

MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

Location: CDFA Auditorium
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
Phone: (916) 651-8423

MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 30, 2008

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at approximately 9:07 a.m. Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by Al Montna.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Al Montna	Marvin Meyers	Karen Ross
Ashley Boren	Donald Valpredo	Thomas Dearnorff II
Donald Bransford	Ann Bacchetti-Silva	David Wehner
Craig McNamara		

Absent:

Luawanna Hallstrom	Kerry Tucker	Adan Ortega, Jr.
Daniel Dooley		

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 26, 2008

MOTION: Board member Marvin Meyers moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Board member Donald Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) OPENING REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

Undersecretary George Gomes provided a departmental update to the Board. Secretary Kawamura was traveling and not in attendance. Items discussed included: the Tri-National Agricultural Accord/Border Governors meetings held at CDFA, bovine tuberculosis, raw milk, rendering facilities, cattle thefts and biodiesel.

Undersecretary Gomes then introduced Larry Bezark, Assistant Director of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, CDFA, to provide an update on the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). Larry Bezark provided a general update on the current status of the LBAM project to the Board.

(5) OTHER BUSINESS

Earth Week Video

Board member Ashley Boren presented a video that aired on the Today Show featuring a California dairy operation that uses a methane digester to generate energy.

(6) PRESENTATIONS BY GUEST SPEAKERS

All speakers provided comment on the board's initiative to develop an 'Ag Vision' for California's agricultural future.

- Robert Woolley, Owner, Dave Wilson Nursery
- Chris Zanobini, Executive Vice President, California Grain and Feed Association
- Tom Jones, V.P. Fruit Production, Merrill Farms, LLC
- Dave Puglia, Senior V.P. of Government Affairs and Communications, Western Growers
- Richard Matteis, Administration, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Dr. Katie Tharp & Matthew Marsom, California Department of Public Health

- Richard Pidduck, Santa Paula Creek Ranch – *Submitted written comments*

(7) BOARD DISCUSSION ON CALIFORNIA AG VISION POLICY AND TIMELINE

The board had an open discussion on the parameters of an 'Ag Vision' policy and timeline. Dates and venues were discussed for public listening sessions on the Ag Vision. In addition, CDFA staff presented updates on grant applications relating to the Ag Vision process.

(8) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Three members from the audience provided comments.

Larry Sly, California Emergency Foodlink, expressed his hopes that the Ag Vision would include the priority of alleviating hunger. Demand for Foodlink programs has increased 10 –15 percent in local communities. Currently addressing a level of crisis that has not been seen before.

Peggy Miars, California Certified Organic Farmers, provided an overview of the CCOF organization and the organic industry within California. Expressed the need for the Ag Vision to include a fair representation of organic farmers within the process.

Thor Bailey, Ag Biomass Council, provided an overview of a biomass project within the Chico area and current grant opportunities that are available to support the project. Would like to follow-up with the Board in regards to a letter of support for this project.

(9) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board member Donald Valpredo expressed his appreciation to the Board and looks forward to working with the organization in the Ag Vision process.

Board member Donald Bransford inquired on the status of a Board policy regarding letters of support. Josh Eddy, Executive Director, responded that the department is in the process of drafting policy language and that a proposal will be before the Board at its next meeting.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:17 p.m.