



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

July 21, 2021 Meeting

Members Present: Brad Fowler, Laura Barhydt, Aleta Barrett, Debbie Bierwagen, Alyssa Mayo, Seth Rosmarin, Theo des Tombe

Members Absent: Alex Szabo, Robert Graham

Staff Present: Chris de Nijs- Agricultural Commissioner, Trisha Tillotson- CDA Director

Public Present: Chip Close, Nevada Irrigation District (NID); Sabrina, Resource Conservation District (RCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Dan Macon, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), Theresa Youngman (FSA)

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chair Fowler led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Introduction of New Commission Members

Theo des Tombe introduced himself as the Forest & Related Industry Representative on the Commission and gave a brief background about himself. Other Commission members introduced themselves as well.

4. Remembrance of former Commission Member Terry Jochim

5. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner member Barrett moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner member Barhydt seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes of the March 17, 2021 and May 19, 2021 Meetings

Commissioner member Bierwagen moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner member Barrett seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment

Trisha Tillotson, CDA Director, introduced herself to the Commission.

8. Agency Reports (5 minutes each)

A.) Nevada Irrigation District (NID)

Chip Close presented a slideshow and reported that 2021 is the third driest year on record for NID. As of July 19th NID reservoir storage was 175,916 acre ft., which is 65% capacity and 77% of the last 8 years averaged. Currently NID is requiring a 20% mandatory reduction and this is yielding results. Mandatory reductions require ag customers to implement irrigation efficiency practices, included increased prices of 18%/\$40 per miner's inch starting July 1st , and increased focus on reducing raw water usage. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) plans more curtailments and to reach back to 1850 water rights in August. There is also a possibility SWRCB will order pre-1914 water rights. This would mean water cannot be diverted from what naturally flows in a waterway and does not affect NID's ability to pull water from reservoirs, however it would affect NID's ability to capture water once the rain begins to fall and runoff picks up. Capture and storage wouldn't be allowed until these orders are released.

B.) Resource Conservation District (RCD and NRCS)

Sabrina reported for both the RCD and NRCS. Meetings will be held to decide whether Farm Day will happen this September. RCD will be at the County Fair along with the Farm Bureau. Pam (NRCS) is still on assignment in Klamath until October.

C.) UCCE Farm Advisor

Dan Macon (UCCE) reported on Cindy Fake's work first, followed by livestock and natural resources. Wine grapes are showing signs of stress and developing diseases as a result of drought and heat stress. There is renewed interest in new farms in both Placer and Nevada Counties. Cindy has held several well-attended workshops to educate farmers. Livestock is also being influenced by the drought. A new drought decision support tool for livestock producers is available to help project forage supply over 12 months. Livestock research continues with 31 trail cameras in Stampede area which have captured many coyotes and bears. Next month a project studying guard dog use with cattle will begin in Modoc County where wolves have been sighted.

D.) Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

Update provided by Sabrina during agenda item B.

E.) Sierra Harvest

Commission member Barrett reported that farmer education classes and farm tours continue.

F.) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Theresa Youngman shared information about the annual Livestock Forage Disaster Program. The reporting deadline is July 15th, but farmers can still file (incurring a \$46 late fee) and receive assistance. Payments are based on non-irrigated pasture acreage and number of head.

9. New Business

A.) Overview of Placer-Nevada-Yuba Disaster Livestock Access Program—Dan Macon, UCCE (Informational Only)

Dan Macon reported regarding the Placer-Nevada-Yuba Disaster Livestock Access Program, which is focused on commercial livestock species and commercial-scale operations. There is an application process to register, and the program involves training about emergency operations. In the event of a large-scale disaster (i.e. fire or flood) that requires evacuation, a livestock access pass enables coordination with emergency services to provide access. Commissioner Mayo raised the possibility of eventually addressing commercial equine facilities through this program or a similar program.

10. Agricultural Commissioner’s Report

Chris de Nijs reported that the Department of Agriculture expended significant effort on illegal roadside vendors in early June and that it is now less of a problem. Currently the Department is working on the Crop Report and requests that farmers submit their statistics. All programs are up and running. At the State level there is a spotted lanternfly quarantine and a wolf compensation program in Northern California. Also, 2,615 nutria have been taken since March 2017.

11. Member Announcements

Commissioner member Mayo shared that horse prices are high, and hay supply is diminishing. Commissioner member des Tombe shared that fuel breaks are needed in strategic locations and funding is available for people who are willing to do the work. Commissioner Barrett shared that Ken Barrett will be instructing a Sierra Harvest class called How to Grow Stuff and Keep it Real. Commission member Barhydt shared that the Farm Bureau Picnic was successful and that they are preparing for the County Fair. Commissioner Bierwagen shared the days and hours of operation for The Happy Apple restaurant. Commission Chair Fowler shared that fuel breaks regrow quickly without maintenance.

12. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm

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

Approved on: 11/17/21
Date

Chris de Nijs for Brad Fowler
Commission Chair, Brad Fowler