



# Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

## ACTION MINUTES

<b>Location:</b>	Agricultural Commissioner’s Office Ag Center Conference Room 1428 Abbott Street Salinas, CA 93901		
<b>Date:</b>	May 24, 2018		
<b>Time:</b>	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<i>Committee Members</i>		<i>Staff &amp; Guests</i>
	Allen Davis Steve de Lorimier Alex Eastman Kurt Gollnick	Erik Heacox Val King Bill Lipe Matt Shea	Melanie Beretti, RMA Mary Perry, Deputy County Counsel Bob Roach, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Kathy Nielsen, Agricultural Commissioner’s Office
<b>Absent:</b>	Jocelyn Bridson Scott Storm Kirk Williams	Nick Huntington Scott Violini	

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Lipe at 2:30 p.m.

**II. CONSENT**

Approve the February 22, 2018, meeting minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Eastman and King, respectively, to approve the February 22, 2018, meeting minutes.

**AYES:** Davis, de Lorimier, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, King, Lipe, Shea,

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bridson, Huntington, Storm, Violini, Williams

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. Agricultural Commissioner’s Update**

*Bob Roach, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner*

- Cannabis: The Board of Supervisors has reduced the cultivation tax. More than 388 temporary state licenses have been issued in Monterey County. Santa Barbara County has excluded cannabis from their Right to Farm Ordinance, and is allowing Cannabis to count as agricultural income for the purposes of the local administration of the Williamson Act. .

- Industrial Hemp may be grown for research, if affiliated with a qualified institution. Landowners should be very cautious if approached by hemp growers to lease land. Some of the companies are legitimate researchers while others are not. The California Department of Food and Agriculture is developing the state program to regulate the production of industrial hemp, and this could be finalized in 2019.

**V. Water Resources Board of Directors**

Nominations to the Board of Supervisors from the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the Water Resources Agency Board of Directors.

- ACTION:**
- 1) Discuss proposed nominees and decide upon two names for submission;
  - 2) Direct Agricultural Commissioner's staff to prepare and send a recommendation letter to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Abby Taylor-Silva, Grower-Shipper Association

**MOTION:**

- 1) A motion was made and seconded by Committee Members Steve de Lorimier and Kurt Gollnick, respectively, and passed by the following vote to submit to the Board of Supervisors the two names that have been submitted to the AAC, Benny Jefferson and John Baillie, as equally weighted candidates.
- 2) Staff was directed to send a letter of nomination to the Board of Supervisors and to emphasize that the AAC takes its responsibilities very seriously and adheres to the requirements of the Act.

**AYES:** Davis, de Lorimier, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, King, Lipe, Shea,

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bridson, Huntington, Storm, Violini, Williams

Chairman Bill Lipe requests that the record reflect that the Committee not appreciate how the Board of Supervisors handled the AAC's previous recommendations. This committee takes agricultural issues very seriously. The AAC hopes that the Board of Supervisors recognize, as they have in the past, that this committee has standing with the stakeholders, people on the board and people in the community.

**VI. Administrative Matters**

Term Expirations and Reappointments

- 1) Vote upon reappointments of members whose terms end on June 30, 2018.
- 2) Submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

**MOTION:** A motion was made and seconded by Committee Members Kurt Gollnick and Matt Shea, respectively, and passed by the following vote to recommend reappointment of Alexandra Eastman, DVM, as an At-Large member of the Ag Advisory Committee.

**AYES:** Davis, de Lorimier, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, King, Lipe, Shea,

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bridson, Huntington, Storm, Violini, Williams

- Val King, representing District 4, and Bill Lipe, representing the Monterey County Farm Bureau, have been recommended for reappointment by their respective organizations;
- Steve de Lorimier, representing District 2, has submitted his resignation. Supervisor Phillips' office is searching for a new representative;
- Allen Davis, representing the California Strawberry Commission, also has announced his resignation. The Strawberry Commission is searching for a new representative, and
- The Ag Commissioner's Office is awaiting correspondence from the Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association regarding reappointment of Scott Storm.

**VII. Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments**

None

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

*Kathleen Nielsen*  
Agricultural Commissioner's Office