

## ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 3, 2011

**Members and Alternates Present:** Dee Lacey, Anthony Stornetta, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Don Warden, Lisen Bonnier, Mary Bianchi, Charles Pritchard, Mark Pearce, Richard Quandt, Bill Struble, Eric Michielssen, Lisa Bodrogi, David Pruitt, and Joy Fitzhugh

**Absent Members:** Noah Small, Neil Roberts, Dick Nock, Richard Hawley, and Tom Ikeda

**Guests Present:** Susan McDonald, Hearst Ranch; Laura Edwards, Executive Director Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD

**Staff:** Brenda Ouwerkerk and Lynda Auchinachie, Agriculture Department

**Call to Order:** 6:10 PM. Quorum Present.

- **Open Comment:** ALAB members provided a brief update on the current state of their industry and information regarding upcoming workshops.

### 1. Agency Reports & Member Announcements/Reports:

- Brenda Ouwerkerk provided the Agriculture Department announcements summary sheet and indicated that there was no new Planning Department update to share since our last meeting.
- Chair Lacey indicated that the appropriate paperwork had been submitted and Lisa Bodrogi is now the Wine Grape Representative alternate for ALAB.
- Laura Edwards, the new Executive Director for the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD, was introduced to ALAB members. Laura indicated she has a background in environmental policy and planning with an emphasis on low impact development. Laura also shared that the RCD will soon be providing water testing and monitoring services.

### 2. Previous Minutes:

**MOTION:** Approve minutes: **Motion – Jean-Pierre Wolff. 2nd – Charles Pritchard. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

### 3. Williamson Act Update Regarding BOS September 27, 2011, Hearing on Implementation of AB 1265 (Chair Dee Lacey)

- Chair Dee Lacey shared that she met with two board members before the hearing to discuss ALAB ideas should the BOS decide to implement AB 1265. The ideas included a scaled tax rate and whether a portion of the collected taxes could be designated for the benefit of agriculture. Both issues were raised at the hearing; however, staff indicated the suggestions were not feasible. Dee informed ALAB members that the BOS voted 4-0 to NOT implement AB 1265 at this time. Supervisor Bruce Gibson abstained from the vote because he has a Williamson Act contract. Dee indicated that Jim Grant, County Administrative Officer, reminded board members that they are making a choice between financial needs countywide. Dee stated that board members recognized that a choice had been made and affirmed the importance of the agriculture industry in the county. The BOS may discuss the implementation of AB 1265 again next year.

#### 4. Review of ALAB Events Ordinance Subcommittee Recommendations (Chair Dee Lacey)

- Chair Dee Lacey provided ALAB members with a draft letter to the BOS she prepared with fellow events ordinance subcommittee members Lisa Bodrogi and Joy Fitzhugh. ALAB members reviewed and discussed the draft letter that outlined concerns regarding the proposed events ordinance and recommendations to address these concerns.
- Lisen Bonnier thanked the subcommittee for their work that helped clarify a complex ordinance. Lisen indicated she agreed with many of the recommendations but that she still has concerns regarding the number of events that could occur with a ministerial permit and how so many events could be considered consistent with AGP6. Lisen suggested that a more appropriate number of events would be six. Overall, Lisen indicated that the subcommittee recommendations were going in the right direction.
- Lisa Bodrogi stated that the requirements for special events associated with winery facilities is a separate issue and would not be affected by the proposed ordinance. Lisa indicated that nonprofit events should not be counted against the number of events approved through a ministerial permit. ALAB members discussed how this issue was addressed in the draft letter prepared by the subcommittee
- Susan McDonald shared her concern regarding the requirements that existing structures be brought into conformance with building and safety codes for occupancy uses. Susan indicated that such improvements could be cost prohibitive and that there could be significant economic impacts associated with the proposal. Susan was particularly concerned about the nonprofit organizations that rely on fundraising events held in a nonconforming dairy barn on Hearst Ranch. The dairy barn may be a historical structure and required improvements could change the character of the structure. Susan suggested that the requirements be modified to allow for discretion similar to what is available in Napa County. ALAB members discussed including such a recommendation in the letter to the BOS.
- Chair Dee Lacey summed up the night's discussion by stating the proposed ordinance is "bureaucracy at its worst." Dee recognized the effort by county staff and stakeholders to improve the ordinance but felt the ordinance was still complicated and problematic. ALAB members shared their frustration and indicated that many issues could be solved by clearly stating who and what was exempt from the ordinance as part of the introduction to the ordinance as well as preparing a user's guide for implementation of the ordinance.

**Motion** – Submit a letter to the Board of Supervisors with recommended changes to the proposed Events Ordinance as represented in the ALAB events ordinance subcommittee's draft letter and proposed additions regarding existing structures. **Motion:** Mary Bianchi. **Second:** Lisen Bonnier. **Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

#### 5. Agricultural Cluster Subdivision Program Status Report (Lynda Auchinachie, Agriculture Department)

- Lynda Auchinachie indicated that the Draft Environmental Impact Report is available on the Planning Departments website <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/environmental/EnvironmentalNotices/deir2011.htm> Individuals can comment on the draft until October 17, 2011. The first Planning Commission hearing is tentatively scheduled for January, 2012.

**6. Selection Process for ALAB Chair and Vice Chair 2012 Election (Chair Lacey)**

- Chair Dee Lacey indicated that it is time to consider nominations for the 2012 elections. Dee recommended Mark Pearce, Dick Nock, Lisen Bonnier, and Tom Ikeda for a subcommittee to identify nominees.

**Motion** – Form a subcommittee to identify nominees for ALAB Chair and Vice Chair 2012 elections.

**Motion:** Mark Pearce. **Second:** Don Warden. **Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

**7. Upcoming Meeting:** November 7, 2011, 6 PM

**Additional Comment:** None.

**Future Agenda Items:** 2012 Election. Meeting adjourned: 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, County Agriculture Department.