

# Natural and Working Lands Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting

February 21, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join Via Zoom: <https://yolocounty.zoom.us/j/87341657810>

## In Attendance:

Kristen Wraithwall, Yolo County

Julia Olsen, Yolo County

Gretchen James, CivicSpark

Kate Reza, Yolo County RCD

Heather Nichols, Yolo County RCD

Andrew Kim, YCCAC Member

Pelayo Alvarez, YCCAC Member

Sarah Morgan, YCCAC Member

Mica Bennett, YCCAC Member

## 1. Introductions

- a. Staff from the YCRC, Dudek Team, Commission member representatives, and the County Sustainability Team gave introductions to who they are and what brought them to join the Natural and Working Lands Working Group.

## 2. Report Back on Working Group Recruitment/Outreach

- i. RCD Staff met with a Farm Bureau representative and confirmed the farmer and rancher contact list. The large-scale ag and rancher ag representatives have been confirmed and the response from a small-scale farming representative should be finalized by next week. RCD Staff offered the representative to join the Working Group or serve as an advisor for RCD for the Working Group. Discussions about meeting format reveal that a hybrid format would be optimal for farmer engagement.
- ii. RCD Staff sent formal invitations to the small farm, large farm, and ranch representatives.
- iii. RCD Staff have reached out to La Cooperativa Campesina (farmer workers representatives) twice but have gotten no response. The group was asked whether there are any suggestions on who to contact next .

- i. County Staff responded that an applicant from La Cooperativa Campensina was interviewed for the Equity and Engagement Working Group and expressed support for Working Group goals. He may be more likely to be involved with the E&E group.
- ii. A Commission member responded that RISE Inc. in Esparto could be a useful contact for farmworker representatives.

### 3. Review Updated Interview Questions ([LINK](#))

- i. Question 9.b. is to be adjusted from “Do you have any diesel-fueled water pumps?” to “Do you have any diesel-fueled equipment (including water pumps, UTVs, etc.)”
- ii. A question was asked if the focus of the interview questions is to get information about individual operations or to glean how farmers see the ag sector functioning in Yolo County.
- iii. A suggestion was made to reword questions 1 and 2 to be “Is climate change impacting...” rather than “Are you concerned about climate change impacting...”
- iv. A suggestion was made that more specific questions would be more helpful in terms of getting input information for the baseline inventory.
- v. A suggestion was made to add a question about farmers’ awareness of available incentive and funding programs.
- vi. A comment was made that it is virtually impossible to predict farmers’ participation.
- vii. A suggestion was made to get more anecdotal information from surveys but to rely on existing data sources for background information.

### 4. Review and Provide Feedback on Potential Sequestration Strategies (Attachment A)

- i. RCD Staff opened discussion for feedback on the potential sequestration strategies.
- ii. A suggestion was made to add prescribed fire and whole orchard recycling to the list. It was added that the benefits of prescribed grazing could be expanded.
- iii. A question was asked if NRCS practice standards are being followed in defining certain strategies. It was suggested to have a practice called “Soil Amendments” as manure and compost have different qualities.
- iv. It was suggested that Silvopasture should be adjusted from “All working lands” to “All pasture and forested land”.
- v. “Alleycropping” was added to the Stripcropping section.

- vi. Working Group members were thanked for their feedback and feedback was encouraged to be ongoing. It was added that it is important for the Dudek Team to know if certain strategies are not feasible on Yolo County lands.
- vii. Next steps:
  - a. County Staff to combine all comments and put on one document.
  - b. Fill missing pieces on the NWL Potential Strategies document. She asked what level of consistency they should keep with NRCS coding.
  - c. A suggestion was made that both conversational and agency language would be useful.

## 5. Discuss Roles of Working Group vs. Dudek

- a. Revisit Structure proposed during January Meeting
  - i. DUDEK to start by providing a list of strategies based on what is known to sequester carbon/what is effective.
  - ii. NWL WG to discuss and prioritize based on expertise/regional knowledge
  - iii. DUDEK to RCD's survey questions and draft materials for outreach streams based on needs (*ie. what information do they need input on from the ag community?*)
  - iv. NWL WG to review and finalize outreach materials (*ensure tone/focus is appropriate for community's needs*).
  - v. NWL WG/RCD to be the face of outreach/engagement.
  - vi. DUDEK to be responsible for synthesizing info collected from surveys, interviews, focus groups, etc.
- b. *Discuss roles for Interviews/Presentations/Roundtable Discussions and content development. (tabled for next meeting)*

## 6. Staff Updates

- a. Revisiting the Yolo Agriculture Equipment Retrofit Early Action Project
  - i. County Staff provided an update on the Agriculture Equipment Retrofit Early Action. It was stated that they are working on an updated project description and Staff Report to share with the Yolo County Subcommittee on Climate in early March to hopefully bring to the Commission at the March meeting.
- b. Discuss Plans for Transition to Full Working Group (time, location, and frequency of working group meetings)
  - i. RCD Staff created a draft schedule with a hybrid format that is pending on whether hybrid formats will be permitted.
- c. **Action Item:** County Staff to send out a doodle for scheduling 90 minute meetings for the future.

