

## ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 9, 2012

**Members and Alternates Present:** Dee Lacey, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Don Warden, Charles Pritchard, Mark Pearce, Bill Struble, David Pruitt, Eric Michielssen, Tom Ikeda, Richard Hawley, and Neil Roberts

**Absent Members:** Noah Small, Lisen Bonnier, Mary Bianchi, Dick Nock, and Richard Quandt

**Guests Present:** Claire Wineman, Grower-Shipper Association; Laura Edwards, Executive Director Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD; Joel Diringer, Diringer and Associates; Jena Smith, Central Coast Ag Network

**Staff:** Brenda Ouwerkerk, Marc Lea, and Lynda Auchinachie, Agriculture Department

**Call to Order:** 6:10 PM. Quorum Present.

- **Open Comment:** ALAB members provided a brief update on the current state of their industry and information regarding upcoming workshops.

### 1. Agency Reports & Member Announcements/Reports:

- Brenda Ouwerkerk provided the Agriculture Department announcements summary sheet and reminded members that 2011 crop report surveys are due January 23, 2012. The Planning Department update was not available.

### 2. Previous Minutes:

**MOTION:** Approve minutes: **Motion – Jean-Pierre Wolff. 2nd – Charles Pritchard. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

### 3. EnergyWise Plan Discussion (Chair Dee Lacey)

- Chair Dee Lacey indicated that the EnergyWise Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in (BOS) November 2011 with a 3-2 vote. She shared that since that time a working group of agriculture industry representatives gathered to discuss concerns regarding some of the information that is in the EnergyWise Plan. Dee indicated the primary concern was that many of the written and oral comments made by industry representatives, including ALAB, were not incorporated into the adopted document in a satisfactory manner. Dee asked if ALAB members had similar concerns to the working group and if there was interest in bringing these concerns to the attention of the BOS. Dee reminded members of the chart compiled by Lisa Bodrogi that identifies issues that were raised and associated responses incorporated into the final EnergyWise Plan. ALAB members generally discussed the information in the chart and agreed the EnergyWise Plan could be improved with corrections, additions, and deletions.

**Motion –** To establish an ad hoc committee to identify corrections, additions, and deletions to the EnergyWise Plan. The goal is to incorporate the ad hoc committee's work into the implementation phase of the EnergyWise Plan. Members of the ad hoc committee will be appointed by the Chair.

**Motion:** Charles Pritchard. **Second:** Mark Pearce. **Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

- Chair Dee Lacey indicated she would write a letter to the BOS regarding the ad hoc committee.

### 4. Food System Coalition Presentation (Joel Diringer, Joel Diringer and Associates)

- Chair Dee Lacey introduced Joel Diringer. Joel provided background on his and partner agency efforts to establish a San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Food System Network Coalition and develop a Hunger-Free Community Plan. The project is being financed by a \$100,000 US Department of

Agriculture grant. The project includes 1) conducting an assessment of hunger, food insecurity and nutritional needs, and local resources; 2) convening a broad range of local stakeholders to form a coalition to ensure sustainable food systems in SLO County; and 3) working with the community to develop a plan to improve food security and healthy nutrition for low-income residents of SLO County. Joel has been working with Jackie Crabb of the Farm Bureau. Jackie recommended Joel attend ALAB meeting and request input. Joel indicated he is looking for feedback and dialogue from ALAB members and the agriculturalists they represent regarding the proposed Coalition.

- Jena Smith, the new director of Central Coast Ag Network (CCAN), introduced herself and indicated CCAN is one of the partner agencies in the SLO County Food System Coalition effort. Jena also indicated that her group has received a \$250,000 grant to do other projects regarding foodshed production, distribution, and consumption.
- ALAB members discussed general support for the Coalition and efforts by second harvest groups such as GleanSLO. Recent legislation that allows for tax credits for growers that donate food to the food bank (AB152) and liability issues were also discussed. All agreed that on the local level, food production is not the problem, but also recognized that coordination could be improved in order to better make quality local produce more available to lower income consumers. Joel asked how to get agriculturalists involved in the Coalition and requested feedback regarding the proposed SLO County Food System Coalition Draft Mission and Vision Statements or any other thoughts agriculturalist may have. Joel can be contacted at joel@diringerassociates.com.

#### 5. Election of ALAB Chair and Vice-Chair for 2012-2014 Term (Chair Lacey)

- Mark Pearce provided a brief summary of the election ad hoc committee's efforts. Mark indicated that both Chair Dee Lacey and Vice Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff were interested in serving an additional term. The ad hoc committee unanimously recommended to ALAB members nominating Chair Lacey and Vice Chair Jean-Pierre Wolf for another two year term.

