to all of the folks being serviced by the Simms Station as we are looking at closing it down, we will be taking it to the Board at the end of March.
- viii. Impact of COVID on our Department we had to go virtual to provide CE's online. We found a vendor and currently have seven different classes. We had 1,385 users, issued 3,652 exams and 3,389 credits completed. We switched to online scheduling for permits and all of our services that require inspections. We started hand delivering permits to limit the number of people coming into the office. The department has been asked to give out PPE, we have given out close to 1.2 million mask so far. We have given out hand sanitizer, we have been working with Community Foundation of San Joaquin and Catholic Charities as well as other CBO's to get those out as well.
- ix. Housing for the Harvest we were one of the first counties to provide that service. Working on funding to continue thru June.
- x. Vaccinations had an event last Monday.
- xi. AgVenture had three virtual events with over 13,000 registrants and 13,400 students. We had 6,071 views, 5,900 live views, 5,006 total live chats and we had positive feedback from teachers and principals.

V. Legislative Updates – Bruce Blodgett

- a. Looking for suggestions for setting up vaccination clinics.
- b. Housing for the Harvest is expecting to get refunded. It was good to have in terms to workers who couldn't isolate that had COVID they could put them in a hotel room, take care of them, get food and medical care.
- c. Delta Stewardship Council looking at a new program for agriculture to remove couple hundred thousand acres of land in the delta to convert into reed grasses.

VI. New Business

- a. Election of Officers:
 - i. Chair Scott Johnson is thinking about retiring at the end of the year. We do need to have a Vice Chair this will be on the May meeting agenda.

VII. Announcements

- a. Form 700 needs to be filled out and returned to Annette.
- b. Spray Safe Committee working on setting up an online spray safe meeting.

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m., next meeting date TBD.

Submitted By: Annette Lovato, Administrative Secretary