

Sacramento Valley Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer Association

AGENDA

Amador County
December 3, 2003
1:00 to 5:00

Present

Christine Turner, Placer, Chair
Rick Landon, Yolo, Secretary
Mike Boitano, Amador
Richard Price, Butte
Dennis Pooler, Yuba
Mark Quisenberry, Sutter
Bill Stephens, El Dorado
Duane Schnabel, CDFA

Frank Carl, Sacramento
Susan Cohen, Solano
Jerry Howard, Calaveras
Gary Caseri, Tuolumne
Danny Merkley, DPR
Harry Krug, Colusa
Ed Williams, CDFA
George Brady, DPR

1. Call to Order
2. Additional Agenda Items (Time permitting)
3. Approval of October 1, 2003 Minutes
4. Correspondence – Letter from Chairperson to Robert Schnieder of the Regional Board regarding unsigned letter reportably from a “representative” of the Central Valley Ag Commissioners
5. Treasurer’s Report. We have \$674.73 in our account.
6. CACASA Issues
 - a. Exam/License Qualifications – Krug.
 1. After much discussion it was M/S/P not to change the current qualifications but to recommend that the working group that approves disciplines be convened on an annual basis to update the list of approved disciplines and to send this recommendation to the Personnel Standards Committee.
 2. It was also M/S/P to create a subcommittee consisting of Mike Boitano, Gary Caseri, Dennis Pooler and Rick Landon to develop an alternative set of qualifications to take the Biologist exams and report back at our next meeting.
 3. It was M/S/P to defer responding to the Personnel Standards Committee until our subcommittee comes back with a recommendation.
 - b. Exam Process – Boitano.
 1. Future oral exam questions will deal more with process (management) rather than detail.
 2. This year there will be four questions and applicants will be able to answer three questions and throw one out.

3. Oral exams will be held for three weeks and each commissioner representative will sit for one full week for consistency.
4. It was M/S/P to recommend the number of exams be reduced to three, two Deputy exams and one Commissioner/Sealer exam.

7. CDFA Issues

- a. CDFA Report – Williams
- b. Statewide weed plan – Boitano/Schoenig.
 1. Steve handed out the draft Weed Action Plan and explained the history.
 2. California must have a State Weed Plan to receive federal funds.
 3. Please review and let Steve know your comments by February 15th.
- c. Pest Damage Record/PDR System- Caseri.
 1. Gary asked if other counties were experiencing problems inputting data or with lost data in the new web based PDR system. Ed reminded us of the notice from CDFA that the names and addresses were confidential. It was questionable whether or not we could withhold the information under the FOIA. Ed suggested we consider the information CDFA's and refer it to them.
- d. Wax Blocks, Coyote Mgmt, Zinc on Alfalfa, Compliance agreement for bait manufacturing – Schnabel.
 1. Our current wax blocks do not have sufficient efficacy to warrant re-registration. There were many problems associated with solving this problem. Duane has found a manufacturer willing to allow us to purchase their home labeled wax blocks and attach our Ag label. They are relatively inexpensive and provide both our home and Ag users with product. Duane expects them to be available sometime after April.
 2. Duane has a coyote control product that can be used on a stake or collar. An attractant (same as that currently used) is placed on the bottle. The alpha male eats the plastic bottle along with the toxicant. Two toxicants were explored. One was caffeine and the other was thiobromine (chocolate). The caffeine was too slow acting, however the thiobromine caused death within 30 seconds of the onset of symptoms. Duane expects this to be available in about two years.
 3. After many letters of support, EPA issued a tolerance for Zinc Phosphide September 30th. DPR posted the registration three weeks ago and it should be final December 9th. The label will have both ground and aerial applications. No more trapping/monitoring will be required. You still have to watch for birds and haze them if they are present.
 4. Duane expects the draft Compliance Agreement for manufacturing counties to be out next week.

5. The hearing on listing Burrowing Owl as endangered will be held tomorrow. Duane is confident that it will not be listed.
- e. Should section 47020 b) of the Food and Ag Code regarding certified producer inspection be changed from shall to may?
 1. It was M/S/P to leave it shall but submit a variable frequency inspection program.
10. b. 2004 SVACASA Schedule

January 7&8	Monterrey/Carmel
February 4	Sacramento
March 3	Sacramento
March 10 & 11	Interim (Woodland)
April 7 & 8	Tuolumne
May 5	Sacramento
May 10 – 14	Spring Conference (Mammoth)
June 23&24w/North	Markleeville, Grover Hot Springs
July	none
August 4	Sacramento
August 11 & 12	Interim (Woodland)
September 1	Woodland
October 20&21	Colusa
November 1 – 5	Winter Conference
December 1	Sacramento

December 4, 2003

8:00 to 12:00

8. C DPR Issues
 - a. C DPR Report – Merkley.
 1. CalEPA has been required to reduce General Fund by 20% (\$22-24 million). Since C DPR does not have any General Fund, they will not be affected.
 2. Governor Schwarzenegger's environmental policy can be found on JoinArnold.com
 3. The report 5 summaries are out – make sure to have any corrections back by January 26th.
 4. The letter is out regarding structural fines.
 5. C DPR is sending out a Customer Survey letter.
 6. C DPR is sending out a letter on Biocide
 7. Be sure to get your investigations submitted.
 - b. Irrigation Return Questionnaire – Krug
 1. Commissioners have been requested to hand out information sheet and ask growers to sign up for a watershed during permit issuance. Pesticides are the primary concern of the Regional Board.
 2. NCWA will be emailing Commissioners Excel spreadsheets of permittees for tracking sign ups.
 3. The dairy Waste Discharge Requirement will be out next week.

- c. Interagency Coordinating Committee – Turner
 - 1. Met November 17th
 - 2. Christine attended and will continue to attend with Mike and Richard as back ups.
 - 3. Kelly Briggs and Bill Croyle attended for the Regional Board
- d. San Joaquin Valley Ag Waivers – Caseri
 - 1. The San Joaquin Valley Ag Water Quality Coalitions are also moving forward.
- e. Glenn Co GIS/Permit program versus SPURS
 - 1. Doug is taking the proposal to all the area groups (Carmel)
 - 2. Will be on the agenda during the Interim
 - 3. Check with IT for concerns
 - 4. CDMS is developing a program which will submit use reports electronically. The cost is \$1500
 - 5. Mike will coordinate a meeting of IMPAC to discuss issues.
- 7. CDFA Issues (Con't)
 - a. e-portal is in place
 - 1. This system could be used to integrates county monthly reports in such a way that counties submit timesheet information and it prints monthly reports.
 - b. New Commissioner Orientation December 18 & 19
- 9. DMS Issues
 - a.
- 10. Executive Session
 - a. Letter to CVRWQCB
 - b. CDFA budget situation and Pest Prevention Restructuring Committee
 - c. Achievement Awards by December 31st
 - d.