**Motion** – To reelect both Chair Dee Lacey and Vice Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff for another two year term. **Motion:** Eric Michielssen. **Second:** Tom Ikeda. **Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

#### 6. Review of ALAB Organizational Structure and Operating Guidelines (Brenda Ouwerkerk, Agriculture Department)

- Brenda Ouwerkerk and Chair Dee Lacey walked ALAB members through proposed changes. ALAB members discussed and agreed upon some changes (see attached Final Draft).

**Motion** – To adopt the identified changes to the ALAB Organizational Structure and Operating Guidelines per attached. **Motion:** Bill Struble. **Second:** Neil Roberts. **Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

#### 7. Upcoming Meeting: February 6, 2012, 6 PM

**Additional Comment: None.**

**Future Agenda Items:** Progress report of EnergyWise Plan ad hoc committee and any associated recommendations.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, County Agriculture Department.

**AGRICULTURAL LIAISON ADVISORY BOARD (ALAB)  
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND OPERATING GUIDELINES  
January, 2012**

**I. Establishment and Objectives:**

SLO County Board of Supervisors Resolution # 70-253 created the Agricultural Liaison Board April 27, 1970 to:

“.....assist the agricultural industry in said county with its ever increasing problems.....”

“..... receive, review, and propose for presentation to appropriate county agencies, complaints from members of the rural communities and to pursue necessary action.....”

SLO County Board of Supervisors Resolution # 2001-228 further stated:

“..... providing agricultural perspective to the Board of Supervisors on land use planning.....”

“.....the Board of Supervisors and the County’s departments have found value in referring agricultural issues to the Ag Liaison Board for deliberation.....”

“.....for deliberation and recommendation on agricultural issues.....”

(SLO County Board of Supervisors Resolution #2001-228 referred to the Board as the “Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board” - a change from “Agricultural Liaison Board” in previous resolutions).

**II. Scope of Board:**

The ALAB is advisory in nature and is recognized as a forum for discussion of matters that relate to local agriculture and land use or as directed by the Board of Supervisors. The ALAB members serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. Meetings are open to the public and agency members.

**III. Membership and Terms:**

- Representative from each Supervisorial district: term concurrent with the nominating Supervisor’s term of office ( Resolution # 2001-228). Representatives shall be a.. “bonafide farmer or who most nearly represents the type of agriculture in that District” (Resolution #70-253)
- President (or appointee) of SLO County Farm Bureau or alternate; term concurrent with President’s tenure, ( Resolution # 2001-228).
- Ag Finance representative or alternate; 4 year term, ( Resolution # 2001-228).
- Environmental representative or alternate; 4 year term, ( Resolution # 2001-228).
- Coastal San Luis RCD representative or alternate; 4 year term, ( Resolution # 2001-228).
- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD or alternate; 4 year term, ( Resolution # 2001-228).

A. Commodity Group Representation: (Representatives and Alternates should operate or work at or be retired from an agricultural operation/business/industry organization located within San Luis Obispo County):

- President (or appointee) of SLO County Cattlemen's Association or alternate; term concurrent with President's tenure (Resolution # 2001-228)
- Wine grape industry representative, or alternate; 4 year term (Resolution # 2008-82)
- Vegetable industry representative, or alternate; 4 year term (Resolution # 2008-82)
- Nursery industry representative, or alternate; 4 year term (Resolution # 2008-82)
- Organic Grower/Direct Marketing industry representative, or alternate: 4 year term (Resolution # 2008-82)

B. Ex-Officio members: (non-voting):

- UC Cooperative Extension Director (or designee); terms undefined, (Resolution # 2001-228)
- Ag Commissioner (or designee); terms undefined, (Resolution # 2001-228)

**IV. Appointment/Re-appointment Process:**

The Board of Supervisors shall approve appointments to ALAB . The ALAB Secretary shall submit nominations as part of the Board's consent agenda.

**A. Voting Members:**

- Board of Supervisor District Representatives: notification to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary from Board of Supervisor member upon appointment and upon re-election of the Board of Supervisor member
- Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association Representative: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary from association Presidents for initial appointment and/or reappointment when change of President occurs
- Ag Finance Representative: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary from previous representative upon appointment or reappointment by Board of Supervisors
- Environmental Representative: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary from the ECOSLO Board of Trustees for appointment or reappointment by Board of Supervisors (Resolution # 2001-228). Nomination will be determined by majority vote of the ECOSLO Board of Trustees.
- RCD Representatives: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary from Governing Board of each RCD for appointment or reappointment by Board of Supervisors
- Wine Grape Industry Representative: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary of collaborative decision of the Central Coast Vineyard Team; Central Coast Wine Grape Growers Association; Independent Grape Growers of Paso Robles Area; Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance; San Luis Obispo Vintners and Growers Association and other industry related associations for appointment or reappointment by Board of Supervisors
- Vegetable Industry Representative: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary of collaborative decision of the Grower-Shipper Association; and other industry related associations for appointment or reappointment by Board of Supervisors
- Nursery Representative: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary of collaborative decision of the Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association and other industry related associations for appointment or reappointment by Board of Supervisors

