



LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sharron Zoller, Crop Grower
David Weiss, Crop Grower
Randall Krag, Organic Farmer
Pat Scully, Crop Grower
Alicia Russell, Ag Processor
Bruce Merrilees, Crop Grower

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Jessica Pyska, County of Lake
Michael Green, County of Lake
Katherine Vanderwall, County of Lake

Meeting Date: February 27, @ 11 am

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order/ Sharron Zoller, Facilitator-** 11:00 am
2. **Roll call-** Sharron Zoller, David Weiss, Alicia Russell, Bruce Merrilees, Randy Krag, Pat Scully, Jessica Pyska, Michael Green , Katherine Vanderwall

Others- Mireya Turner, Rebecca Harper, Katherine Schaefer

3. **Approval of Minutes from January 17 & February 01, 2023-** Approved 2/27/2023
1/17/2023 minutes were MSP: Motioned by Alicia Russell and second by David Weiss
2/1/2023 minutes were MSP: Motioned by Alicia Russell and second by Bruce Merrilees
4. **Update on the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency Due to Persistent Drought, Habitat Loss, and Potential Extinction of Clearlake Hitch.**
There was discussion on the change of the wording on #6 in the proclamation. There was a lot of disappointment in the fact that none of the Ag letters were taken into consideration. Supervisor Green clarified that the no-ask version was not considered because it was too weak. He also stated that the two agencies California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the State Water Board are still trying to figure things out. Supervisor Green stated that the State agency doesn't have local knowledge about our watersheds and what the actual effect of our groundwater pumping may have. He also stated he wants to hear from the committee on going the GSA route.
Supervisor Pyska stated that we need to figure out how we best move through with this. The proclamation does not have any policy to go along with it. It is just a statement at this point. Supervisor Pyska also stated that they were all reached out to by the State Water Board saying they were going to do this information request anyways.
Sharron Zoller stated that it is important to give the State some insight into what is possible for frost protection. Lake County is unique and we need to help the State understand that. Sharron also stated that you can't compare the Russian River problems and solutions to ours.
Rebecca Harper stated that she discussed with State Water Board about the March 7 meeting and they had stated that the county wasn't interested in participating. Rebecca stated that there will be an information time slot for the Ag presentation at that meeting. Rebecca stated that the advice she would give to the Ag Advisory Committee is to prepare a statement for public comment.



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There was a discussion on why the information from the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) isn't being used by the state. Most of the work the state did on the GSP was on information already out there. It was stated that a few of the members will be on Zoom to attend the March 7th State Water Resources Control Board meeting to submit public comment.

5. Request for Recommendation on Ag Related Structures

Mireya Turner Director of CDD stated that Lake County Cannabis Alliance (LCCA) put together their recommendation and that the LCCA worked with Farm Bureau and Fire Chiefs and then brought the recommendations to the Cannabis Task Force. Mireya Turner stated that the Ag-exempt structures definition will stay the same the only difference is that cannabis growers may now apply for Ag-exempt structures. Mireya stated that Fire chiefs would like to see fire mitigation fees on the Ag Exempt structures since they do not have building permits they do not have these fees. Mireya asked if the Ag industry had any recommendations to add to her staff report that will go before the planning commission on March 23rd. Rebecca Harper stated giving a priority to public safety was a key theme. There was a discussion that there was no change to the fee structure to include fire mitigation fees for the Ag-exempt building permits. Setbacks and electrical on Ag-exempt buildings were discussed and clarified.

- 6. Committee Members Report-** The membership of the Fish and Wildlife Committee was discussed. It was mentioned that this group would like to have a strong presence of an Ag representative on that committee. The seat isn't district specific it is Countywide.
- 7. Public Comment-**
- 8. Future Agenda Topics-** Ground squirrels in abandoned orchards.
- 9. Adjourn-** 12:28 pm