

Santa Paula Unified School District Farm Advisory Committee

March 20, 2018, 5:00PM

SPUSD District Office Board Room

Meeting Notes

1. Present: Doug Henning, Jan Maez, Alex Flores, Laurie Arnold, Christine Schieferle, Andrew Arroyo, Ana Arroyo, Erin Valenzuela, Ellie Ramirez
2. Project Update: Doug reports: The structural steel has started. The district is working on the water storage tank permit, awaiting approvals. We hope to have the permit in the next few weeks.
3. Design Rendering / Possible Fundraising: Alex shared that he has sent Architect/Designer John Turturro the site plan, and an old design plan. Mr. Turturro has gone out to the farm. He is working on a 3D rendition, to include the cattle barn. He expects to have a preliminary draft next week. Doug shared the project thus far has been designed by a civil engineer, and as a matter of practice, civil engineers generally don't generate design renderings.
4. Pen Redesign to Accommodate Cattle: *Background: a pen redesign is necessary in the lamb/goat barn due to the reduction in scope of the original proposed project, from three to two barns, eliminating the cattle barn. The scope of the project was reduced last fall due to the higher-than-expected construction costs of the project (roughly \$2.6m), relative to original cost estimates (roughly \$1.6m).*

Doug reports that the re-design of the lamb/goat barn includes cattle pens which have been added, and goat pens have been reduced. Doug and Alex have been working together on the reconfiguration. Alex reports the size of cattle pens to be 24'x24', which is a standard size. Discussion of reconfiguration. Lamb/goat pen size is 8'x16'. Non-steer pens are 4' high; steer pens are 6' high.

The committee continued with additional discussion of panels and appropriate materials for panels. Steer require heavier duty panels, constructed of galvanized steel of a heavier gauge, than lamb/goat pens. The goal is to have the ability to be flexible based on animal needs, which change yearly. As needed, lamb/goats could be placed in the steer pens, so it would be better to plan for steer, as steer panels could be used for either type of animal use. It is possible we may not have steer every year, but we need to plan for it. As points of reference, Alex shared: this year three of four cattle are housed at the farm. The highest number of cattle Alex has had at the farm has been 12, and 6 has been the average number of cattle.

5. Identification of Furnishings, to include Committee Input (Including Site Perimeter Fencing and Automated Water Sensors for the Swine Barn)

Quotes/expenses include:

- a. Quote 1: Alex has obtained a quote to include pens for the swine barn. This quote also includes for the second barn: all lamb/goat pens
- b. Quote 2: The second quote Alex has obtained includes pens for the swine barn. For the lamb/goat barn, he also added steer pens (this second quote includes both original items in first quote, plus added steer pens). The committee discussed what is needed, to give flexibility and provide for being able to separate animals, in an economically-efficient manner. Ms. Jan Maez requests a modified second quote, based on conversation about pen sizes and needs, as we will need a few less lamb/goat pens, for consideration to be able to make a decision.
- c. Quote 3: Alex has obtained a quote for "Tuff Shed," to include four (4) sheds sized 10' x 20', with shelving inside. Discussion of storage needs for panels, other items. The committee was informed that a later phase of the farm includes a storage barn.
- d. Quote 4 (estimate needed): An estimate is needed of the costs to address plumbing for auto-spigots and the auto-spigots. This is only for the swine barn. We need to plan for animal-water sensors. Current construction plans include water stubbed above ground. Water lines will need to be extended around the sides of the swine barn. Additional needs include plumbing to be installed for the auto-spigots, with the quotes and construction necessarily to be done after-construction of the barn. For purposes of the April board meeting, estimates will be used.

The committee discussed furnishings at length. Conversation included items below.

At the April school board meeting, we need to present to the board the needs for the barn, all furnishings, everything needed to get the farm up and running. This is best practice, rather than to keep going back for requests of additional items.

Laurie requested items be funded from 2018-2019 school year, if possible, for potential purposes of using/identifying these expenses as matching funds in potential grant applications.

Currently, the district provides for the service of removal of animal waste; there would be no new cost to be approved related to this expense.

Discussion of additional items included shade cloth for pigs (pigs get sunburned, discussed at previous meeting). Alex shared this will be a future purchase and he expects there will be other funding sources and no need to include this item in the budget request at this time. Ms. Maez suggests requesting a 5% overage of total budget request in the event expenses go over, and this could be used for some unexpected costs.

Perimeter fencing: Alex has requested different fencing material than originally planned. The proposed plan is to eliminate chain link fencing around each individual barn to enclose the pens;

instead, eliminate chain link, and install a perimeter fence that encircles all barns. Doug shared the prints with the proposed fencing drawn in. This will include a price increase for a few reasons: additional length of fencing, post holes in soil not yet excavated for the construction. Proposed details include: height 5' no climb model, animal friendly. Prior height was a proposed 8' in a different material. We will get a credit on the existing construction bid as fencing around each barn was included in the construction cost. Poles already have been set for the original fence design; discussion that these could be used to hang shade cloth. The committee unanimously recommends to continue to get pricing for the perimeter fencing and include this in the April request to the board.

Security Cameras: Discussion of the need for security cameras. Alex recommends using security cameras. This is a consideration now at this point in time, specifically for electrical needs. Discussion of network-based cameras linked to Bedell, or cabling to go to a site location. (*Update: Meeting with Director of Technology scheduled for 3/23/2018*).

6. Additional: Laurie and Assistant Superintendent Scheiferle shared about Ag curriculum and programs district-wide, to include:
 - a. grade 3 See-Ag program
 - b. grade 6 IMS Career Exploration class, for fall 2018 tentative plans include the possible growing from a quarter to a semester long agriculture curriculum
 - c. IMS Ag Business Club to include chicken coops, project in progress
 - d. For 2017-2018, grade 9 two sections (approx. 66 students) of what formerly was one section (approx. 33 students) of the Ag 1 class, and redesign of the curriculum to "Introduction to Agriscience, FFA, and Careers" course. This will support growth of an Agriculture program, for expansion of the Agricultural Business pathway, an additional option to the existing Agri-Science Academy.
 - e. Vision for Ag Business pathway and possible use of the farm for Ag Business

7. Next Meeting Scheduled: Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 5 pm