

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
Office: (916) 654-0462

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 6, 2012

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at approximately 10:10 a.m. Craig McNamara, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President McNamara.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Craig McNamara	Ben Drake	Daniel Dooley
Ashley Boren	Donald Bransford	Miles Reiter
Kiran Black	Arlan Van Leeuwen	David Wehner

Absent:

Sean McNally	Kerry Tucker	Marvin Meyers
Luawanna Hallstrom		

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 7, 2012

Board member Ashley Boren made corrections to the minutes concerning roll call. Board member Don Bransford moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting as amended. Board member Dan Dooley seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Ross congratulated President Craig McNamara on receiving the 2012 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. The award recognizes and supports individuals who are advancing innovative and effective solutions to significant state issues.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Update on the California Nitrogen Assessment

The Board heard from one speaker who provided an update on an ongoing study concerning nitrogen use in California. The study seeks to identify the largest sources of nitrogen pollution in California and the practices that can be most effective in mitigating this pollution.

Speaker:

- Tom Tomich, Agricultural Sustainability Institute

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Nitrogen Management in Agriculture**

The Board heard from two speakers regarding industry led initiatives to reduce nitrogen exposure through on-farm management practices, education and training.

Speakers:

- Paul Martin, Western United Dairymen
- Robert Curtis, Almond Board of California

Public Comment:

Steve Shaffer, American Farmland Trust, discussed the efforts behind the Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops and that this initiative is to provide a method of measurement for stewardship on the farm and not set industry based standards.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Resources and Partnership**

The Board heard from the University of California’s Agriculture and Natural Resources division concerning the research, outreach and hands-on assistance the university can provide in addressing nitrogen management.

Speaker:

- Barbara H. Allen-Diaz, University of California

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) **BREAK**

(9) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Representative Monitoring Program**

The Board heard from a representative of Dairy Cares concerning industry led efforts to monitor nitrogen outputs and other programs assisting dairies with nitrogen management.

Speaker:

- J.P. Cativiela, Dairy Cares

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Nitrogen Management (Science)**

The Board heard from three speakers concerning nitrogen management from a regulatory perspective, the science behind management efforts and coalition development in addressing the issue.

Speakers:

- Amrith Gunasekara, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Johnny Gonzales, State Water Resources Control Board
- Joe Karkoski, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

(12) PUBLIC COMMENT

One individual provided public comment:

Bruce Houdesheldt, Northern California Water Association, discussed the issue of monitoring and regulatory action in response to exceedences. Mr. Houdesheldt also discussed the need for proactive engagement on this issue.

(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.