

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

Location: Center for Land Based Learning
5265 Putah Creek Road
Winters, CA 95694

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
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MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at approximately 9:20 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	Luawanna Hallstrom
Kerry Tucker	Arlan Van Leeuwen	Donald Bransford
Kiran Black	Ashley Boren	Daniel Dooley

Absent:

David Wehner	Marvin Meyers	Sean McNally
Adan Ortega, Jr.		

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 24, 2011

Board member Dan Dooley moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2011 meeting. Board member Ashley Boren seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Ross provided a brief departmental update to the Board. The updated focused on state and federal budgetary challenges and how it could impact pest prevention activities. Secretary Ross also provided an overview of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack's visit to California and the meetings he held with agricultural stakeholders.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers

The Board heard from a beginning farmer, and recent Farm School graduate, on his experience in starting a farming career.

Speaker:

- Justin Green, Farm School Graduate

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION– Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers (Education)

The Board heard from five representatives of organizations dedicated to new farmer education, outreach and development.

Speakers included:

- Tom Tomich, Agricultural Sustainability Institute
- Mary Kimball, Center for Land Based Learning
- Michael O’Gorman, Farmer Veteran Coalition
- Gary Peterson, Agriculture and Land Based Training Association
- Brett Melone, California FarmLink

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers (Policy)

The Board heard from a representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency on programs and policies available to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Speaker:

- Val Dolcini, USDA - Farm Service Agency

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Next Generation of Farm Workers

The Board was provided an updated on the National Council of Agricultural Employers position on H-2A program as well as legislative developments concerning the issue.

Speaker:

- Luawanna Hallstrom, California State Board of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PANEL DISCUSSION – Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers (Viewpoints)

The Board heard from four beginning farmers concerning their viewpoints on farming and how the agricultural community can better support new farmers and ranchers.

Speakers included:

- Paula Manalo, Mendocino Organics
- Hallie Muller, Full Belly Farm
- Shannon Douglass, Young Farmer & Rancher Program
- Travis Kamper, Mt Whitney Dairy/ Dairy Leader Program

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

The Board conducted the following business:

The Executive Director provided the Board with a draft response to the Lake County Board of Supervisors’ letter concerning Quagga and Zebra mussels. The Executive Director requested that the board consider the letter for approval.

MOTION: Board member Don Bransford moved that the draft letter to Secretary Ross concerning Quagga and Zebra mussels be approved. Board member Ben Drake seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

No further business was brought before the Board

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

Two individual provided public comment.

Hugh Mooney, North Coast Future Farmers of America (FFA), commented the FFA membership was at an all time high and that the organization provides a wide variety of education programs that can assist those individuals interested in farming.

Shawn Harrison, Soil Born Farms, commented on the challenge of legality in regards to farm apprenticeships and how the issue is impacting farmer education organizations. Mr. Harrison also commented that university and non-profit programs need to be re-envisioned to deal with the issue. In addition, Mr. Harrison remarked on the need to assist small farmers with marketing and the need to look at the whole food system, including urban agriculture as we consider new farmer and rancher programs.

(12) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program

The Board was provided an updated on beginning farmer and rancher programs at the national level and the opportunities and challenges facing new farmers.

Speaker:

- Poppy Davis, USDA Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(13) FARM TOUR – Center for Land Based Learning

Following the presentation by Ms. Davis, the Board was provided a tour of the Center for Land Based Learning and a growing operation of a new farmer.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

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