

ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday – May 6, 2024

SLO County Farm Bureau, 4875 Morabito Place, San Luis Obispo 93401

Members and Alternates Present: Tom Ikeda (via Zoom), Sarah Kramer, Jerry Diefenderfer, Dan Rodrigues, Claire Wineman, Randy Diffenbaugh, Ron Harben, Jean-Pierre Wolff

Staff Present: Marc Lea and Ian Landreth – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Mark Battany – U.C. Coop. Extension, Farm Advisor

Absent Members: Lisen Bonnier, Craig Pritchard, Jeff McKee

Guests Present: Patricia Wilmore (via Zoom), Dylan Theobald

I. Call to Order, introductions, quorum determination

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rodrigues at 5:04 p.m. There were enough members present to have a quorum.

II. Open Comment

Members wishing to address the ALAB on matters other than the scheduled items may do so at this time, when recognized by the Chairman.

Dan Rodrigues, ALAB Chair: opens comment.

Marc Lea: Mentioned that some of the ALAB may be seeing some local news about Farmstand issues occurring in the county. Lea provided context using one example of a particular operation making jams and jellies in a home kitchen. Planning & Building regulates the use of farmstands, as well as Environmental Health, if they are selling certain processed or prepared goods.

Jerry Diefenderfer: Mentioned he saw something about the CALFIRE AG Pass Program and was wondering about additional information.

Ian Landreth: Stated there are upcoming trainings for the AG Pass Program on May 29 and June 12, 2024. More information is available on the department website: [Ag Pass - County of San Luis Obispo \(ca.gov\)](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/ag-pass).

Dan Rodrigues: closes comment.

III. Previous Minutes – October 2023

Thereafter on **Motion by:** Sarah Kramer, **Second by:** Jerry Diefenderfer, and on the following vote:

REPRESENTATIVE:	AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN:	RECUSE:
Tom Ikeda	X			

Jerry Diefenderfer	X			
Sarah Kramer	X			
Claire Wineman	X			
Dan Rodrigues	X			
Randy Diffenbaugh	X			
Jean-Pierre Wolff	X			
Ron Harben			X	

The ALAB approved the October 2023, minutes.

Previous Minutes – February 2024

Thereafter on **Motion by:** Sarah Kramer, Second by: Randy Diffenbaugh, and on the following vote:

REPRESENTATIVE:	AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN:	RECUSE:
Tom Ikeda	X			
Jerry Diefenderfer			X	
Sarah Kramer	X			
Claire Wineman	X			
Dan Rodrigues	X			
Randy Diffenbaugh	X			
Jean-Pierre Wolff			X	
Ron Harben			X	

The ALAB approved the February 2024, minutes.

IV. ALAB Governance Membership Updates

Marc Lea updated the group on the following:

- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair positions These seats run for a term of 2-years. There is no limit to the number of terms an individual can occupy the seat. The ALAB was unable to elect the chair and vice-chair seats in February 2024 because there were not enough members present for a quorum determination. Lea reminded the ALAB that the current vice-chair had requested to step down. An ad hoc committee was created at the Feb 2024 meeting to identify potential candidates for vice-chair. The committee was comprised of Dan Rodrigues, Jerry Diefenderfer, and Tom Ikeda. Diefenderfer reported on the ad hoc committee and stated it had considered Sarah Kramer as an excellent candidate for the Vice-Chair role. Lea mentioned that he reached out to Kramer and confirmed she was interested. Sarah confirmed her interest, although she cautioned that she would not be able to assume the Chair role in 2026, but possibly in 2028.

Thereafter on **Motion by:** Jerry Diefenderfer, Second by: Randy Diffenbaugh, and on the following vote:

REPRESENTATIVE:	AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN:	RECUSE:
Tom Ikeda	X			
Jerry Diefenderfer	X			
Sarah Kramer	X			
Claire Wineman	X			
Dan Rodrigues	X			
Randy Diffenbaugh	X			
Jean-Pierre Wolff	X			
Ron Harben	X			

The ALAB voted to elect Dan Rodrigues as the ALAB Chair, and Sarah Kramer as the ALAB Vice-Chair through the end of 2025.

