



Regional Association of Northern Counties Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers

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

Minutes

Regional Association of Northern Counties
September 15, 2004
Mendocino County Department of Agriculture
Ukiah, California

Members Present: Glenn Anderson, Del Norte
Dave Bengston, Mendocino
Karl Bishop, Plumas/Sierra
Rick Gurrola, Tehama
Others Present: Mark Quisenberry, Pres. CACASA
George Brady, DPR
Ada Ann Scott, DPR, Technical Support
Ed Williams, CDFA, County Liaison
Steve Hajik, Lake
Joe Moreo, Modoc
Patrick Griffin, Siskiyou
Mark Lockhart, Trinity County
Dave Whitmer, Napa
Nancy Grussing, DPR

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hajik at 9:07 a.m.
- II. The minutes of the meetings of June 23, 24 2004 were approved as read.
- III. Mark Lockhart, Secretary/Treasurer, reported a fund balance of \$990.00.
- IV. CACASA President's Report: Mark Quisenberry was present and reported as follows:
 - There is a BCP for Wildlife Services (WS) in the works. Mary had expressed a concern that the proposal is for WS to be under Animal Health instead of Plant Health.
 - Mark Q. will give a three minute presentation to the CPR expressing CACASA's positions. The email drafts of CACASA's positions are the final positions. Mark Q. and Whitmer ask that each commissioner adopt these positions as their own and submit comments to CPR by the final deadline of September 27th.
 - CACASA has set up three meetings with industry groups on September 30th, October 28th and December 16th.
 - Greg Van Wassenhove is drafting a position for CACASA for Federal legislation, which will be a major topic at the Leg Committee meeting in Napa on October 18, 19, 2004
 - The winter conference will be at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento Nov 1 to Nov 5.
- V. CDFA Report: Ed Williams
 - Live Mexfly larvae were found in mangoes. An OFF quarantine zone has been established near LAX.
 - Ten BCP's totaling \$100 million from the General Fund have gone to the Dept of Finance, Ag Security, Emergency Response, High Risk and Wildlife Services among them; noxious weed funding was not.
 - Ed will make the Secretary's Weekly Report to the Governor available to commissioners. The report contains the Secretary's planned itinerary so that we can know when A.G. is in our county.

- In February CDFA will move back into the remodeled Ag building at 1220 N Street. CDFA is looking for historic photos, small shadow boxes, or other wall displays illustrating agriculture at the local level to highlight the counties' ag production.

VI. DPR Report:

- Unfortunately, Danny Merkle was detained in Sacramento for an important staff meeting and, unavoidably, was unable to attend. (Director Warmerdam had been appointed)

VII. Old Business:

- A. **MSP to support the Weed Action Plan** and forward it to the Weed and Vert. Committee with comments from individual counties.
- B. **The Direct Marketing Subcommittee** held a conference call on September 8, 2004. The consensus of the call was that we need to collect more information from counties so as to accurately assess the needs for the program. The survey of counties will ask what counties are doing now; how much are they spending now; how they're funded; what would they do and how much would it cost if appropriate funding were available; would your BoS allow you to set market fees. Another issue discussed was uniform reporting on Report 8. Apparently there is a variety of interpretations of terms used in the report.
- C. **CACASA Ethics Review: MSP to support the final draft of the revised Code of Ethics**, which had been circulated.
- D. **Avian Health & Disease Prevention** - Dr. James Glover will train up to 50 participants at the Tehama ag department on September 30. Animal Control and Vector Control agencies are invited.

VIII. New Business:

- A. **Animal Biosecurity** – This is the same topic as VII. D. above.
- B. **Special Achievement Award Rules Change** – Current by-laws allow awards only to county, CDFA or DPR personnel. There is a proposal to broaden the scope of candidates. **MSP to forward to the chair of the Personnel Standards Committee the recommendation to amend the by-laws at the relevant section with the addition of the following words: “or other persons deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.”**
- C. **Area Group Legislative Concerns** – Steve Hajik, Mary Pfeiffer, and Mark Lockhart will attend the special Legislation Committee meeting in Napa on October 18th & 19th.

-Bills of Interest:

AB 1721 (Koretz) dealing with QC overcharges was passed and signed.

AB 1725 (Matthews) to increase ACP's for structural pest control has been chaptered.

AB 1726 direct marketing ACP's & farmers' markets- extended the sunset to 2007 and chaptered.

AB 1896 (Horton) has been chaptered. This bill appropriates \$380 K to pay benefits for L.A. trapping seasonals. It is phased in over three years and does not cover the full costs to L.A. County.

AB 2420 (LaMalfa) a bill regarding THP's that we supported passed.

AB 3025 has been signed by the governor and chaptered. This bill recognizes CACASA as the official representative of ag commissioners and sealers.

The water meter bill was not signed by the governor and was returned.

The F&V ACP bill did not pass.

SB 1650 the Pierce's Disease bill was passed and signed.

D. 2005 meeting schedule for NCACS

- January 12 – Red Bluff
- February 16 – Redding
- April 20 – Yreka
- June 16, 17 – Ft. Bragg (joint meeting with Sac Valley)

- E. Karl Bishop had distributed a spread sheet detailing the CACASA due structure.
 - F. 2006 Spring Conference – Steve Hajik wanted a quick show of hands of those planning on attending the conference in L.A.
 - G. 2005 Spring Conference keynote speaker – after a short discussion, an email soliciting ideas was considered appropriate.
- IX. Executive Session – an executive session was held.
- X. Additional Agenda Items:
- A. GIS shape files – Ada Ann Scott, DPR discussed DPR’s desire for precise geographic data. There was discussion of the propriety of DPR holding such data in a central location and whether such data would thereby become accessible to any person doing a geographic information search or request.
 - B. IMPACT – computer support monies will be distributed as part of the mill assessment and 3765 distribution in April. \$54 K has been set aside for computer support equaling \$1,038 per county. Ada Ann will send out a letter stating that that is what the \$1,038 is for.
 - C. Nancy Grussing briefed us on the changes to the effectiveness evaluations and the new prioritization plans. The evaluation process has been too cumbersome to be effective. In the future restricted permits, surveillance, compliance monitoring, investigations & enforcement compliance will be the major areas of emphasis. The prioritization plan will supplant the current negotiated work plan. A county will set its own priorities in conference with its senior. Those priorities will then be the basis of evaluation of the effectiveness of the county’s PUE program in the following year. Under the new regime, for example, a comprehensive assessment of a county’s PUE program could be a focused activity.
- XI. Adjournment - Chairman Hajik adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark T. Lockhart, secretary