

MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Main Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director
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MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2023

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron

David Mancera

Jenet DeCosta

Bryce Lundberg

Glenda Humiston

Michelle Passero*

Mike Gallo

Joy Sterling

Chris Valadez

* virtual attendance

Absent:

Eric Holst

Rachelle Arizmendi

Julia Jackson

Doria Robinson

Frank Salazar

Patricia Stock

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Jenet DeCosta moved to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023, meeting. Board member Joy Sterling seconded the motion and a vote of (8-0) carried the motion. Board Member Chris Valadez were not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board following Agenda Item #8. The updated included the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld Proposition 12 (Farm Animal Confinement) as well as progress on statewide groundwater recharge following record-level snowpack. Other updates included participation in an Ag Tech Workforce event with Western Growers, ribbon cutting at a new Plenty facility in Compton, Dairy Council's 'Let's Eat Healthy!' farm to school/nutrition partnership, and the Spring Meeting of California's County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:

USDA Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program

The Board heard a presentation from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service on the Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program and the how the program links to the Regional Food Business Center awards.

Speaker:

- Tricia Kovacs, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

Following the presentation, the Board heard public comment from the following individual:

- Drue Brown, AgCEL

No further public comments were received on this agenda item. Public comments can be viewed at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:

USDA Regional Food Business Center - Southwest

The Board heard a presentation on the Southwest USDA Regional Food Business Center that will serve California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah. The University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources is the lead entity in coordinating activities of the center.

Speaker:

- Trish Kelly, Valley Vision

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PANEL DISCUSSION

USDA Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program (Panel 1)

The Board heard presentations from agricultural representatives related to priorities that the California Resilient Food System Infrastructure grants should focus on.

Speakers, included:

- Jamie Johansson, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Tim Johnson, California Rice Commission

The Panel Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) BREAK

(9) PANEL DISCUSSION

USDA Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program (Panel 2)

The Board heard presentations from agricultural stakeholders related to priorities that the California Resilient Food System Infrastructure grants should focus on.

Speakers, included:

- Michael Dimock, Roots of Change
- Paul Towers, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)
- Louisa McCovey, Yurok Tribe

The Panel Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) BOARD DISCUSSION

- Letter from CDFA's Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel (EFA SAP) on Regenerative Agriculture

The Board acknowledge receiving the letter from the EFA SAP, which was a response to the Board's inquiry of October 2022, seeking a framework for a definition on regenerative agriculture.

The recommended EFA SAP's framework for a definition of Regenerative Agriculture includes:

1. Being applicable, relevant, and useful for California Agriculture.
2. Leading to positive impacts on California's environmental, social, human health, and economic goals, including climate goals.

3. Providing measurable and verifiable outcomes, keeping in mind variability throughout the state, and – emphasizing outcomes farmers and ranchers can easily measure and that are not economically burdensome to measure.
4. Allowing for context specific outcomes (in terms of scale, geographic location, diverse and/or innovative agricultural systems, goals, etc.)
5. Include the idea that building soil health, including elements of physical quality, carbon sequestered, soil biodiversity, and alleviation of climate change (e.g., practices funded by the CDFA Healthy Soils Program) as a foundational element.

The Board will further consider this framework as it works on a public process for a recommendation on the definition of regenerative agriculture for state policies and programs. The public process will begin in Fall 2023.

The Board Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board heard public comment from the following individual:

- Jane Sooby, CCOF

No further public comments were received. Public comments can be viewed at:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 2:17 p.m.