



COUNTY OF NEVADA Agricultural Advisory Commission (AAC)

Community Development Agency
Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959
New.nevadacounty.com/nc/cda/agcomm

Brad Fowler, Chair – Other Livestock Industry
Laura Barhydt Vice Chair – Cattle Industry
Aleta Barrett - Farming Industry
Debbie Bierwagen – Agricultural Interests
Robert Graham - Cattle Industry
Alyssa Mayo – Equine Industry
Seth Rosmarin- Agricultural Interests
Alex Szabo – Viticulture Industry

Agricultural Advisory Commission DRAFT MINUTES, May 20, 2021, Meeting

Members Present: Brad Fowler, Laura Barhydt, Aleta Barrett, Debbie Bierwagen, Robert Graham, Alyssa Mayo, Seth Rosmarin and Alex Szabo.

Members absent:

Staff Present: Supervisor Sue Hoek; Chris de Nijs- Agricultural Commissioner

Public Present: Chip Close, Nevada Irrigation District (NID), Rich Johansen- NID; Cindy Fake- UCCE; Dan Macon – UCCE; Brandi Murphy- NRCS; Roger Ingram- Retired UCCE/Rancher; Rob Thompson- Rancher

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chair Fowler led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Introduction of New Commission Members

Alyssa Mayo introduced herself as the new Equine Industry Representative on the commission and gave a brief background about herself. Alex Szabo also introduced himself as the new Viticulture Industry Representative on the commission and gave a brief background about himself. Other commission members introduced themselves as well.

4. Approval of Agenda

Item 5 was removed from the agenda.

Commissioner Barhydt moved to approve the agenda as modified. Commissioner Bierwagen seconded the motion. **The motion was carried unanimously.**

5. Approval of Minutes of the March 17, 2021 Meeting

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. Public Comment

No Public Comment was given.

7. Agency Reports (5 minutes each)

A.) Nevada Irrigation District (NID)

Chip Close- NID:

B.) Resource Conservation District (RCD)

None given

C.) UCCE Farm Advisor

Cindy Fake- UCCE:

Dan Macon- UCCE:

D.) Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

Brandi Murphy- NRCS:

E.) Sierra Harvest

None given

8. New Business

A.) Illegal Roadside Produce Vendors- (Informational)

Discussion on illegal roadside produce vendors and what is currently being done and other ideas to address the issue.

**B.) Sheep and Goat Herder Wage Resolution Request to Board of Supervisors - (action item)
Potential recommendation to Board of Supervisors to support statewide efforts to mitigate the impact of the Ag Overtime bill (AB 1066) on herder wages.**

Former UCCE and current livestock producer Roger Ingram, as well as UCCE Livestock Advisor Dan Macon gave a presentation to the commission on the impacts that AB 1066 (Ag Overtime) would have on the those in the sheep and goat industry who utilize herders. Part of the presentation included that AB 1066 computes sheepherder compensation based on a 168-hour work as they are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Based on the 168-hour work week labor costs will increase 38.4% in 2022 and rise 52% in 2025. Additionally, it was mentioned that this rise in labor costs would increase costs in targeted grazing operations who's purpose it to reduce the severity of fires and improve wildlife habitat through targeted grazing. This cost would likely be passed on to customers resulting in less acres being contracted for fuel load reduction, which in turns increases the fire risk. A solution to the herder wage issue was brought to the commission in the form of seeking support from the AAC to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, that the BOS pass a resolution asking Governor Newsome to direct his Labor Agency to calculate sheep and goat herder wages based on the Federal definition. It was also mentioned that numerous other counties (Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kings, Tulare, Kern) have already passed resolutions similar to the request being made today. A copy of the Fresno County BOS Resolution was also proved.

Mr. Ingram then proceeded to answer a few clarifying questions for the commission. At that time Chair Fowler asked for public comment. Rob Thompson provided public comment that he is a Nevada County livestock producer who would be directly impacted by AB 1066. He is

PERSONS ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION

Public comment is encouraged on issues relating to Agriculture subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. Reasonable time will be allowed to comment on Agenda Items. Interested parties can request Items to be placed on the Agenda by making such requests in writing to: Chairman, Nevada County Agricultural Advisory Commission, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959. Requests must be received two weeks prior to a scheduled meeting. Items may also be brought from the floor although no action shall be taken unless otherwise authorized by Subsection (6) of Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Written comments will be read into the record and duly considered by the Commission. This agenda was posted on bulletin boards 72 hours in advance of the meeting at the following location: Eric Rood Administrative Center.

POSTED: Friday, May 14, 2021

unsure what they would do in the future. Mr. Thompson stated that the sheep and goat herder industry is unique in the sense that employers are required to provide herders with food, housing and cell phones at no cost to the herders. Mr. Thompson also raised concerns that the increase in costs would lead to a decrease of targeting grazing through the state and county.

With no other public comment, Chair Fowler closed public comment. At that time Commission Member Graham made a motion that the commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors, that the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution, similar to the Resolution in Fresno County, urging Governor Newsome to use his administrative authority to adopt the federal weekly work hours standard for herders in California. Commission Member Barrett seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Agricultural Commissioner's Report

10. Member Announcements

11. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm

* Next Meeting Date: July 21, 2021 *

PERSONS ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION

Public comment is encouraged on issues relating to Agriculture subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. Reasonable time will be allowed to comment on Agenda Items. Interested parties can request Items to be placed on the Agenda by making such requests in writing to: Chairman, Nevada County Agricultural Advisory Commission, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959. Requests must be received two weeks prior to a scheduled meeting. Items may also be brought from the floor although no action shall be taken unless otherwise authorized by Subsection (6) of Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Written comments will be read into the record and duly considered by the Commission. This agenda was posted on bulletin boards 72 hours in advance of the meeting at the following location: Eric Rood Administrative Center.
POSTED: Friday, May 14, 2021