

DRAFT ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Members and Alternates Present: Dan Rodrigues, Jean Pierre-Wolff, Kaylee Ellis, Lisen Bonnier, Don Warden, Claire Wineman, Butch Yamashita, Dan Jones. Via conference call: Mary Bianchi, Mark Battany, Tom Ikeda, Jutta Thoerner, Melissa Danehey

Staff Present: Marc Lea and Lynda Auchinachie – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture; Kip Morais and Brian Pedrotti – San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building; Dick Tzou – San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works

Absent Members: Mark Pearce, Daniel Chavez, Dick Nock, Krista Burke, George Kendall, and Craig Pritchard

Guests Present: Patricia Wilmore and Brent Burchett (via conference call)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:05 pm Chair Wolff

2. **ALAB Members – Organizational Updates and Public Comment**

- ALAB members discussed the BeeWhere program.

3. **Previous Minutes – December 2019**

Claire Wineman request notes for Item 6 be revised to indicate “her *organization’s* position has evolved...” and the addition of the three bullet point items recommended by the ALAB hemp subcommittee.

Motion: Wineman Approve December 2019 minutes with identified revisions.

Motion 2nd: Rodrigues

Approved: Unanimous by all voting members. Abstain: Tom Ikeda, Lisen Bonnier, Jutta Thoerner, Melissa Danehey, and Mary Bianchi

4. **ALAB Governance Membership Updates – Marc Lea**

- Chair Wolff thanked the nominating subcommittee for their recommendation of Lisen Bonnier for the position of Vice-Chair and Dan Rodrigues for Chair.

Motion: Wineman Approve nomination of Dan Rodrigues for ALAB Chair and Lisen Bonnier for Vice-Chair.

Motion 2nd: Warden

Approved: Unanimous by all voting members. Abstain: Melissa Danehey

- Dan Rodrigues took over as Chair from Jean-Pierre Wolff.
- Marc Lea indicated Claire Wineman, Butch Yamashita, Jutta Thoerner, and Dan Rodrigues terms last through late April 2020. Nominations for new terms should occur in early April 2020.

5. **Updates from Ag Department and County staff – Marc Lea and Dick Tzou**

- Marc Lea indicated European Grapevine Moth trapping would be happening during 2020 although trap densities will be reduced.
- Dick Tzou provided an overview of progress on Groundwater Sustainability Plans required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin plan is completed and has been submitted. Others are ongoing.
- Jean-Pierre Wolff brought up concerns regarding cloud seeding and unidentified impacts to the Edna Valley region.

6. Presentation and Discussion: The Development of a Permanent Ordinance for Industrial Hemp Cultivation in San Luis Obispo County; review of the January 23, 2020, Planning Commission Hearing and anticipation of April 2020 Board of Supervisors Hearing
 Marc Lea – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Kip Morais, San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building Department

- Marc Lea provided a general update regarding what occurred during the Planning Commission hearing and indicated the permanent ordinance would go before the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on April 7, 2020.
- Kip Morais identified the changes made to the ordinance based on Planning Commission recommendations. The changes include allowing for a reduction in minimum parcel size through a minor use permit and requiring a minor use permit for all proposals that are within 300 to 1,000 feet of a Village or Urban Reserve Line. Kip also indicated the Planning Commission recommend the BOS direct staff to explore the idea of specific geographical areas within the county that should possibly be excluded from hemp production.

7. Presentation and Discussion: Cannabis Cultivation and Potential Conflicts with Existing Agriculture – Development of a Condition of Approval regarding Pesticide Use
 Marc Lea, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

- Marc Lea provided ALAB members with the background information of why cannabis can be incompatible with surrounding agricultural operations which use pesticides that cannabis must be tested for. High value cannabis may have to be destroyed if even a very low level of a tested pesticide is detected on the cannabis. The Agriculture Department turned to County Counsel to help identify a way to protect nearby farmers from the liability risk cannabis may create once established in an agricultural area. It is recognized that offsite pesticide movement, although prohibited by statute, can occur, and a condition of approval (COA) and a related finding for cannabis projects were developed with the goal of protecting traditional agriculture from the liability associated with such movement unless offsite drift is proven or negligence is involved.

- LINK TO THE CONDITION OF APPROVAL PRESENTATION:

https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/8337ce22-0bc3-4851-913f-5a86452a1848/2020_03_02-ALAB-Meeting-Cannabis-COA.aspx

- ALAB members discussed concerns associated with cannabis in agricultural areas. Claire Wineman pointed out that growers in Santa Barbara have not only had pesticide incompatibility issues but also issues associated with land preparation and fertilizer use. Claire indicated she would like to see the COA expanded to address these issues.

- Lisen Bonnier suggested ALAB members send a letter to the BOS supporting the implementation of the COA for cannabis projects.

Motion: Wineman Write a letter to the BOS, copying the Agriculture Department, supporting the implementation of the COA addressing incompatibility issues related to pesticide application and cannabis. ALAB members also recommend investigating addressing fertilizer and land preparation incompatibilities as well. ALAB members also support the recently added language adding owners to the COA language.

Motion 2nd: Warden

Approved: Unanimous by all voting members.

8. Future Agenda Items: Phase 3 of the cannabis ordinance

Next meeting – April 6, 2020

Meeting Adjourned 7.05 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

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