

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

Location: Video Conference - GoToWebinar

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MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2021
Video Conference

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on December 7, 2021 at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron

Nancy Casady

Mike Gallo

Bryce Lundberg

Joy Sterling

Ashley Boren

Helene Dillard

Andrew Thulin

Martha Montoya

Rachelle Arizmendi

Donald Bransford

Eric Holst

Jeff Huckaby

Absent:

VACANT

Christopher Valadez

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Helene Dillard moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2021 meeting. Board member Andy Thulin seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (11-0) carried the motion. Board members Don Bransford and Eric Holst were not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Undersecretary Christine Birdsong provided a brief update to the Board.

The update included recognition of Healthy Soils Week (Dec 6-10) and an overview of activities occurring to promote soil health; CDFA's continued work on implementation of Prop 12 (Animal Welfare) and the ongoing work related to port congestion. Other issues included the USDA announcement on the deregulation of the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) scheduled to begin on December 17th – reclassifying LBAM as a non-quarantine pest. Additionally, on December 2nd, US FDA announced a proposed rule that would replace the microbial criteria and testing requirements for pre-harvest agricultural water for covered produce. If finalized, the proposed rule would recognize that there is not a one-size fits all solution to water requirements in produce food safety.

The Undersecretary concluded remarks by mentioning that CDFA has created a single portal grants page on CDFA's website to highlight grant programs and funding opportunities. This portal is great resource for agricultural stakeholders to learn of funding availability and timelines. The Undersecretary also provided a brief report on the Secretary's participation at COP26.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (5) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy**
The Board heard a presentation by a representative of the California Natural Resources Agency on the Draft Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy.

Speaker:

- Amanda Hansen, California Natural Resources Agency

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (6) **PANEL DISCUSSION: Natural and Working Lands**
The Board held a panel discussion with agricultural stakeholders concerning the importance of ranching on natural and working lands.

Speakers included:

- Julie Morris, Morris Grassfed
- Victoria Rodriguez, California Cattlemen's Foundation
- Darrell Wood, California Rangeland Trust/Darrell Wood Ranches

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (7) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Global Trends in Sustainability**
The Board heard a presentation from a representative of Euromonitor International on global trends in sustainability – including consumer insight, packaging and market growth.

Speaker:

- Maria Coronado Robles, Euromonitor International

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (8) **BREAK**

- (9) **PANEL DISCUSSION: Packaging Innovations**
The Board held a panel discussion with representatives of packaging companies focusing on agriculture byproducts and reuse containers.

Speakers included:

- Amanda Freund, CowPots
- Ciaran McCarthy, Paradise Packaging
- Annika Greve, Loop

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (10) **BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**
No Board Business was conducted.

- (11) **PUBLIC COMMENT**
No Public Comments were provided.

- (12) **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting concluded at approximately 2:00pm