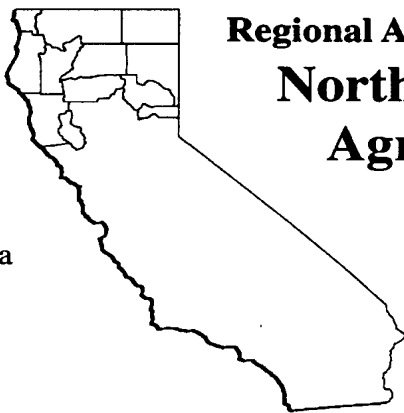


Del Norte
Humboldt
Lake
Lassen
Mendocino
Modoc
Plumas / Sierra
Shasta
Siskiyou
Tehama
Trinity



**Regional Association of
Northern Counties
Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers**

MINUTES

**Regional Association of Northern Counties
October 15, 2003
Lake County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Lakeport, California**

Members Present: Glenn Anderson, Del Norte
 Dave Bengston, Mendocino
 Karl Bishop, Plumas/Sierra
 Steve Hajik, Lake
 Joe Moreo, Modoc
 Mark Lockhart, Trinity

Others Present: Danny Merkley, DPR, County Liaison

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Chairman Joe Moreo.
- II. The minutes of the meetings of June 26, 27 & August 21, 22, 2003 were approved.
- III. There was no correspondence.
- IV. Mark Lockhart, Treasurer, reported that the association's funds stand at \$840.00.
- V. DPR Report: Danny Merkley, DPR county liaison, gave the Department of Pesticide Regulation update. The Legislature has set the pesticide sales assessment at 21 mills which leaves the department short \$8 million. This shortfall was backfilled with general fund money in FY 2003/04. County funding remains unchanged. The AB 3765 shortfall of 20% will be backfilled with general fund this year as well. Those counties that have already signed contracts will receive amendments; others will receive contracts for the full amounts. See Danny's October Report for further information.
- VI. CDFA Report: Ed Williams, CDFA county liaison, was unable to attend. His substitute, Karen Manor, fell ill at the last moment and could not attend. Danny Merkley submitted Ed's written report.
- VII. Old Business:
 - A. Committee assignments: The following assignments were made to fill vacancies created by the defection of Bill Stephans to the Sac Valley enemies (ok, ok... allies):
Board of Directors – Steve Hajik; Finance Committee – Joe Moreo, Alternate – Steve Hajik; PRAC - Steve Hajik; Legislation – Dave Bengston.
 - B. Conference committee substitutions: Except for Ken Smith the North will be at the conference.
 - C. There was further discussion about our motion in August to amend FAC Section 47020 (b) that requires annual inspection of properties listed on Producers' Certificates. We discussed the rationale as laid out by Mary Pfeiffer and agreed again that many times the effort is redundant and unnecessary.

- D. *Phytophthora ramorum* quarantine: MSP to refer to the Pest Prevention Committee the recommendation that the European strain of *P. ramorum* be quarantined, regulating all areas known to be infested. The concern was that infested counties in Oregon and Canada may be exporting materials that could spread the disease.
 - E. Mendocino County GMO ordinance: Dave Bengston reported that the county initiative prohibiting GMO's in that county has qualified and will be on the ballot in March. Its prospects look good. The initiative authorizes the Ag Commissioner to enforce it.
 - F. Repeat violations: the consensus was that this item had been discussed thoroughly in August.
 - G. Oversight inspections: MSP to endorse the concept that each county should have some minimum number of oversight inspections by DPR and that a subcommittee of PRAC should work with DPR in the development of the formula.
 - H. North state weed map: Joe Moreo unveiled the latest version of the map. Trinity, Del Norte, Lake and another county are not yet represented on the map.
 - I. Vine mealy bug: There was a short discussion of the status of VMB in the counties, who's trapping, likely prognosis, confirmation difficulties, etc.
- VIII. New Business:
- A. PDF format for monthly reports: Karl Bishop reported on the difficulties his staff is having with the PDF format for Report 5. Others counties have had similar problems.
 - B. LPG Prover discussion: Tabled until the January meeting.
 - C. Wildlife issues: Wildlife problems in both agricultural and urban settings were compared.
 - D. Nursery stock shipments to Nevada: Tabled until January.
 - E. Olive Fruit Fly: Tabled until January.
 - F. Restriction of law suits against pesticide manufacturers: Dave Bengston informed the group of a new policy that restricts legal redress against pesticide companies.
 - G. Undercover W&M vehicle: Karl Bishop now has a truck with a measured gas tank. Other northern counties that need one should call Karl.
- IX. Future Agenda Items:
- A. MSP to hold a meeting on January 21, 2004 in Red Bluff pending approval by Mark Black. (Note: On October 30, 2003 Mark reserved the Tehama conference room.)
 - B. MSP to hold a brief meeting in Sacramento at the start of the conference to discuss our choices for Board of Directors, Finance Committee, PRAC, and Leg Committee. The meeting will be in Joe Moreo's room from 8 to 9 a.m.
 - C. January meeting:
 - 1. 2004 meeting schedule.
 - 2. Nursery stock to Nevada – Phyto Advisory 15-2003 – Black.
 - 3. Olive Fruit Fly update – Bengston.
 - 4. LPG Provers – 19/20 gallon, 25 gallon, 100 gallon – Black & Bishop.
- X. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.