- Organic Grower/Direct Marketing Representative: written nomination to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary of the collaborative recommendation of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Calif. Certified Organic Farmers Association, SLO County Farmers Market Associations, Central Coast Ag Network, and other industry related associations for appointment or reappointment by Board of Supervisors

#### **B. Alternates:**

Written notification to ALAB Chair and ALAB Secretary from appointing/nominating entity listed above prior to participation as an Alternate.

#### **V. Mid-term Appointments:**

A. For positions vacated mid-term, the replacement Member, nominated by the previous Member's association, organization or appointed by a Supervisor, will finish out the vacated term and can be re-appointed by the Board of Supervisors once the vacated term expires. Mid-term appointments must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mid-term appointments are subject to Maddy Act posting requirement through the County Clerk's office. (Appointments made to fill end of term vacancies do not require Maddy Act posting). All appointment requests require the County Clerk's signature on the Board of Supervisors' transmittal letter.

B. In the event a Member's term expires and no replacement is designated, the previous Member may hold the position until a replacement is appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

#### **VI. Selection and Duties of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Members:**

Prior to the first ALAB meeting of the calendar year, the Chair shall initiate a nomination/election process. During the first ALAB meeting of the calendar year, as needed, the voting membership shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. Terms for each shall be two years, with no limit to the number of terms each can serve. Terms shall begin the second ALAB meeting of the calendar year.

A. Duties of Chair (or Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair):

- coordinate agendas with Secretary, review draft minutes prior to meetings
- conduct meetings according to agendas
- promote open discussion of matters related to official business of ALAB
- conduct public comment period in a manner meeting Brown Act requirements: allow public comment on each agenda item. The Chair may limit the length of comment at his/her discretion. The Chair shall also monitor the participation level of guests.
- represent the ALAB at public hearings, meetings, etc (or designate a voting member as needed)
- assign voting Members or Alternates to represent ALAB on outside committees and other groups
- sign correspondence
- address chronic non-attendance of Members as needed. Notify appointing body of chronic absences of their representative
- assure compliance with Brown Act and Maddy Act and any other legal requirements
- review Organizational Structure and Operating Guidelines on a regular basis

**B. Duties of Members, Alternates and Ex-Officio Members:**

- submit agenda items and corresponding information to Secretary 14 calendar days before meeting. (Supplemental information must be submitted in electronic form to facilitate posting on the Ag Commissioner's website)
- punctually attend all regular and committee meetings to the maximum extent possible. (ALAB could request dismissal or replacement from the appointing authority for members that miss 2 consecutive meetings without contacting the Secretary in advance)
- inform the Chair or Secretary as soon as possible or by 5:00pm the Friday before the meeting if unable to attend the meeting (to determine if a quorum will be present)
- review agenda and all information prior to meeting and be prepared to propose motions, participate in all discussions and take appropriate action in the form of voting. (Ex-officio Members are excluded from voting however they can make motions).
- conscientiously follow high ethical standards in putting the broad public interest ahead of any personal interest. Abstain from all votes where a conflict of interest would appear to influence decisions
- keep appointing body (or Department Head for Ex-officio members) informed of ALAB discussions, positions and action items
- if designated by the Chair, voting Members may represent and speak for ALAB at public hearings or other meetings. (Voting Members not designated by Chair to represent ALAB, who testify at public hearings or other meetings shall clearly identify themselves as speaking individually and not on behalf of ALAB).
- report to ALAB actions/discussions of any meetings attended as an ALAB representative

**C. Additional Duties of Ex-officio Members:**

- represent the UCCE and Ag Commissioner's offices
- prepare material and may provide recommendations/options for ALAB review
- coordinate attendance of appropriate staff from other agencies
- provide technical expertise and information related to agenda items
- provide departmental updates

**D. Additional duties of the Agricultural Commissioner's staff in the role of ALAB Secretary:**

- prepare, post and distribute and archive meeting notices, agendas, minutes, correspondence and supplemental material
- document minutes of each meeting, act as custodian of tape recording of meetings
- document outcome of motions by pass/fail unless a roll-call vote is requested by any Member or a Member requests that their individual vote be specifically recorded in the minutes
- maintain roster of attendance
- maintain file of past meeting agendas, minutes and corresponding information
- track voting Members' terms with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and present nomination and reappointment requests to the Board of Supervisors

**E. Duties of ALAB Representative and Alternate to Agricultural Preserve Review Committee (APRC):**

During the first ALAB meeting of the calendar year, as needed, the Chair shall initiate the process to elect a representative and alternate. Terms for each shall be two years, with no limit to the number of terms each can serve. These positions shall be held by voting Members.

