

DRAFT ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday – February 5, 2024

SLO County Farm Bureau, 4875 Morabito Place, San Luis Obispo 93401

Members and Alternates Present: Lisen Bonnier, Tom Ikeda (via Zoom), Sarah Kramer, Jeff McKee, Jerry Diefenderfer, Dan Rodrigues (via Zoom), Claire Wineman (via Zoom), Daniel Jones (via Zoom), Matt Merrell (via Zoom),

Staff Present: Marc Lea and Ian Landreth – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

Absent Members: Craig Pritchard, Jean-Pierre Wolff

Guests Presents: Catie Field, Ron Harben, Patricia Wilmore (via Zoom)

I. Call to Order, introductions, quorum determination

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rodrigues at 5:04 p.m. There were not enough members present to have a quorum.

II. Open Comment

Members wishing to address the ALAB on matters other than the scheduled items may do so at this time, when recognized by the Chairman.

Dan Rodrigues, ALAB Chair: opens comment.

Daniel Jones mentioned that the CCGGA would be hosting their annual Open House and Scholarship Fundraising event on April 13, 2024.

Dan Rodrigues: closes comment.

III. Previous Minutes – October 2, 2023

There were not enough members present to have a quorum needed to approve the previous meeting minutes.

IV. ALAB Governance Membership Updates

Marc Lea updated the group on the following:

- Both the incumbent Chair and Vice Chair ALAB position terms have expired. There are no limits to the number of terms a representative can serve. Dan Rodrigues indicated that he would be interested in staying on for another 2-year term. Lisen Bonnier expressed her desire to step down. Dan Rodrigues will be renewed as chair at the next meeting where a quorum is determined. If another individual wants to run for Chair, a vote will need to be held. An Ad Hoc sub-committee of Dan Rodrigues, Tom Ikeda, and Jerry Diefenderfer was formed to identify a replacement vice chair in the interim.
- Ron Harben was appointed as the District 4 representative by Jimmy Paulding and will be official after the February 6, 2024 Board meeting. Ron provided a brief background on his professional experience.

- Updates on the Upper Salinas-Las Tabas RCD representative vacancy still in process of being filled. The RCD positions are typically filled by RCD Board members. Lea spoke with the Executive Director, Devin Best, with the RCD who asked if they could have a non-board member fill the position. The RCD Board shrunk and asked if it could be a staffer rather than a board member. The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD will be meeting February 21 or 22 and the ALAB should receive a nomination post meeting.
- Lea recounted the steps the ALAB had taken to consolidate ALAB representative positions. The Board approved the creation of the Agricultural Stewardship Representative position on January 23, 2024. Lea asked members to consider any nominations and stated he would provide additional information on how potential candidates could apply for the new membership position.
- The Strawberry and Vegetable representative positions were consolidated into the Produce Representative. The way the bylaws were written made it so that Claire Wineman could assume that position without issue.
- Daniel Jones will become the primary representative for the Nursery Representative. Dan is currently serving as the Nursery Representative alternate.
- Other member terms that will be expiring in April 2024 include the Produce and Winegrape positions.

V. Review/possible action: Overview of Housing Policy and Regulation, including the Housing Element, in San Luis Obispo County

This item was organized for discussion and possible action from the ALAB.

Ian Landreth informed the ALAB that the Department of Planning and Building would be going to the Board on March 12, 2024, where they would receive direction from the Board on how to implement the Housing Element for 2020 – 2028. Link: [Housing-Element.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)

VI. Updates from Ag Department Staff: Review of ALAB’s Interpretation of Agriculture Policy 6 (AGP6) of the Agriculture Element of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan.

- Marc Lea and Ian Landreth provided an overview of Agriculture Policy 6 and its application with land use projects. The Ag Department utilizes a 2009 ALAB Interpretation when reviewing visitor serving projects to determine whether agriculture is the primary use of the site, and that the proposed visitor serving use is secondary and incidental to the primary use of the site. Lea provided a copy of that 2009 ALAB interpretation to gauge the current ALAB membership’s interest in revisiting that document.

VII. Future agenda items/meeting dates, adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM. No future agenda items were identified. The next monthly ALAB meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Ian Landreth, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture.