

College of the Redwoods Farm Ag Advisory Committee Meeting
Humboldt County Farm Bureau Office
September 7, 2016

Attending: President Katherine Ziemer (Farm Bureau Executive Director), Secretary Janet Sclar (Farm Bureau Board member), Franz Rulofson (CR faculty), Aubrey Schooley and Ruth Wonder (CR Ag Leadership representatives). Joseph Alexandre (Alexandre Dairies), Jeff Stackhouse (County Cooperative Extension agent), Walt Giacomini (beef rancher), Holly Krebs (row crops farmer and FB board member), Julie Houtby (American Ag Credit)

President Ziemer called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

1. Introductions were made and minutes of the previous meeting on 1-27-16 were approved.
2. Franz gave the committee handouts on the Ag Curriculum/Degrees and Certificates classes, and noted that an Ag AS degree in Plant Science has been brought back beginning this fall. He explained that there has been some difficulty with the CR Counseling Office directing all Ag students to Ag 43 so that those students can be tracked into appropriate degree classes, not just tracked according to their intended transfer school. He asked for feedback on any skills gaps noticed in the current curriculum and/or if any of the yearly classes could be moved to every other year offerings. The committee made several suggestions:
 - A. Proposed an Agriculture, Environment and Society class
 - B. Move AG 7, AG 30, AG 35 to every other year as well as add WT 53, FNR 1 BUS 10 and BUS 35 as electives.
 - C. Asked about a Landscape Design degree program since there is only one certified person in the county (a landscape maintenance and construction certificate has been added)
 - D. Suggested an Ag evening class to train future farm/ranch managers with an accounting emphasis
3. CR Farm Update
 - A. John Short, Farm Manager, has had some health problems and he was not present at this meeting as he was driving the Farm's contracted quinoa crop over the hill to Lundberg Farms. Franz reported that the farm is in poor condition right now. When questioned he said it is the worst it has ever looked. He mentioned that the Dean, Marla Gleave, is aware of the situation and is working on it. None of the issues planned for this year have been completed (neither Farm Bureau scholarship money offered for student transportation help nor CalTrans grant monies have been requested or used, no equipment has been purchased, weeds are all over the lower field, the cows are loose in the neighbors field, etc.). He said the Farm was in no shape to be used for any vegetable lab classes of any kind.

The Advisory Committee responded that the current conditions at the Farm were unacceptable and the issues must be addressed immediately.

 - > It was strongly suggested that the Farm be utilized, even in its current state, as an example of what happens when things are not done on schedule.
 - > They agreed that the Farm should be a showplace, and even though CR Faculty cannot oversee Managers it was suggested that Ag Faculty with knowhow be delegated to help oversee the operations of the Farm as necessary. Advisory Committee members also offered on-the-ground advice or expertise, or would appeal to other specialized farmers for assistance, if requested. Time was of the essence or a whole new season/year would be lost again.
 - > The Committee would like to see an evaluation of how the Farm is being managed, including the results of the Quinoa trial and how the role of the Farm Manager was utilized in the contract with Lundberg Farms and the results of Organic Sweet Corn trials conducted by the Organic Seed Alliance.
 - > They requested that a letter addressing all of the above concerns be sent to the CR Administration.
 - B. Franz said that he was looking at funding options for a small track layer tractor (1995 or newer) for the Ag 51 Tractor Operation course, for use four months every fall. The Committee suggested he contact Don's Rent-All or Peterson in Fortuna, for possible rental arrangements, so it would not have to be purchased.

4. CR Ag Field Day (FFA) is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2017.

5. Franz shared that Associate Faculty is being sought for Nursery Practices, Landscape Maintenance and Landscape Construction (installation class at the new house being constructed). Anyone interested should see him for further information.

6. Redwood Region Resource Rally

Katherine handed out flyers regarding the partnership activity between the Redwood Region Logging Conference and the North Coast Agriculture Partners on September 29, 2016, being held at Humboldt Redwood Company in Scotia. They expect 100 high school students from Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma counties in attendance to learn about career opportunities in Natural Resources and Forestry. Groups of 25 students will tour four different venues: the heavy equipment service bays, Fisheries/Wildlife focus, forestry harvest operations in a redwood grove, and a tour of the operating state-of-the art mill.

7. The Advisory Committee's next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 4:30 PM at the County Farm Bureau office. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Sclar".

Janet L. Sclar