

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

Locations: California Department of Food and Agriculture **Contact:** Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
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50 Oyster Watch Road
Edgartown, MA 02539

MEETING MINUTES JULY 9, 2013
Teleconference Meeting

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at approximately 10:15 a.m. Joshua Eddy, Executive Director of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by Joshua Eddy.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Craig McNamara	Bryce Lundberg	Ben Drake
Ashley Boren	Donald Bransford	Luawanna Hallstrom
Charles Boyer	Daniel Dooley	Joy Sterling

Absent:

Nancy Casady	Mike Gallo	Rodney Taylor
Sean McNally	Miles Reiter	Eric Holst

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 4, 2013

Board member Don Bransford moved to approve the minutes of the June 4th meeting. Board member Ben Drake seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Ross provided an update to the Board which included a status report on CDFA's Climate Change Consortium and the recently formed Nursery Advisory Board. In addition, Secretary Ross reported that CDFA is moving forward with the recommendations of the Groundwater Nitrate Report (SBX2) and is forming a taskforce to address nitrates in groundwater. CDFA also hosted another 21st Century Pest Symposium in Oakland, in which more than 200 people attended. The symposium focused on how to manage invasive species within communities. Other updates included an introduction of Elysia Fong as the Farm-to-Fork Coordinator for CDFA, an update on the dairy pricing decision, and the visit by USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator Phil Karsting.

(5) BOARD INTRODUCTION

Executive Director Josh Eddy introduced Joy Sterling as the most recent appointment to the State Board. Joy Sterling will represent the agricultural industry and is CEO of Iron Horse Vineyards in Sebastopol.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California State Fair

The Board heard a presentation by Rick Pickering, CEO of the California Exposition & State Fair. The California State Fair first occurred in 1854 in San Francisco and will continue its more than 150 year tradition from July 12-18th, 2013. The presentation included highlights about the upcoming fair and the role that the fair plays within the community.

Speaker:

- Rick Pickering, California Exposition & State Fair

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PANEL DISCUSSION – California Fairs Overview

The Board heard from representatives of CDFFA concerning the fiscal, regulatory, and non-regulatory oversight of California fairs. The presentation also included an overview of the initiatives CDFFA is working on with the fairs to enhance outreach and connections in local communities.

Panelists included:

- Jim Houston, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- John Quiroz, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Diana Paluszak, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California Fair Perspective

The Board heard from a representative of the Western Fairs Association who provided an overview of the changes that impacted the fair industry since state funding for California fairs was eliminated.

Speaker:

- Stephen Chambers, Western Fairs Association

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California Fair Services Authority

The Board heard from representatives from the California Fair Services Authority which provides a variety of services to fairs to assist them with operations, insurance and risk management.

Speakers included:

- Becky Bailey-Findley, California Fair Services Authority
- Rebecca Desmond, California Fair Services Authority

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) BREAK

(11) PANEL DISCUSSION – Role of California Fairs in Local Communities

The Board heard from fair representatives on the status of their individual fairs, the role that fairs play within local communities, and the current challenges and opportunities that the individual fairs are facing.

Speakers included:

- Patricia Conklin, Dixon May Fair and Sonoma-Marín Fair
- Dannette DePaul, Modoc District Fair
- Laurie Giannini, Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee
- John Alkire, Big Fresno Fair

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(12) PANEL DISCUSSION – Horse Racing

The Board heard from representatives within the horse racing community who provided an overview of the role that fairs play in the racing industry and opportunities for future growth.

Speakers included:

- Christopher Korby, California Authority of Racing Fairs
- Tim Fennell, Del Mar Fairgrounds

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(13) OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was before the Board.

(14) PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were provided.

Mark Eidman, Tehama County Fair, spoke on challenges of Tehama County Fair and the status of the fair grounds and fair facility. Mr. Eidman introduced Bill Goodwin, Chief Administrator for Tehama County, who further provided information concerning the Tehama County Fair.

Bill Goodman, Chief Administrator for Tehama County, spoke on the importance of the fair grounds to the local community. Mr. Goodman also spoke on the willingness of the County to provide a loan to pay off existing debt of the fair. Further, Mr. Goodman spoke on the status of the Joint Powers Authority governing board, the retention of state employees and existing assets of the fair. Mr. Goodman indicated that the county has resources available to assist the District Agricultural Association (DAA).

Nick Konovaloff, Rural County Representatives of California, spoke on the status of California's fair network. Mr. Konovaloff remarked that despite creativity and innovation within the fair industry, gaps still exist. Senate Bill 741 (Cannella) would make adjustments to the fair system to support long term viability.

Eric Mills, Action for Animals, spoke on animal welfare issues at the California State Fair. Mr. Mills' remarks focused on the following issues: farrowing crates; goldfish as prizes; hermit crabs as pets; rodeo events; mutton busting; wild animal acts; elephant rides; animal scrambles; and novelty food items. Mr. Mills advocates adopting humane changes at California fairs.

Virginia Handley, Paw Pact, also spoke on animal welfare issues. Ms. Handley's remarks focused on the welfare of animals at fairs and focused on the following topics: farrowing crates and live birthing exhibits; animals given away as prizes; elephant rides; petting zoos; and horse racing. Ms. Handley advocated for the humane treatment of animals to entice people back to fairs that are fun, educational, healthy, and humane.

Toni Okamoto, Animal Place, also spoke on animal welfare issues. Ms. Okamoto remarked that fairs should eliminate the use of live animals as exhibits. Further, Ms. Okamoto commented on eliminating farrowing cages from fairs, removing pregnant animal exhibits, and discontinuing elephant rides.

(15) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.