

DRAFT ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 7, 2020

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, Sarah Kramer, Kaylee Ellis, Tom Ikeda, George Kendall, Daniel Chavez, Jerry Diefenderfer, Dick Nock, Butch Yamashita, Mark Battany, Randy Diffenbaugh, Melissa Danehey, Joe Plummer, Brent Burchett, and Jean-Pierre Wolff

Staff Attending: Marc Lea and Lynda Auchinachie – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture; Liz Pozzebon and Leslie Terry – San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services

Absent Members: Craig Pritchard, Mark Pearce, Krista Burke, and Claire Wineman

Guests Attending:– Patricia Wilmore – Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance, David Broadwater - Center for Sludge Information (CSI)

1. Call to order, introductions, quorum determination: The meeting was called to order by Chair Rodrigues at 5:04 pm

2. Open comment: (for items not on the agenda): Marc Lea indicated San Luis Obispo County Public Works is looking to partner with local property owners, particularly in the Paso Robles/Adelaide area, to establish oak tree mitigation areas. Interested parties can contact Keith L. Miller at klmiller@co.slo.ca.us.

3. Review/approval of May, August and October 2020 meeting minutes:

May **Motion:** Bonnier Approve May 2020 minutes.
Motion 2nd: Nock
Approved: Unanimous by all voting members. Abstain: George Kendall

August **Motion:** Kendall Approve August 2020 minutes.
Motion 2nd: Nock
Approved: Unanimous by all voting members. Abstain: None

October **Motion:** Kramer Approve October 2020 minutes.
Motion 2nd: Bonnier
Approved: Unanimous by all voting members. Abstain: Jerry Diefenderfer

4. ALAB Membership Updates – Marc Lea

- ALAB members term for Board of Supervisor Districts 1, 3, and 5 expire in January 2021. Marc and Chair Rodrigues are working with BOS members to ensure positions are filled. Don Warden has stepped down from representing the Farm Bureau on ALAB, after 45 years. Randy Diffenbaugh will be taking Don's position on ALAB. Randy introduced himself as a grower of grains, onions, and carrots in North County. Brent Burchett will be the Farm Bureau alternate.

Marc Lea continues to work with CCOF and farmers market representatives to fill the vacant direct marketing/organic representative position. The strawberry position has yet to be filled.

- ALAB members discussed Don Warden's considerable contribution to ALAB and recommended a formal recognition occur.
- Marc Lea indicated that Monday evening ALAB meetings are scheduled to be virtual at least through March 2021 and then back in the Farm Bureau conference room once COVID-19 restrictions allow. The 2021 meeting schedule is available on the ALAB website:
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/All-Forms-Documents/Information/Meeting-Minutes/ALAB-Meeting-Agendas,-Minutes,-Presentations/2021-ALAB-Calendar.pdf>

5. Presentation/Discussion: Proposal for the Extension of the County's Land Application of Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Interim Ordinance

Liz Pozzebon and Leslie Terry, County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services

- Leslie Terry shared that the current Land Application of Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Interim Ordinance will expire soon, and that Environmental Health Services is recommending to the BOS on December 15, 2020, that it be extended for another five years. Leslie provided an overview of biosolids, history of regulation in San Luis Obispo County, state regulations and the role of Environmental Health Services regulating biosolids.
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/All-Forms-Documents/Information/Meeting-Minutes/ALAB-Meeting-Agendas,-Minutes,-Presentations/2020/EHS-Biosolids-Presentation-12-7-20-ALAB.pdf>
- David Broadwater shared information with ALAB members during the public comment period.
- ALAB members discussed the long history of local biosolid regulation and the new efforts by the State regarding PFAS in biosolids.

Motion: Bonnier - Send a letter to the Board of Supervisors indicating ALAB support for the extension of the proposed Land Application of Biosolids Interim Ordinance.

Motion 2nd: Wolff

Approved: Unanimous by all voting members. Abstain: Jerry Diefenderfer

6. Presentation/Discussion: Weather Station Installation in San Luis Obispo County

Mark Battany, University of California Cooperative Extension

- Mark Battany shared that he has 18 of his anticipated 20 weather stations established in agricultural areas throughout San Luis Obispo County. Mark provided the history of this effort to establish localized information relative to frost, inversions and chill factor potential, rainfall to enable groundwater management, and wind patterns to reduce risk of spray drift. The weather stations are 30 feet in height and installed with a voluntary agreement with property owners. Mark will also be establishing 20 similar weather stations in Santa Barbara County. For specifics about Mark's weather station program, please see the details included in his presentation:
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/All-Forms-Documents/Information/Meeting-Minutes/ALAB-Meeting-Agendas,-Minutes,-Presentations/2020/UCCE-Weather-Station-Presentation-12-7-20-ALAB.pdf>

7. Updates from Ag Department staff

Marc Lea, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

- The Industrial Hemp – Permanent Ordinance for the Coastal Zone is anticipated to go before the Board of Supervisors on February 2nd, 2021.
- Private Applicator Certificate Renewals can be renewed with continuing education classes online. Details, including a list of available free online classes, are available on our website: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/Services/Private-Applicator-Certificate-Exams.aspx>
- Permit and OIN Renewals do not require in person meetings for issuance as they can now be issued remotely with e-signatures. Growers should call their district PUE inspector to schedule.
- Surgical masks are still available through the Agriculture Department for farmworkers. COVID-19 testing for farmworkers remains available but there could be a similar wait period as with the general public with growing overall demand for testing.

9. Future agenda items: none identified

Next meeting – January 4, 2020

Meeting Adjourned 6:35 pm

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