



COUNTY OF NEVADA

Agricultural Advisory Commission (AAC)

Community Development Agency
Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
New.nevadacounty.com/nc/cda/agcomm

Brad Fowler, Chair – Other Livestock Industry
Laura Barhydt Vice Chair – Cattle Industry
Aleta Barrett - Farming Industry
Debbie Bierwagen – Agricultural Interests
Theo des Tombe- Forest & Related Industry
Robert Graham - Cattle Industry
Alyssa Mayo – Equine Industry
Seth Rosmarin- Agricultural Interests
Alex Szabo – Viticulture Industry

MEETING MINUTES

Agricultural Advisory Commission

May 20, 2021, Meeting

Members Present: Brad Fowler, Laura Barhydt, Aleta Barrett, Debbie Bierwagen, Robert Graham, Alyssa Mayo, Seth Rosmarin and Alex Szabo. Supervisor Sue Hoek- Ex Officio

Members absent- none

Staff Present: Chris de Nijs- Agricultural Commissioner

Public Present: Chip Close, Nevada Irrigation District (NID), Rich Johansen- NID; Cindy Fake- UCCE; Dan Macon – UCCE; Brandi Murphy- NRCS; Roger Ingram- Retired UCCE/Rancher; Rob Thompson- Rancher

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chair Fowler led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Introduction of New Commission Members

Alyssa Mayo introduced herself as the new Equine Industry Representative on the commission and gave a brief background about herself. Alex Szabo also introduced himself as the new Viticulture Industry Representative on the commission and gave a brief background about himself. Other commission members introduced themselves as well.

4. Approval of Agenda

Item 5 was removed from the agenda.

Commissioner Barhydt moved to approve the agenda as modified. Commissioner Bierwagen seconded the motion. **The motion was carried unanimously.**

5. Approval of Minutes of the March 17, 2021 Meeting

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. Public Comment

No Public Comment was given.

7. Agency Reports (5 minutes each)

A.) Nevada Irrigation District (NID)

Chip Close reported as of 5/12, NID reservoir storage was at 200,170-acre ft., which is 74% of capacity and 83% of average. Demand for water is high, flowing at mid-summer demand. NID is proposing to purchase 16,000-acre ft of water from PGE. State is warning water suppliers that curtailments will be coming in June. NID Board of Directors will be discussing drought contingency plans at next board meeting. Overall drought conditions are very serious.

B.) Resource Conservation District (RCD)

None given

C.) UCCE Farm Advisor

Cindy Fake- UCCE: In person workshops are beginning again, primary workshops related to soil and water are being provided. Other workshops have been on citrus pest management. Cindy stated that there is a lot of interest in citrus plantings from Nevada County residents which is a concern due to citrus' ability to survive Nevada County climate. UCCE is also conducting invasive shot hole borer survey trapping. Shot hole borer is a pest found in southern California.

Dan Macon- UCCE: Offices expected to be open July 1. Forage production is low in most places. Brown Valley Irrigation District will stop delivery of water end of Aug. End of July likely will hold a workshop on short water deliveries. Another workshop on June 23 regarding managing risk with sheep operations, workshop in Rio Vista. Fuel moisture in vegetation is likely 45-60 days ahead of schedule. Livestock access pass is being worked on in Nevada, Placer and Yuba Counties.

D.) Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

Brandi Murphy- NRCS: Brandi is filling in for Pam, through July. Brandi is from Colusa County. NRCS is currently working on EQIP funds. NRCS is exploring emergency drought funding. NRCS is working with CDEFA on additional funding.

E.) Sierra Harvest

None given

8. New Business

A.) Illegal Roadside Produce Vendors- (Informational)

Discussion on illegal roadside produce vendors and what is currently being done and other ideas to address the issue.

Agricultural Commissioner Chris de Nijs presented the issue of illegal roadside vendors to the Commission. Vendors are typically from Oakland and selling produce on the corner of heavy traffic areas. Efforts to curb this practice has not worked. Vendors are often being warned to leave or obtain the proper permits. After confiscating of the producers, the same vendors are reappearing the next weekend. The Agricultural Department and Environmental Health Department are working with local law enforcement and will begin a public campaign to shop local. The issue of roadside produce vendors is not only in Nevada County but across the state. Nevada County is continuing to work on the issue including a social media campaign. No action was taken by the Commission.

**B.) Sheep and Goat Herder Wage Resolution Request to Board of Supervisors - (action item)
Potential recommendation to Board of Supervisors to support statewide efforts to
mitigate the impact of the Ag Overtime bill (AB 1066) on herder wages.**

Former UCCE and current livestock producer Roger Ingram, as well as UCCE Livestock Advisor Dan Macon gave a presentation to the commission on the impacts that AB 1066 (Ag Overtime) would have on the those in the sheep and goat industry who utilize herders. Part of the presentation included that AB 1066 computes sheepherder compensation based on a 168-hour work as they are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Based on the 168-hour work week labor costs will increase 38.4% in 2022 and rise 52% in 2025. Additionally, it was mentioned that this rise in labor costs would increase costs in targeted grazing operations who's purpose it to reduce the severity of fires and improve wildlife habitat through targeted grazing. This cost would likely be passed on to customers resulting in less acres being contracted for fuel load reduction, which in turns increases the fire risk. A solution to the herder wage issue was brought to the commission in the form of seeking support from the AAC to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, that the BOS pass a resolution asking Governor Newsome to direct his Labor Agency to calculate sheep and goat herder wages based on the Federal definition. It was also mentioned that numerous other counties (Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kings, Tulare, Kern) have already passed resolutions similar to the request being made today. A copy of the Fresno County BOS Resolution was also proved.

Mr. Ingram then proceeded to answer a few clarifying questions for the commission. At that time Chair Fowler asked for public comment. Rob Thompson provided public comment that he is a Nevada County livestock producer who would be directly impacted by AB 1066. He is unsure what they would do in the future. Mr. Thompson stated that the sheep and goat herder industry is unique in the sense that employers are required to provide herders with food, housing and cell phones at no cost to the herders. Mr. Thompson also raised concerns that the increase in costs would lead to a decrease of targeting grazing through the state and county.

With no other public comment, Chair Fowler closed public comment.

MOTION

After closing public comment, Commission Member Graham made a motion that the commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors, that the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution, similar to the Resolution in Fresno County, urging Governor Newsome to use his administrative authority to adopt the federal weekly work hours standard for herders in California. Commission Member Barrett seconded the motion. **The motion was carried unanimously. None opposed. None abstained.**

9. Agricultural Commissioner's Report

Commission bylaws were approved by BOS. Continuing to work with Realtors Association on the revision to the Right to Farm Ordinance. Ag Dept is in full swing with noxious weed program.

10. Member Announcements

No announcements were provided.

11. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm

Respectfully submitted: Chris de Nijs
Chris de Nijs, Agricultural Commissioner

Approved on: 07/21/2021

Date

Chris de Nijs For Brad Folwer

Commission Chair, Brad Fowler