



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

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Mali LaGoe
Acting Community Development Agency Director

Chris de Nijs
Agricultural Commissioner

**Agricultural Advisory Commission
DRAFT MINUTES, March 17, 2021, Meeting**

Members Present: Brad Fowler, Laura Barhydt, Sue Hoek, Seth Rosmarin, Aleta Barrett, and

Members absent: Robert Graham and Debbie Bierwagen

Staff Present: Chris de Nijs, Agricultural Commissioner; and Jennifer Acree, Office Assistant

Public Present: Dan Macon, Farm Advisor; Chip Close, Nevada Irrigation District (NID), Rich Johansen, Diana ___ Cannabis Alliance, Deborah Tatoonchie, Nevada County Farm Bureau

A.Call to Order

Commission Chair Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B.Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chair Fowler led the pledge of allegiance.

C.Approval of Agenda

Commission Chair Fowler called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commission Member Barrett motioned. Commission Member Barhydt seconded the motion. **None abstained. None opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.**

D.Approval of Minutes of the January 20, 2021, Meeting

Commission Chair Fowler called for a motion to approve the January 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Commission Member ___ motioned to approve the meeting minutes as written. Commission Member ___ seconded the motion. **None abstained. None opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.**

E.Public Comment

F. Agency Comment

1.) Nevada Irrigation District (NID)
Chip Close

2.) Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD)
No report.

3.) UCCE Farm Advisor
Dan Macon reported:

D.) Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

No report.

4.) Sierra Harvest

Malaika:

G.) New Business

1.) Presentation - Food Systems Assessment Report - Nevada County Food Policy Council

2.) AB 1103 (Dahle) - Agricultural Pass Program - Possible support recommendation to BOS (action)

Chris reported that AB 1103 was introduced in February of 2021 by Assemblywoman Megan Dahle. This bill would create an agricultural pass program allowing farmers and producers to access their farmland during a disaster. If passed, this bill will authorize a county agricultural commissioner or other agency to issue an identification document granting a producer access to their farm or ranch during a natural disaster.

The bill mandates the State Fire Marshal, to develop training curriculum for agricultural producers eligible for the program. An ag pass program like this is being discussed currently at the local level and includes Placer and Nevada County agencies.

Chris included this item for possible support from the AAC. If supported, a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors may be made. The Commission expressed support for this bill and agreed to request the Board of Supervisors to support it also.

Commission Chair Fowler called for public comment. Seeing and hearing none, Commission Chair Fowler called for a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors they support AB 1103.

MOTION:

Commission Vice Chair Barhydt motioned to recommend to the Board of Supervisors they support the Agricultural Pass Program via AB 1103. Commission Member Barrett seconded the motion. **None abstained. None opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.** (Commission Members Bierwagen and Graham were absent).

H.) Old Business

1.) Update to Land Use Development Code, Chapter XIV, Agricultural Lands, and Operations (Right to Farm Ordinance): Recommendation to BOS (action)

The Nevada County Farm Bureau's Executive Board presented the updates to the AAC for approval and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The AAC reviewed the revisions during the November 18, 2020, regularly scheduled meeting. The revisions will make the ordinance more consistent with current state law. The Board of Realtors and County Counsel have reviewed the proposed revisions and approve them. Chris included the draft document showing the tracked changes. The updates/revisions included are as follows:

1. Addition of Agritourism.
2. Clarifies that ag operations will not be considered a nuisance.
3. Requires a statement of disclosure be signed and recorded with the County Recorder when there is a transfer of real property
4. Revises the resolution of disputes to allow the CAC to mediate the issue. The dispute may go to arbitration of an agreement is not reached.

There were no further questions for staff and no further commission discussion.

Commission Chair Fowler called for public comment. Seeing and hearing none, Commission Chair Fowler called for a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the revised Right to Farm Ordinance as presented.

MOTION:

Commission Member Barrett motioned to recommend to the Board of Supervisors they approve and adopt the revised Right to Farm Ordinance as presented. Commission Vice Chair Barhydt seconded the motion. **None abstained. None opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.** (Commission Members Bierwagen and Graham were absent).

**2.) Update to Nevada County Agricultural Advisory Commission Bylaws:
Possible recommendation to BOS (action)**

Pursuant to recent discussion to update the commission bylaws, Chris included a draft document of the revisions in the commission meeting packet. Chris summarized the revisions previously suggested. The draft revisions are specific to the following sections of the bylaws:

1. Section IV (D) – Organization
2. Section V (A) (1) – Membership

The revisions will allow for one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve as ex-officio (non-voting) member of the commission. It also allows the three industry vacancies to be filled.

There were no further questions for staff and no further commission discussion.

Commission Chair Fowler called for public comment. Seeing and hearing none, Commission Chair Fowler called for a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors they approve and adopt the revised AAC bylaws as written.

MOTION:

Commission Vice Chair Barhydt motioned to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the proposed revised bylaws. Commission Member Barrett seconded the motion. **None abstained. None opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.** (Commission Members Bierwagen and Graham were absent).

8. Agricultural Commissioner's Report

10. Member Announcements

11. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Jennifer Acree, Office Assistant II

Approved on: _____

Commission Chair, Brad Fowler
