



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

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Greg Boeger, Chair – Agricultural Processing Industry
Lloyd Walker, Vice-chair – Other Agricultural Interests
Chuck Bacchi – Livestock Industry
Bill Draper – Forestry Related Industries
Ron Mansfield – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Tim Neilsen, Livestock Industry
John Smith – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry

MINUTES

March 14, 2012

6:30 P.M.

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
330 Fair Lane – Building A, Placerville

Members Present: Boeger, Bacchi, Mansfield, Neilsen, Smith, Walker, Draper

Members Absent: None

Ex-Officio Members Present: Charlene Carveth, Ag Commissioner/Sealer

Staff Members Present: Chris Flores, Senior Agricultural Biologist
Myrna Tow, Clerk to the Agricultural Commission

Peter Maurer, Development Services/Planning

Others Present: Carol Anne Ogdin, Christa Campbell, Brian Veerkamp,
Valerie Zentner

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair, Greg Boeger, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with an opening statement of congratulations to our newly appointed Agricultural Commissioner, Charlene Carveth.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Neilsen, and seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve the Agenda and Minutes of January 11, 2012 as submitted.

Chair, Greg Boeger, called for a voice vote for approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of January 11, 2012.

Motion passed

AYES: Bacchi, Mansfield, Neilsen, Smith, Walker, Boeger, Draper

NOES: None

III. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were received

IV. Presentation regarding broadband internet service to rural areas in El Dorado County - Carol Anne Ogdin, Interbahn, LLC

Carol Anne Ogdin gave a brief presentation to the Agricultural Commission, regarding her company, Interbahn, LLC. The goal is to develop and market a high speed internet infrastructure to un-served and underserved rural areas of the county (approximately 32,000 residences and businesses). They would like to provide a foundation for the Ag Community, and its various community organizations, to build closer and more beneficial relationships with customers, vendors, and employees. She gave an example of a farm in Apple Hill that is not able to accept credit cards because they do not have a fast enough internet service. She stated that broadband is a critical component of economic development. They want agribusiness to generate more revenue and expand marketing opportunities, year round. Ms. Ogdin explained that the company's immediate goal is to 1) determine where the un-served and underserved locations are, 2) determine what specific economic benefits broadband will provide, and 3) determine how many people would initially want service. She provided a survey to the Agricultural Commission members, asking that they respond, personally, and also forward to neighbors and business associates. She thanked the Agricultural Commission for their time and provided her contact information. Ms. Ogdin can be reached at 530-295-3657 and on-line at CAOgdin@interbahn.net.

V. TARGETED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT/ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Chris Flores and Peter Maurer gave an update on the Targeted General Plan Amendment and Zoning Ordinance Update and specifically addressed the Ranch Marketing Ordinance as amended and proposed by the Ranch Marketing sub-committee. Mr. Maurer told the Agricultural Commission that Planning Staff had incorporated some of the proposed changes, into the Draft Zoning Ordinance. He also explained that there would be an alternative "menu" of proposed ideas that could be studied as a range of options, within the Environmental Impact Report process. Discussion ensued regarding ranch marketing on grazing land and the various proposals, and nonconforming ranch marketing uses.

Mr. Maurer also gave a brief synopsis of the community meetings that have been scheduled, to help get information out to the public regarding this project, and the agricultural zoning "opt-in" letter that has gone out to some of the property owners in the county.

Chair Boeger asked for a volunteer to attend the Coordinating Committee meeting to meet on March 15th from 1:30 to 3:00. Commission Member Walker stated he would attend.

Discussion ensued regarding the Winery Ordinance versus the Ranch Marketing Ordinance and Bed and Breakfasts and Agricultural Homestays. It was determined that there should be more definitions and/or standards for Agricultural Homestays.

Christa Campbell spoke against the proposal to reduce the five acre minimum crop area required for Ranch Marketing activities. An idea proposed by the Ranch Marketing sub-committee was to allow someone with a higher density planting, some ranch marketing uses. The Agricultural Commission members discussed the idea. Valerie Zentner, El Dorado

County Farm Bureau, stood up in support of staying open to opportunity. She stated that through the zoning ordinance process, there had been discussion as to what constitutes a wholesale nursery versus a retail nursery and where they should be located. She also stated that there was interest among the Ranch Marketing sub-committee to allow value added products, to be sold on-site, with smaller crop areas. Chris Flores acknowledged that reducing the minimum 5 acre requirement would require a General Plan amendment, and suggested that the idea be revisited in the future and addressed in a manner similar to Micro-wineries in the Winery Ordinance. The Agricultural Commission directed staff to come back with more refined language regarding smaller operations with possible allowances for minimal ranch marketing uses.

VI. LEGISLATION AND REGULATION ISSUES

- **AB 2680** - An act to amend Section 51257 of the Government Code, relating to local government.
- **AB 1625** - Transition to Organics Act. The bill would establish the Transition to Organics Fund in the State Treasury, which would consist of moneys from federal, industry, and citizen sources. The bill would limit the expenditure of moneys from the fund to providing financial assistance to persons who transition their uncertified farms to certified organic farms, and to covering administrative and operational expenses incurred in administering the act.
- **AB 1975** - This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require the Department of Pesticide Regulation to develop guidelines to enforce state pesticide regulations on medical marijuana cultivation.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- **UCCE looking for cow/calf operators to participate in a study**
- **California Water Bill**
- **USDA News Release – USDA Announces Equine Operations Now Eligible for Emergency Loans – Release No. 0028.12**
- **Letter from USDA District Ranger requesting inclusion into the Camino Ag District**

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Sundance Update**
- **Ag Roundtable Update**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- Chair, Greg Boeger, adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

APPROVED: Greg Boeger

DATE: April 11, 2012