



**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE AND
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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**Stanislaus County
Agricultural Advisory Board**

MINUTES

February 1, 2021
8:00 a.m.

Held via Virtual GoTo Meeting

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Heguy	Brandi LoForti	Ed Perry
Gordon Heinrich	Jim Mortensen	Stan Sinclear
Arby Hoobyar	Tom Orvis	Wayne Zipser

Board Members Absent:

Carlos Estacio RCD (Vacant)

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jami Aggers, Environmental Resources – Present	Supervisor Chance Condit – Present
Milton O’Haire, Agricultural Commissioner – Present	Diana Waller, USDA-NRCS – Absent

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order 8:03 at a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 5, 2020 MEETING

The minutes of the October 5, 2020, meeting were presented by the Chairman. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval, and action was taken as follows:

Motion:	Arby Hoobyar
Second:	Brandi LoForti
Vote:	Unanimous

V. REVIEW OF PROPOSED HEMP ORDINANCE

Staff from the Planning Department provided information on proposed amendments to the Industrial Hemp Ordinance. Proposed amendments include having a permanent ordinance to

replace the interim emergency hemp ordinance pilot program that was adopted in June 2019 and extended in February of 2020 and include modifications to: the addition of bonding requirements for abatement by the County; standards for signage and noticing of hemp grown onsite; prohibiting any processing activities of hemp not grown onsite unless authorized by County zoning ordinances; and additional grounds for suspension or revocation of license.

Planning reviewed complaints that that have been received regarding hemp cultivation and were seeking input from the AAB on how the County should deal with them. The three major complaints received were issues with odor, crime, and trespass. Consideration to deal with the offsite odor of hemp include the possibility of setbacks from adjacent residences or sensitive receptors or the prohibition of outdoor hemp cultivation in which indoor structures would be required and include odor control devices. Requirements for onsite security, fencing, video surveillance or alarm systems could be considered as ways to deal with the perception of crime associated with hemp, or an education campaign on the legality of hemp.

The Ag Advisory Board was asked to comment on options to proceed which included: continue with the adoption of the proposed permanent ordinance; modify the proposed permanent ordinance with the inclusion of setbacks, indoor cultivation, and/or security measures; and consideration to prohibit hemp cultivation in Stanislaus County. The AAB comments included that the inclusion of setbacks should be considered, cultivation of hemp should not be restricted as it is an agricultural commodity, and that while indoor structures may be a way to solve odor issues, it is probably not feasible.

A copy of the presentation materials can be found on the County's website at <http://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>.

VI. ROUNDTABLE

Members provided general comments, program updates, and upcoming events and activities in their respective organizations.

VII. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

There was discussion that the next meeting scheduled for March 1 may be canceled, and if so, then the next meeting would be April 5, 2021. Notification will be sent in the event the March meeting is canceled.

B. Agenda Items:

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully
Submitted,

Susan Azevedo
Ag Commissioner's Office
Stanislaus County