

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, Executive Director
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MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2015

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

(a) The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Craig McNamara presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Bryce Lundberg	Mike Gallo	Eric Holst
Ashley Boren	Helene Dillard	Craig McNamara
Rodney Taylor	Don Cameron	Ben Drake
Martha Montoya	Donald Bransford	Nancy Casady

Absent:

Miles Reiter	Mary Holz-Clause	Joy Sterling
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(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 5, 2015

Board member Ben Drake moved to approve the minutes of the May 5th meeting. Board member Bryce Lundberg seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief departmental update to the Board. Topics included: status of the national Avian influenza outbreak and California's disease preparedness; updates on invasive pests outbreaks – Guava fruit fly, Japanese beetle, and Asian citrus psyllid; use of antibiotics in livestock – State Veterinarian attended a White House Forum on the issue. In addition, Secretary Ross mentioned CDFA's Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) related to the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET), the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program and the Healthy Soils Initiative.

(5) PANEL DISCUSSION– Agriculture/Drought

The Board heard presentations from the Center for Watershed Sciences (University of California, Davis) and the California Employment Development Department concerning the economic impact of the drought.

Speakers included:

- Jay Lund, University of California
- Richard Howitt, University of California
- Josue Medellin-Azuara, University of California
- Paul Wessen, California Employment Development Department

Following the presentation by invited speakers, President McNamara opened the meeting to public comments. Two public comments were received.

John Kautz (Kautz Farms) commented that the agricultural industry continues to receive negative publicity concerning the drought and that more must be done to correct misperceptions about agricultural and water use. Mr. Kautz further commented that the Board should strongly advocate and engage on the water storage issues.

Joseph Mount (Continue to Farm Coalition) commented that agricultural needs water and he urged the Board to improve water storage and recycling.

No further public comments were received on this item.
The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Consumer Trust Research

The Board heard a presentation from the Center for Food Integrity concerning consumer research on the food system.

Speaker:

- Roxi Beck, Center for Food Integrity

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) BREAK

(8) PANEL DISCUSSION – Journalistic Perspective (Food & Drought)

The Board conducted a panel discussion with journalist from various media outlets concerning the drought and food supply.

Speakers included:

- Alissa Walker, Gizmodo (via videoconference)
- Nathanael Johnson, Grist
- Tom Philpott, Mother Jones (via videoconference)

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

(10) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board member Ashley Boren commented that the California Leopold Conservation Award was open for nominations and that the deadline is July 10th.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.