

DRAFT ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 5, 2021

MEETING HELD REMOTELY DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS – ALL ATTENDED EITHER BY WEBINAR OR CONFERENCE CALL

Members and Alternates Attending: Dan Rodrigues, Lisen Bonnier, Jerry Diefenderfer, Sarah Kramer, Mark Battany, Randy Diffenbaugh, Joe Plummer, Brent Burchett, Seth Scribner, Tom Ikeda, and Jean-Pierre Wolff

Staff Attending: Jon Wilding and Lynda Auchinachie – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture; Kylie Hensley and Airlin Singewald – San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department

Absent Members: Daniel Chavez, Craig Pritchard, Butch Yamashita, and Claire Wineman

Guests Attending: Bill Spencer – Future Direct Marketing/Organic Representative, Michael Broadhurst – Future USLTRCD Representative/Alternate, Patricia Wilmore – Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance, Louis Lefebvre

1. Call to order, introductions, quorum determination: The meeting was called to order by Chair Rodrigues at 5:02 pm

2. Open comment: (for items not on the agenda):

- Jerry Diefenderfer expressed his concerns with limitations of the virtual meeting format and requested future ALAB meetings be in person to allow for better quality discussion. Lynda Auchinachie indicated that ALAB meetings are required to follow county COVID rules and once they allow for in person public meetings, ALAB can return to that format.

3. Review/approval of March 2021 meeting minutes:

Motion: Diefenderfer - Approve March 2021 minutes with revision identifying subcommittee members for item #6.

Motion 2nd: Scribner

Approved: Unanimous by all voting members.

4. ALAB Membership Updates – Lynda Auchinachie

- Lynda Auchinachie informed ALAB members of the following: 1) The San Luis Obispo County Farmers Market Association and the Community Alliance with Family Farmers provided the nomination paperwork for Bill Spencer to be the representative for the direct marketing/organic representative. The aim is to have the nomination on the BOS agenda later this month. 2) Camilla Posson has been nominated as the environmental representative and that nomination will also be going to the BOS later this month. 3) George Kendall, representative for the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD, has stepped down. Mary Bianchi and Michael Broadhurst will be the

future primary and alternate representatives once RCD makes a determination of which person will fill which role.

5. COVID-19 Updates on Vaccine Availability for Agricultural Workers – Brent Burchett, San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau

- Brent Burchett indicated the Farmworker Friday vaccination program has been extremely successful with over 500 farmworkers receiving their shots. The program continues through Public Health as well as the availability for farmworkers to receive shots through all other means.

6. Discussion: Appointing an ALAB representative to the Agriculture Preserve Review Committee (APRC)

- Randy Diffenbaugh volunteered to be the ALAB representative for the Agriculture Preserve review Committee (APRC).

Motion: Bonnier– Nominate Randy Diffenbaugh to be ALAB representative for APRC.

Motion 2nd: Ikeda

Approved: Unanimous by all voting members.

7. Update/Discussion: Paso Robles Planting Ordinance – Kylie Hensley, and Airlin Singewald, County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building Department

- ALAB members discussed the subcommittee’s draft letter to the BOS regarding the Paso Robles Planting Ordinance item on the April 6, 2021 agenda.
- Jerry Diefenderfer indicated he did not have a problem with most of the issues raised in the letter but was concerned about the tone and overstating the potential impacts based on 4,800 parcels. Jerry expressed support for 25-acre foot de minimis allowance to help small growers.
- Jean-Pierre Wolff expressed concerns about the cost to growers for CEQA compliance.
- ALAB members discussed the pros and cons of the draft language and recommended some minor changes for clarity.

Motion: Wolff – Approve the draft letter with recommended revisions. Authorize Dan Rodrigues to read the letter into the public record for the April 6, 2021, Board of Supervisors meeting.

The ALAB letter is available on the ALAB website at the following link:

https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/All-Forms-Documents/Information/Meeting-Minutes/ALAB-Meeting-Agendas,-Minutes,-Presentations/2021/2021_04_05-ALAB-Letter-to-BOS-Paso-Basin-Planting.pdf

Motion 2nd: Bonnier

Approved: Yes – Wolff, Bonnier, Rodrigues, Ikeda, Kramer, Scribner and Diffenbaugh. No - Diefenderfer.

8. Accepted Customs and Standards for Bird Frightening Devices – Lynda Auchinachie, County of San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture

- ALAB members reviewed the most recent Accepted Customs and Standards for Bird Frightening Devices for vineyards and for vegetables and berries. Lynda Auchinachie indicated a minor addition to the vineyard standards included the need to follow manufacturers recommendations. She also indicated the vegetable and berry standards are specific for those crops and differ from the vineyards in terms of pest species.
- Concerns were not raised with the information presented. ALAB members were offered the opportunity for additional peer involvement in the process if desired.

9. Future agenda items: TBD

Next meeting – May 3, 2021

Meeting Adjourned 6:32 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

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