- Ron Harben was confirmed by the Board of Supervisors on 2/5/24 as the new member for Supervisor Paulding in District 4.
- Upper Salinas Las Tablas is still searching for a new representative.
- Both the Produce and Winegrape representatives are getting renewed a week from tomorrow on May 14th.
- Dan Jones will be appointed as the primary Nursery representative on that May 14th date as well. Butch Yamashita has retired and moved out of the area and will no longer be the representative.
- Dan Rodrigues or Marc Lea will reach out to John Peschong to determine if finding a new representative for District 1 is possible.
- Dylan Theobald introduced himself and stated his interest in applying for the new Agricultural Stewardship representative. Theobald has worked at the Land Conservancy for the past 10-years, nine of which he served as the Ag Stewardship Manager. He is now the Monitoring Program Manager and provided some additional background on his experience that he believed made him a good candidate to fill the seat. Currently the Land Conservancy holds 60,000 acres of land holding under easement in the county. Thereafter on **Motion by:** Randy Diffenbaugh, Second by: Sarah Kramer, and on the following vote:

REPRESENTATIVE:	AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN:	RECUSE:
Tom Ikeda	X			
Jerry Diefenderfer	X			
Sarah Kramer	X			
Claire Wineman	X			
Dan Rodrigues	X			
Randy Diffenbaugh	X			
Jean-Pierre Wolff	X			
Ron Harben	X			

The ALAB voted to recommend Dylan Theobald as the ALAB Ag Stewardship Representative to the Board of Supervisors.

V. Presentation/Discussion: The role of the County's Agricultural Preserve Review Committee (APRC) and ALAB's role on the APRC

This item was organized for discussion and possible action from the ALAB.

Ian Landreth provided a PowerPoint presentation on the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Preserve Program to the ALAB.

- [California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder](#)
- [Agricultural Preserve Review Committee Meetings - County of San Luis Obispo \(ca.gov\)](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation \(ca.gov\)](#)

Jean-Pierre Wolff: Recounted his experience of entering into a Farmland Security Zone (FSZ) contract for his agricultural operation. FSZ are instead a 20-year contract as opposed to a 10-year Ag Preserve Contract. They also offer greater property tax reductions and protect land from eminent domain and/or annexation.

Randy Diffenbaugh: Expressed interest in having an alternate ALAB representative on the APRC for those instances where he's unable to attend the APRC meetings as scheduled.

An APRC alternate representative for ALAB was not identified at this meeting, but efforts will be made to find a potential alternate in the future.

VI. Updates from Ag Department Staff:

- Ian Landreth provided an email update from the Department of Planning and Building regarding the Board direction they received on March 12, 2024, for Updates to the 2020-2028 Housing Element Implementation Framework for SLO County

Claire Wineman: Asked for follow-up from the Long-Range Planning Division regarding the amendment of land use categories to address housing needs in SLO County.

Marc Lea stated that someone from Long Range Planning could attend an upcoming meeting, once changes or updates have been proposed and ALAB has something more concrete to review.

Marc Lea provided the following updates to the ALAB:

- Following the last frost event in early April only one complaint was received regarding the use of wind machines for frost protection in vineyards.
- The 2023 Crop Report statistics are being worked on and are anticipated to be completed by the end of May. Lea asked the ALAB to forward any Crop Report theme ideas to him.

- AG Pass Trainings will be held on May 29 and June 12. Trainings will be held at the CalFire Training Center at 880 Manzanita Drive in Los Osos.
- Ground squirrel control training will be held on June 13 at the Nipomo Community Park in the "Pine" area.

VII. Future agenda items/meeting dates, adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM. Two future agenda items were identified – updates on the regional water board activities and on the Housing Element implementation. Neither item was identified as being urgent, but both should be covered once new information becomes available. The next monthly ALAB meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Ian Landreth, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture.