

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHARLES DRAXLER – DAIRY INDUSTRY
BOB PRYS – FEED/SEED & GRAIN
GARRETT GILCREASE –
AG CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM

GABE COOPER – WATER
DUSTIN FERENGE – KC FARM BUREAU
BRIAN POTTER – AG EQUIPMENT

VACANT – NUT CROPS
VACANT – SMALL FARMS
JULIE BELEZZUOLI-HATHAWAY -
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

SECRETARY: CHUCK KINNEY

STAFF: VICTOR HERNANDEZ (559) 852-2685

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Community Development Agency at (559) 852-2670 by 4:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to this meeting.

AGENDA

Thursday, April 11, 2024

4:00 P.M or soon after.

This meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held at the Kings County Government Center in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Kings County Ag Commissioner Agriculture Building (Bldg. No. 21), 680 N. Campus Drive, Hanford, California.

The Kings County Ag Advisory Committee requests that all cell phones and other electronic communication devices be muted or turned off while the meeting is in progress.

I. CALL TO ORDER –Secretary

A. Roll Call of Ag Advisory Committee Members: *(Chuck Kinney - Secretary)*

B. Unscheduled Comments:

Any person may address the Committee on any subject matter within the jurisdiction or responsibility of the Committee at the beginning of the meeting; or may elect to address the Committee on any agenda item at the time the item is called by the Chair, but before the matter is acted upon by the Committee. Unscheduled comments will be limited to five minutes.

C. Election of Officers

1. Open nominations for the election of the following officers for the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

(a) Chairperson - Call for motion, second and voice vote

(b) Vice Chairperson - Call for motion, second and voice vote

D. Approval of the minutes of the February 27, 2020 special meeting and the January 12, 2023 meeting:
Chairman: Call for motion, second and voice vote.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. NONE

Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the Ag Advisory Committee after the posting of the agenda for this meeting will be available for public review at Kings County Community Development Agency 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Bldg. 6, Hanford CA, or can be viewed online at: <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/agricultural-advisory-committee>.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mid-Kings River GSA's Proposition 218 Election (Chuck Kinney)

Discussion regarding Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Proposition 218 election.

1. Committee Discussion
2. Recommendation

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Future agenda items
- B. Correspondence
- C. Staff comments
- D. Committee member comments

V. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 11, 2024

KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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VACANT – AG CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM
DUSTIN FERENCE – KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

JUSTIN MENDES – WATER
BILL TOS – NUT CROPS
DENNIS TRISTAO – SMALL FARMS

VACANT – AG PROCESSING
BOB PRYS – FEED/SEED & GRAIN
BRIAN POTTER – AG EQUIPMENT

SECRETARY: GREG GATZKA

STAFF: KAO NOU YANG

MINUTES OF February 27, 2020

Call to Order:

At 4:00 p.m. on February 27, 2020 Chairman Dennis Tristao called to order the meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee in the Ag Commissioner's Multi-Purpose Room, 680 N. Campus, Hanford, California to order.

Committee Members Present:

Dustin Ference, Bill Tos,
Dennis Tristao, Charles Draxler

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Greg Gatzka, Jimmy Hook,

Auxiliary Members Present:

Committee Coordinator Present

County Staff Present:

Diane Freeman, Chuck Kinney,
Terri Yarbrough, Kao Nou Yang

Visitors Present:

Julianne Phillips, Dennis Mills, Rebecca Campbell, Carrie Wooley, Mark Gilkey, Ethan Warren, Lee Burdick, Scott Sills

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Committee Members Absent:

Brian Potter, Bob Prys

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Auxiliary Members Absent:

Kevin Day, Carlos Santos, Jay Salyer,
Philip Smith

Committee Coordinator Absent

Joe Neves

County Staff Absent:

Minutes: October 10, 2019 Regular Meeting

A motion was made and seconded (FERENCE/Mendes) to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2019 minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Prys and Potter absent

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider the possibility of a Programmatic EIR to facilitate Groundwater Sustainability Plan projects in Kings County (Greg Gatzka)

Mr. Gatzka stated this was being brought to the Commission because there may some interest in the County facilitating a programmatic EIR and would like to know what the Commission would like staff to explore. He stated a lot of the projects are exempt from the counties zoning and regulations. He asked the Commission what type of projects they would like staff to explore and see if the county could do a programmatic EIR.

A motion was made and seconded (Tristao/Tos) recommending staff work with legal counsel and put together a memo on this topic and put it out to the GSAs for their input. Mr. Gatzka's presentation regarding why the projects are categorically exempt should be included in the memo. Motion carried unanimously with Prys and Potter absent.

