

DRAFT ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 6, 2010

Members and Alternates Present: Lisen Bonnier, Mark Pearce, Bill Struble, Dick Nock, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Eric Michielssen, R. Don Warden, Neal Roberts, Brenda Ouwerkerk, Mary Bianchi, David Pruitt

Absent Members: Dee Lacey, Noah Small, Charles Pritchard, Debra Garrison, Richard Quandt, Tom Ikeda

Guests Present: Supervisor Jim Patterson

Staff: Lynda Auchinachie and Marty Settevendemie, Agriculture Department; Jason Giffen, Director of County Department of Planning and Building (DP&B); Jay Johnson, DP&B.

Call to Order: 6:05 PM. Quorum Present. Acting Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff.

1. Open Comment: Introduction to guests Jason Giffen, Marty Settevendemie and Supervisor Jim Patterson.

2. Agency Reports & Member Announcements/Reports:

- Eric Michielssen shared that there was a recent court order for the destruction of genetically modified beets due to the lack of adequate environmental review regarding the potential impacts associated with the crop.
- Brenda Ouwerkerk provided highlights of written Departmental Announcements report prepared by the Agriculture Department. Brenda indicated that the recruitment for a new Agricultural Commissioner has been postponed until the beginning of next year, therefore, she will be acting as the interim Agricultural Commissioner. Brenda also indicated Crop Report surveys will be sent out during January 2011.
- Written report provided by Agriculture Department.

3. Previous Minutes:

MOTION: Approve minutes as mailed: **Motion – Don Warden . 2nd – Neil Roberts. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

4. Introduction of Jason Giffen, Director of County Department of Planning and Building.

- Acting Chair Jean-Pierre Wolf introduced Jason Giffen as the new Director of the Department of Planning and Building. Jason indicated he was in his first phase of a listening tour and is in the process of learning the needs of agricultural stakeholders and the lay of the land. Jason is interested in continuing to use the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) as the forum to initiate dialogue regarding policy related issues. Jason indicated he had 11 years experience in San Diego in which one of his responsibilities was as liaison between the Agriculture and Planning Departments. He is happy to be present at ALAB meeting and looks forward to returning from time to time.
- Jean-Pierre Wolff asked Jason if there are key items on the agenda that will affect agriculture. Jason indicated there were many including the continued work on the Paso Robles Ground Water Basin Resource Capacity Study, renewable energy plants, agricultural cluster subdivisions, and community wide updates for Shandon and San

Miguel.

5. Shandon Community Plan Update Process (Jay Johnson DP&B)

- Jay Johnson introduced the community of Shandon to ALAB members by describing the location as 18 miles east of Paso Robles and entirely surround by agricultural land; existing population consists of approximately 1,230 residences; and that the predominate land use is residential but that the community had good bones that include a fire station, 11-acre community park and both elementary and high school facilities. Jay indicated that since the by-pass of Highway 46 the town has lost commercial properties and grown stagnate. Jay explained that the idea for an update of the Shandon Community Plan originated due to discussions with the San Luis Obispo Housing Authority. Subsequent to the initial discussions, several large agricultural property owners expressed an interest in developing their property as well and these properties are what established the project study area.
- A proposed community plan and associated Draft Environmental Impact report is available on the PB&D website. The plan is very ambitious and staff will be recommending a modified compact development version based on several factors, including but not limited to, limited water resources, infrastructure financing, conversion of biological and agricultural resources. The goal of the plan is to have a balance of housing and jobs.
- Currently there is not a sewer within the community. The first developer will be responsible for developing sewer. Infrastructure financing was reviewed and a draft of the study will be available January, 2011. Public hearings begin with a Planning Commission study session on January 31, 2011.

6. Status Report: Glassy –Winged Sharp Shooter Infestation in the City of SLO (Marty Settevendemie, Ag Department)

- Marty Settevendemie introduced the item and presented a summary of events to date including:
 - The original detection and determination of the extent of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter infestation in San Luis Obispo.
 - The current regulatory efforts (quarantine) being implemented and impacted businesses.
 - The current eradication plan outlining probable treatment methods and outreach to the public.
 - Program Funding
- Jim Patterson questioned how the treatments may affect parasitic wasps. Marty indicated he would research the question. Mary Bianchi stated that foliar treatments would have an impact on the wasps but populations tend to decline naturally in the fall and winter.
- Brenda Ouwerkerk indicated that a county initiated eradication program is a challenge to the Department as we are not sure how it is going to be received by the public

because of the application of pesticides to private property. Neil Roberts and Jean-Pierre Wolff indicated an interest in the grape growing/wine industry working with the Agricultural Department to educate the public about the eradication program and measures growers are taking to monitor for and keep this pest out of the county.

7. Marty's presentation outline as a handout provided at the meeting is included below

8. Upcoming Meeting: February 7, 6 PM.

Future Agenda Items: None identified.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 PM. Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, County Agriculture Department.

Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) Detection, Quarantine and Eradication, SLO County 2010

Prepared by Marty Settevendemie, Deputy Ag Commissioner for ALAB: 12-6-10

Detection and Delimitation:

- Marty Settevendemie, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner introduces the item and summarizes events to date as follows:
- September 8th – One adult and three immature life stages of GWSS (*Homalodisca vitripennis*) were detected in a single trap in a residential area in southeastern San Luis Obispo.
- This detection prompted a delimitation survey by the Ag Department consisting of:
 - High density trapping (per CDFA protocol) of 100 traps per square mile around the detection site.
 - The Ag Dept. opted to increase the density to 300 traps per square mile because the type of trap used has no other attractant aside from color. (Higher trap numbers gives a better idea of the scope of the infestation)
 - Traps were also placed in neighboring vineyards by County and vineyard staff as an added detection measure.
 - A visual survey of all host plants (plants that GWSS feed and/or breed on) was conducted in a ¼ mile radius (522 residences) around the detection site.
- To date, the visual survey and high density trapping has yielded six adults and three immature (nymph) life stages of GWSS.
- All live life stages detected were found in a tightly concentrated area.

Quarantine Establishment:

- The definition of a GWSS infestation includes, “the detection of multiple life stages within any five day period and within a 300 yard radius”. We met this definition with our initial trap detection.
- A quarantine is established when the definition of an infestation is met.
- The quarantine boundary for GWSS encompasses a 1 mile radius around the infested area.
 - Nursery stock is the primary conveyance of GWSS and the primary focus of a quarantine.
 - Regulations pertaining to the movement of harvested grapes are no longer enforced. There has never been a detection of GWSS in a shipment of bulk or fresh grapes since the program began.
- One nursery located in the northern fringe of the quarantine area was required to be placed under regulation.
 - This nursery was issued a “compliance agreement” outlining all of the requirements that need to be met to transport nursery stock outside of the quarantine boundaries.

Eradication:

- Biological control (parasitic wasps of the genus *Gonatocerus*) were released within the infested area in early fall.
- Pesticide treatments will begin in February of 2011.
- The products that will be used are **Merit 75 WSP**, EPA Reg. No. 432-1318 and **Core Tect**, EPA Reg. No. 432-1457 (Imidacloprid is the active ingredient for both products).
 - Imidacloprid is the standard active ingredient for GWSS eradication treatments statewide and is a systemic pesticide and is a common ingredient in flea treatments for pets.
- The method of application will be a sub-soil injection of Merit 75 WSP on all plant types except Citrus and sub-soil placement of Core Tect tablets for all Citrus. These methods were chosen based on the size of the infestation (small), the time of year, biology of the pest, residual effectiveness of the treatment and public perception.
- Foliar (spray) applications have less residual (about 3 weeks) as opposed to a sub-soil injection with residual of up to a full growing season. There tends to be more public concern over foliar applications. Foliar applications of imidacloprid are also highly toxic to bees.
- An informational mailer has been sent to all residences in the treatment area and those in the vicinity of the proposed treatments. (GWSS Hotline – 781-1117)
- Prior to any treatments, an “Open House” will be scheduled to provide information to the public regarding treatments. Representatives from California Department of Food and Agriculture, SLO Ag Commissioner’s Office and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment will be available to answer questions and address any concerns.
- About 60 properties (landscaped areas) are slated to be treated.
 - Treatments will be made by a licensed Pest Control Business.
 - Applications will take 3-4 days to complete.
 - We will follow up with additional treatments if we continue to detect GWSS in the area.

- Monitoring will continue through the eradication phase of the project with trapping and visual surveys.
- Eradication can be declared after one full season (February to October) without additional finds.
 - We are considering the idea of keeping the quarantine in place for two full seasons as a precaution.

Project Funding:

- All work performed for this project is funded through a contract with CDFA, Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP).
- SLO County has designated the Agricultural Commissioner as the local public entity responsible for implementing the program at the local level and can legally enter into contracts with PDCP.

Please contact Martin Settevendemie, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner for additional information at (805)781-5910 or msettevendemie@co.slo.ca.us



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AGRICULTURAL LIAISON ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DEPARTMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 6, 2010

CALENDAR

Dec. 9 Planning Commission – hearing: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study
Dec. 14 BOS meeting - Resolution recognizing Bob Lilley’s 33 years of public service and retirement.
Dec. 23 Bob Lilley’s last day in the office as Ag Commissioner/Sealer
Jan. 10 County Health Commission meeting – review of Department’s Pesticide Enforcement Program
Jan. 31 Planning Commission – study session: Shandon Community Plan Revisions

1. Ag Commissioner/Sealer recruitment: 2 applications were submitted in November. BOS and County CAO decided to re-open recruitment in Jan/Feb, 2011. County HR staff is working to get announcement about vacancy more widely distributed to potential, qualified candidates. Brenda Ouwerkerk will serve as interim Ag Commissioner, and Brett Saum will serve as interim Sealer of Weights and Measures until position is filled. Bob Lilley will return to the Department in mid January as Temp Help employee to assist with transition and to complete special projects.
2. The Department’s Annual Crop Report grower surveys for 2010 will be mailed in December. Producers are encouraged to return the surveys ASAP.
3. Any frost/weather crop damage to report?