

College of the Redwoods Farm Ag Advisory Committee Meeting
Humboldt County Farm Bureau Office
January 29, 2018

Attending: Franz Rulofson (CR faculty), President Katherine Ziemer (Humboldt County Farm Bureau), Secretary Janet Sclar (Farm Bureau Board member), Sandy Dale (NorthCoast Ag Partners NCAP), Julie Houtby (American Ag Credit), John Vevoda (Dairyman and Farm Bureau Board member)

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting on April 5, 2017, were accepted.
2. New Farm Manager recruitment has begun. Brochures are available. CR is posting on their website, Craig's List and the Times-Standard. Franz attended a conference in Monterey recently and handed out brochures, garnering one person coming to visit/considering applying. Discussion and ideas about places to advertise the position. Farm Bureau will pay to run an ad in the California Farm Bureau Ag Alert weekly newspaper for \$48.
3. Update on the Farm:
 - A. Franz reported that four acres of the farm had to be dropped from organic certification so that the comfrey overgrowth could be eradicated. Herbicide applications have been done and it remains to be seen if another will have to follow.
 - B. Katherine and Sandy had been asked to meet with the CR President and VP to discuss alternative uses for the farm. They were not aware of the topic until they arrived. The terms of the farm from the estate plan were that CR was to use the farm or it will be given to Save the Redwoods.
4. Franz said that the CTEA equipment grant deadline was coming up soon. He was considering either a spader and roller, or an electric tractor, which he viewed at the conference he attended recently. Discussion on the pros/cons of the tractor, being that it's a new idea (Solectrac.com), ensued. The deadline for the grant application is March 7th. Grant decisions are made in May. The committee liked the idea of an electric tractor and suggested Franz look more into the company.
5. Upcoming Field Day on February 17. There will be two teams in Forestry, eight in Dairy products, six in Farm Power, three in Best Informed Greenhand, four in Welding and six in Dairy Cattle. Comments shared about the difficulty in transporting cows to Redwood Acres, and to look into using Ferndale fairgrounds next year for more dairy participation.
6. Franz apprized the committee that the Ag Dept/CR Farm was going to be assessed for program revitalization, suspension or discontinuation under the College's AP4021 Academic Senate protocol. Paperwork was distributed outlining the procedure. The time frame for review has not been communicated yet. He stated that he is the only full time teacher in the program, and that the farm is currently self-sustaining financially. They have an established direct AA transfer program into Chico State University, and contribute significantly to our local community. Enrollment is down, as it is across the college, and a lack of local students attending CR seemed of most concern. Franz confirmed that he and the Ag Leadership group still do recruitment trips to the Ag classes at area high schools. Sandy said that she would be meeting with local Ag teachers and work out a way for Franz to get names of seniors enrolling at CR directly. Sandy also shared that her organization has worked very hard trying to get a dual enrollment program for high school seniors who would then graduate with CR credit before even transferring to CR. Seeing the college make the effort to solidify that credit transfer program, as well as take a greater interest in revitalizing this important community asset with additional full time staff positions would be most welcome. Committee suggestions for the assessment process were Walt Giacomini, Paul Giuntoli, John Vevoda, Sandy Dale, Cliff Clendenen.

7. The Committee discussed ways to further reach out to incoming CR Ag students and will think about planning an event in May and again in September to help make these local students feel welcome at CR. Additionally, reaching out to CR advisors in some way would be beneficial.

8. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Sclar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S" that are connected.

Janet L. Sclar