B. Draft Kings County Water Policy (Julianne Philips)

Julianne Philips presented the draft Kings County Water Policy and for feedback from the Kings County Agricultural Advisory Committee. She stated there would be a meeting on March 16 at 5:30 PM in the Kings County Multipurpose room with stakeholders where she would be addressing comments that had been received.

There was discussion regarding the language in the document and the Commissioners wanted more input from the GSAs. Chairman Tristao stated he would like to see responses to the two comment letters that were received by the Ag Advisory Committee for this meeting. Chairman Tristao also expressed concern that this policy may conflict with some of the goals of the Kings County General Plan and suggested that the General Plan be reopened based on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). There were concerns that the draft Kings County Water Policy isn't consistent with the Kings County General Plan. Mr. Gatzka explained what was required to update the General Plan and stated it may be time to update the General Plan since it hasn't been updated to incorporate SGMA requirements.

A motion was made and seconded (Tos/Draxler) to suggest that the following language changes to the draft water policy be considered.

1. "nearly impossible" be changed to "highly improbable" in the third paragraph on page 1
2. "Kings County Water Advisory Committee" be changed to "Kings County Water Commission and Kings County Agricultural Advisory Committee" in the fifth paragraph on page 1
3. "as well as water "banking" add language to say "as well as water "banking" and/or sinking basins" in the last paragraph on the last page
4. "permanent sales of water sourced from within the County outside of the County" changed to "permanent sale of water sourced from within it's watersheds.

Motion carried unanimously with Potter and Prys absent.

Chairman Tristao asked if anyone in the audience had any comments. Mr. Dennis Mills asked for clarification of conjunctive use for surface and groundwater. Ms. Phillips addressed conjunctive use. There was concern from the audience that there was not enough input from the GSAs. Mr. Ference asked what the timeframe was for staff to address the comments in the letters received. Ms. Phillips stated they would be incorporated in the language for the meeting with the stakeholders on March 16. Mr. Tos suggested that responses to the letters be made available at least a week prior to the March 16 meeting. Ms. Burdick stated they will address all the comments in one document prior to the meeting and will try to have it out a week prior to the meeting. Chairman Tristao stated it needs to be consistent with the GSA. Chairman Tristao suggested holding a joint meeting with the Water Commission.

A motion was made and seconded (Tos/Ference) to hold a joint meeting with the Water Commission in April after staff meets with the GSAs. Motion carried unanimously with Potter and Prys absent.

LEGISLATION

Kings County 2020 Legislative Platform update (Greg Gatzka)

Mr. Gatzka reported that the Board of Supervisors took action on legislation and legislative positions and received comments from Mr. Mendes that has been taken into consideration. The document was revised based on those comments. Mr. Kinney provided an overview of the changes that were made.

Correspondence: None

Member Comments: Mr. Tos stated he appreciated the communication tonight.

Staff/Agency Comments: None

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 9 at 4:00 p.m. This may be a special meeting with the Water Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Gatzka, Secretary

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SECRETARY: CHUCK KINNEY

STAFF: VICTOR HERNANDEZ

MINUTES OF January 12, 2023

Call to Order:

Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting was deemed an informative assembly without any business being conducted. There were no motions made or any official matters acted upon. The meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee was held in the Ag Commissioner's Multi-Purpose Room, 680 N. Campus, Hanford, California.

Committee Members Present:

Dustin Ference,
Dennis Tristao, Brian Potter

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Drexler, Bob Prys, Bill Tos,
Julie Belezzuoli-Hathaway

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Jimmy Hook, Chuck Kinney

County Staff Present:

Victor Hernandez, Chanda Jackson
Sean Cash, Kristi Lee, Tim Kochendarfer

Visitors Present:

JJ Westra

Unscheduled Comments:

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Impacts Water Availability & SGMA have on Agricultural Property Tax Assessments -** Kristi Lee and Tim Kochendarfer, Kings County Assessor/Clerk Recorder, provided a presentation and discussion regarding the future of agricultural property tax assessments in Kings County due to lack of water / SGMA impacts.
- B. Consider a change to the meeting day of the Ag Advisory Committee meeting –** Chuck Kinney explained the item would have to be decided by the Committee and then presented to the Board of Supervisors in order to take action. Due to a lack of quorum, there was not a motion made on this item.

C. Update on the Kings County Groundwater Export Ordinance – Chuck Kinney provided a brief overview of the Kings County Groundwater Export Ordinance, including information regarding the subcommittees established through the Kings County Water Commission.

Correspondence: None

Member Comments: None

Staff/Agency Comments: Mr. Kinney stated the Community Development Agency is working on presenting the General Plan Update to the Board of Supervisors and would be interested in feedback and input from the members of the Ag Advisory Committee.

Adjournment

With no further discussion amongst attendees, the meeting concluded at 5:07 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chuck Kinney, Secretary