



5880 Oak Street, Anderson, CA 96007  
Phone: (530) 357-2121 Fax: (530) 357-3723

### **Agriculture Committee Meeting**

**Directors - Scott McVay, Logan Johnston**

#### **Community Members**

**Dr. Audra Harl, Dennis Possehn, Robert Wharton**

**General Manager: Paul Kelley**

### **AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 6:00PM: District Office Board Room**

#### **Committee Responsibility**

The Board's standing Agricultural Committee shall be concerned with promoting and preserving agricultural customers and assisting them with regulatory compliance, such as Annual Crop Reports.

## **NOTES/MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:01pm**

#### **- Introduction of Community and Community Members on Committee.**

Director McVay introduced himself and then asked the Community members on the committee to introduce themselves and take a few minutes to provide background.

Dr. Audra Harl – Ag instructor at Shasta Community College.

Expertise in Livestock reproduction, Cattle, Sheep/Goats  
Lives in Happy Valley since 2020

Dennis Possehn – Raised in Midwest as a farm boy – Soybean/corn

Still has land there and ranch in Happy Valley

Active in Firewise and a Licensed Forrester

Robert Wharton – From Red Bluff, Family in Tehema County in 1860's

Grandfather a County Supervisor for two terms (1916)

Deputy Sheriff – Shasta County

Private Investigator

Been in Happy Valley (across from CCCSD Office) 3 years

Has 4.5 acres – Mini Farm, Loves area, Looking for small lot

Ag production and help the community.

Logan Johnston – Director – Reported he has a Bachelors in Ag Science

And in the spring a Masters

Works for Trinity River Timber Co.

#### **ADA Related Disabilities:**

Contact the front office and speak with a Staff Member if special consideration is needed to attend any public meeting for disability related accommodations or aide is needed. Please give 72 hours - notice prior to the meeting to allow staff to meet your requests appropriately.

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Scott McVay – Director – Lives in District 20 years

18 Acres – mostly Olives and some Citrus and Beef Cattle

Has sold Trees to Nursery and Donates produce.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Logan Johnston.

**3. OPEN TIME/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Charles Hansen – 11 years, growing trees 7 years, Almond

Oranges, and challenges with Pests – Oak trees

Farm Advisor help, needs information on where to put traps

Needs to hear from others in Happy Valley to have traps

5 years Apiary – Honey Bees

Drought really impacts bees, and lost colony to aphid in oaks

Coleen Wogoman

**4. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS** (Discussion)

a. Supplemental Water Program for District – Report/Discussion

GM Kelley – Reviewed the “Drought and Supplemental Water” Program that Director McVay had brought to the Board and was approved in December of 2023. This would be for years of drought and customers could commit to purchase water for their property.

b. Update on Annual Crop Report – Submitted for 2023 – Discussion

GM Kelley – Reviewed the 2023 report and that mentioned that our Volunteer Sally took all the customer reports into one, then the GM filled out the document and included the water information. The Bureau staff issues caused the format of the report to be late in arriving, and they don't seem as keen on the report. Audience member Colleen Wackman asked if we knew how many ag customers – and we thought it was around 250 most remembered. GM Kelley was going to check on that and at this writing he found there are currently 227 ag accounts.

c. Bureau Agriculture / Irrigation Water – Discussion

GM Kelley – reported to the committee the two documents. One being the “water rates” for M&I and Irrigation water. Member Possehn asked about the “WIIN” act impacts and GM Kelley mentioned the “N/A and TBD” in the middle were the construction payback amounts that will now be zero. Also – the Trinity PUD was added into Cost of Service.

The other letter was the Districts initial allocation – 100% Historic M&I and 75% contract.

GM Kelley mentioned that this M&I number is a real challenge to the District and is a one way ratchet that in a drought impacts the District much more than any other numbers reported to the Bureau regarding water usage. The current Historic M&I number is 2,265, and is the “Last three unencumbered years M&I average” and the 2023-24 year was going to replace the 2017 year that was close the 2265AF of M&I, with something around 1800-1900AF of M&I – so the

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Historic number is going down.... This year's allocation will be M&I 2200 plus I I K for Ag/Irr. The District will reach out to other's to see if there is any water transfer opportunity.

d. Ideas and strategies for Agriculture in the community – Discussion

i. Farm Trails / Farmers Market

Chair McVay asked Committee member Possehn to review a list from HVC

- Join Farm Association – Farm Water Alliance was suggested and this will be brought to the board.
- Workshops
  - Livestock, Veg Crops, Fed Farm Services
  - UC extension / Farm Bureau
- UC Extension Office
- Olives
  - Replant / replace – options and educations
- Hobby Farms
- 4-H : get youth involved
- Farmers Market
- Large Farms outreach
- Potential of forming Co-op (Olives growers or ?)
- Large supply Purchase pooling
- Animal Exchange.

Other discussed these ideas

Dir McVay – Farmers Market – where? Bonnies, Community Center, Next to Grocery Store, District Property

Insurance issues and others – GM would ask District insurance carrier.

Committee member Wharton – CA association of Farmers Mtk – had materials handed out to the committee members.

Feds give money, what amount Olive oil products and small farms products

Community member Colen Wogoman – Farm Trails discussion? Farm Festival..

Johnston : Farm Trails if nothing there, then people wont use it.

General discussion of Olives: Sevalana, Manzanella, Mission

“No Market for our (happy valley) Olives”

Discussion that we need information in Newsletter and a Survey

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Customers of District, Formal Ag, Define ag, Hobby farms, Locally Owned, Education needs.

Discussion / Mention of: Lavendar farm, 29 Roses, Flower farm, Blue Acre Farm

Strawberry festival – who does that? Happy Valley Community Foundation and they will be approached.

- ii. Workshops or other ideas?  
Possehn – Maybe a pruning workshop. Or have our own Dr. Harl or students provide workshop on livestock.

Director Johnston Volunteered to develop a framework and draft survey.

Next meeting – April 10th

## **5. ADJOURN THE MEETING- 7:42PM**

**Approved:** 03/20/24 Meeting



Signed:

**Secretary of the Board**

**General Manager: Paul Kelley**

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