

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

Location: CA Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 'N' Street – Main Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
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MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 27, 2009

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at approximately 9:08 a.m. Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President Al Montna.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Al Montna	Michael Darnell	Donald Bransford
Ashley Boren	Arlan Van Leeuwen	Karen Ross
Thomas Deardorff II	David Wehner	
Marvin Meyers	Kerry Tucker	

Absent:

Donald Valpredo	Daniel Dooley	Luawanna Hallstrom
Craig McNamara	Adan Ortega, Jr.	

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 29, 2009

MOTION: Board member Tom Deardorff moved to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2009 meeting. Board member Marvin Meyers seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Kawamura provided a departmental update to the Board. Topics included: Recognition of Davood Ghods for receiving California's 2009 Award for Vision and Innovation in Government for his work in information technology (IT). The departmental update was delayed and followed the California Drought Update presentation by Wendy Martin, CA Department of Water Resources.

(5) CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

The Board heard from four speakers regarding the impact of the statewide drought. Speakers included:

- Wendy Martin, CA Department of Water Resources
- Dr. Richard Howitt, University of California Davis
- Scott Hudson, San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner
- John Hewitt, CA Department of Food and Agriculture

The California drought updated concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Russ Lester, Dixon Ridge Farms, provided a presentation to the Board focusing on impediments to “green” energy production. The presentation covered regulatory issues in regards to emissions, char-ash applications and interconnection.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PANEL DISCUSSION

The board conducted a panel discussion focusing on the potential for a California regulatory climate study relating to agricultural production.

Speakers included:

- Stuart Drown, Little Hoover Commission
- Mechel Paggi, California State University, Fresno
- Jay Noel, CA Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- Daniel Sumner, University of California, Davis

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) AG VISION DISCUSSION

The Board conducted a brief discussion on the Ag Vision process. Board member Karen Ross informed the Board that progress was occurring on white paper development and that planning with American Farmland Trust is continuing.

The Ag Vision discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

President Montna requested that the Board entertain a motion to develop a follow-up letter to County Agricultural Commissioners requesting drought updates and status of local disaster declarations.

MOTION: Board member Marvin Meyers moved to develop a follow-up letter to County Agricultural Commissioners regarding drought updates and status of local disaster declarations. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

President Montna further requested that the Board entertain a motion to develop a letter to the Little Hoover Commission regarding a California regulatory climate study. President Montna recommended that Board members Karen Ross and Ashley Boren work with staff to develop a letter for Board approval.

MOTION: Board member Karen Ross moved that a draft letter to the Little Hoover Commission be developed for Board approval. Board Member Ashley Boren seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

Secretary Kawamura provided a brief update regarding the reorganization of the department’s Agricultural and Environment Stewardship program.

(10) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public comment was provided.

(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:48p.m.