

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

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MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 30, 2010

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, June 30, 2010, at approximately 10:10 a.m. Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President Montna.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Al Montna	Marvin Meyers	Luawanna Hallstrom
Michael Darnell	Kerry Tucker	Kiran Black
Ashley Boren	David Wehner	Adan Ortega, Jr.

Absent:

Daniel Dooley	Donald Bransford	Craig McNamara
Arlan Van Leeuwen		

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 26, 2010

Board member Marvin Meyers moved to approve the minutes of the May 26th meeting. Board member Michael Darnell seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Undersecretary Will Brown provided a brief departmental update. Topics included the state budget and employee furloughs. Undersecretary Brown also thanked the employees of the department for their work during this difficult budget period.

(5) AG VISION UPDATE

Board member Luawanna Hallstrom provided an update on the California Agricultural Vision 2030 project. American Farmland Trust, acting as coordinator for the Ag Vision, has convened an advisory committee which identified five immediate actions for the Board to consider. In addition, the Ag Vision process has resulted in seven policy recommendations to be submitted for public comment, prior to the advisory committee's recommendation to the State Board for action. American Farmland Trust estimates a final report and a list of policy options for the State Board to consider in the fall of 2010.

MOTION: Board member Ashley Boren moved that the Board accept and implement the five immediate action items recommended by the California Agricultural Vision Advisory Committee. Board member Marvin Meyers seconded the motion and a unanimous vote passed the motion.

MOTION: Board member Ashley Board moved that the Board release the draft short term action and longer term challenges policy recommendations for public comment. Board member Luawanna Hallstrom seconded the motion and a unanimous vote passed the motion.

(6) FARMERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY UPDATE

Board member Kerry Tucker provided an update on the Board's Farmers Feeding the Hungry Subcommittee. The subcommittee has developed five strategies to help food banks double farm contributions by 2015. The five strategies are: Tap into the Ag Vision; simplify the process for donations; recruit farmer contributions; raise visibility among farmers; and tell the story to Californians. The subcommittee will continue its work to raise awareness and create synergies for increased farmer participation.

(7) PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD – CDFA Organic Oversight

The Board heard from two speakers concerning the National Organic Program and the California Organic Program.

Speakers included:

- Rick Jensen, California Organic Program
- Asif Maan, Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs and Egg Regulatory Services

The presentations concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PANEL DISCUSSION – National Organic Program

The Board heard from the four speakers regarding oversight of the National Organic Program and the California Organic Program.

Speakers included:

- Sean Feder, California Certified Organic Farmer
- Carlos Lawrence, Organic Certifiers
- Jaclyn Bowen, Quality Assurance International
- Kristy Korb, Oregon Tilth

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD – Invasive Species Update

The Board heard from two speakers regarding the status of invasive species within California that threaten agricultural production.

Speakers included:

- Robert Leavitt, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Helene Wright, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) PANEL DISCUSSION – Invasive Species

The Board heard from three speakers, representing agricultural organizations and advisory groups, concerning invasive species.

Speakers included:

- Bob Blakely, California Citrus Mutual
- Marcy Martin, California Grape and Tree Fruit League
- Doug Johnson, California Invasive Species Advisory Council

The presentations concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board addressed a draft resolution presented by Russ Lester, Dixon Ridge Farms, at the May 26, 2010 meeting of the State Board. The resolution focused on renewable energy production and the need for the California Public Utilities Commission to review their tariff promulgation process for renewable energy generation. Amendments were provided by Board members to the draft resolution.

MOTION: Board member Ashley Boren moved that the resolution, as amended, be adopted by the Board. Board member Dave Wehner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote passed the motion.

The Board also discussed the role of the State Board’s Water Subcommittee and the need to convene a position for the next administration on a statewide water plan.

(12) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Montna opened the meeting to public comments. Two individuals provided comments:

Mary Pfeiffer, Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer, commented on the important role county agricultural commissioners have in assisting in pest prevention efforts at the local level. Ms. Pfeiffer wished that an agricultural commissioner could have been part of the Board’s panel on invasive species. County agricultural commissioners and sealers provide funding to various programs, leverage local resources and deal with legislators at the state and federal level.

Michael Boitano, Amador County Agricultural Commissioner, commented that the formation of the Invasive Species Council has long been needed. Funding for weed management areas at the county level is vital and important. Amador has maintained a noxious weed program for 40-45 years.

(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.