- punctually attend all regular and committee meetings
- review agenda and all information prior to meetings and be prepared to propose motions, participate in all discussions and take appropriate action in the form of voting, (assigned alternate may vote in place of absent member).
- speak on behalf of ALAB
- report to ALAB discussions and actions taken at APRC meetings

**VII. Meeting Schedule and Standing, Ad Hoc Committees:**

- Meetings shall be held on the first Monday of each month as-needed or as determined by the Chair
- Standing, Ad Hoc Committees: the ALAB Board or the Chair may assign standing and ad hoc committees which may be made up of ALAB members, Alternates and any-members of the public. Standing committees are subject to all Brown Act requirements.

**VIII. Agenda and Meeting Minutes:**

All meetings of ALAB shall be held in conformance with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act). The actions of the ALAB shall be performed in meetings open to the public and adequate public notice shall be provided. Closed sessions may be held only on the advice of County Counsel and in conformance with provisions of the Brown Act.

Meeting agendas shall be developed by the Chair and Secretary. Written requests from Members or others to place items on the agenda shall be submitted to the Chair at least 14 days in advance of the next meeting. The Chair shall bring such written requests before the members for their concurrence, and/or determine what will be placed on future agendas. The Chair shall place time critical items on the agenda as needed without consulting members.

A. The agenda shall serve as the meeting announcement and shall include the following:

- date, time and location of meeting
- call to order and announcements by the Chair
- open comment period
- reports from Members/agencies
- review, correction and approval of previous meeting minutes
- business items
- agenda items within each topic shall include the name of the responsible presenter
- website and physical location where agendas, approved minutes and supplemental handouts for agenda items can be accessed

B. The Secretary shall prepare agendas and minutes of all meetings:

- agenda items and supplemental/corresponding information shall be submitted to the Secretary 14 calendar days in advance of meetings.
- ten calendar days in advance of meetings, the Secretary shall distribute the current agenda corresponding/supplemental information and available draft minutes from previous meetings to all Members, Alternates, and others requesting notification.

- agendas will be posted according to Brown Act requirements, 72 hours in advance of meetings in a location accessible to the public (posted on the Farm Bureau office outer front door at 651 Tank Farm Road in San Luis Obispo, on the public notice wall at the County Ag Commissioner's office at 2156 Sierra Way, Suite A in San Luis Obispo and in the entryway display case the SLO City/County Library at 995 Palm Street in San Luis Obispo).
- the Secretary shall post agendas, supplemental/corresponding information (if available in electronic form), draft and approved minutes on the County Ag Commissioner's website at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm)
- requests from non-members for advance distribution to Members of information related to issues not on the agenda shall be refused. The requester can present information in person during the open comment period at meetings.
- requests from non-members for advance distribution to Members of information related to issues on the agenda shall be granted and shall be submitted to the Secretary 14 calendar days in advance of meetings in electronic form for posting on the County Ag Commissioner's website and/or the requester shall be invited to present information in person during the discussion of the agenda item during meetings.
- agendas, minutes, correspondence and supplemental material shall be retained by the Secretary for 5 years.

C. Use of tape recorder to prepare minutes:

The Secretary can tape record meetings and shall act as custodian of tape recordings. The sole purpose of tape recordings is to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of the recorded meetings. (No statutory authority exists that requires advisory board meetings be tape recorded).

Tape recordings are subject to the California Public Records Act (CPRA). Any person has the right to file a CPRA request with the Secretary to either listen to the recording on equipment provided by ALAB or to make a duplicate copy. CPRA requests will be processed by the Secretary following the Ag Commissioner's standard operating procedure. When such requests are received, the Secretary will notify ALAB Members and Alternates. Identity of the requestor shall be provided to ALAB Members unless the requestor asks that such information be withheld, as allowed for in the CPRA. Tape recordings shall be erased once minutes are approved (but not erased within less than 30 days after a recording is made, per CPRA requirements).

**IX. Quorum Requirements and Voting Procedure:**

- A. The minimum number for a quorum shall be 8 voting members, (based upon 15 total voting membership). A quorum must be present for voting on any business item listed on the agenda.
- B. In the absence of a quorum, the Chair may cancel the meeting. If the meeting is held, discussion about agenda items can take place. However, no votes can be taken.



C. Alternates may vote in place of an absent member. If the Member and Alternate are both present, the Alternate may not vote but may participate in discussions. Members or Alternates must be present at meetings to cast vote.

D. Ex-officio Members may make motions but are excluded from voting.