

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

Location: FIRA USA
Yolo County Fairgrounds – Home Arts Building
1250 Gum Ave
Woodland, CA 95776

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director
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BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2024

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at approximately 10:00 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron	Joy Sterling	Glenda Humiston
Rachelle Arizmendi	Jenet DeCosta	Bryce Lundberg
David Shabazian		

Absent:

Chris Valadez	Mike Gallo	Julia Jackson
David Mancera	Michelle Passero	Doria Robinson

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Glenda Humiston moved to the approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024 Board meeting. Board member Rachelle Arizmendi seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of (7-0).

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

The Departmental Update occurred after Agenda Item #4. Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update focused on the current situation related to H5N1 in cattle and poultry. Resources are being made available at the federal/state level and multiple agencies are involved in a coordinated response in testing, surveillance, support and outreach.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD
FIRA USA OVERVIEW AND OPENING

The Board heard presentations from FIRA USA organizing and partner entities on the vision, purpose and scope of the event as well as the importance of autonomous farming and agriculture robotic solutions for California’s agricultural sector.

Speakers included:

- Glenda Humiston, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Gabriel Youtsey and Hannah Johnson, The Vine
- Mailalen Cazenave, FIRA USA

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Agricultural Technology and California Innovation Opportunities

The Board heard a presentation from a representative of Western Growers on the opportunities to advance agricultural technology and innovation within California's agricultural sector.

Speaker:

- Walt Duflock, Western Growers

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Agricultural Technology Investment Landscape

The Board heard a presentation from a representative from Farmhand Ventures, a venture firm that builds and backs startups shaping the future of work and agriculture. The presentation focused on the current investment climate for agricultural and food technology.

Speaker:

- Connie Brown, Farmhand Ventures

Following the presentation, public comments were provided by:

- Michael Miller, California Association of Winegrape Growers
- Bryan Little, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Gabe Youtsey, The Vine

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION

Regenerative Definition Update (December 2024 Meeting)

Board Staff provided an update to the Board on *Defining Regenerative Agriculture for State Policies and Programs*. Staff is working to complete a DRAFT for review at the December meeting following comments and direction from the Board at its September 3rd meeting.

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received

(10) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 12:15 p.m.