

Notes by Jean on the Country Ventures meeting at Farm Bureau Sept 27, 2010 at noon
Attending: Bill Thompson, Rhonda Lowe, Rose Burroughs, Alan Schoff and Jean Okuye

Jean presented an agenda:

Past history of Country Ventures:

We looked at the interests/concerns which were written down just one year ago at our first meeting, August, 2009.

Present: We discussed what is happening now. Jean reported Mariposa status re Mariposa County Board of Supervisors (BOS) interest in Ag/Nature tourism to change zoning which is available to the public. Mary Hemminger, Cindy Lashbrook, Jean Okuye and Penny Leff attended this Aug. 10 meeting. The ordinance/zoning changes in Mariposa are being considered and finalized now.

Jean reported she met with Supervisor Hub Walsh today who is interested in learning more about ag/art/nature tourism in Merced County. He will be contacting supervisors in Mariposa County and get back with Jean.

Also reported was that the BOS had on their agenda at their last meeting: under Board Information and Possible Action #52: East Merced Resource Conservation District (EMRCD) support of agritourism. Jean informed the group that she got up to talk about this after hearing comments by the board. Prior to seeing this on the agenda during the meeting, she was unaware this was an agenda item. Mary Hemminger had made a presentation to EMRCD requesting their support. Apparently this letter of support was sent to the BOS. We will request a copy of this letter.

Future:

CD audio tour hwy 165

County General Plan Update/Zoning Change for ag/art/nature tourism

Possible County committee with Country Ventures to discuss changes to zoning and policy for the general plan update.

The rest of the meeting was focused on action for the future.

Action 1: ask Maxwell Norton for overview of County for places to have audio tours:

Action item 2: Finalize our mission/vision statement and define ag tourism

Action item 3: Ask Cindy to talk to Kim Anderson 385-7654 Ext 4412 in the Planning Dept. to determine how to move forward in presenting to general plan, forming advisory committee, or whatever.

Action item 4: Have an event at Farm Bureau inviting all Chamber of Commerces, government officials and interested persons: Nov. 18, beginning at 6 pm.

MSC(Rose/Rhonda) Have Country Ventures work to coordinate State Fair booth for Merced County starting with Chambers to discuss coordination of State Fair booth for Merced County, starting with the Chambers input.

MSC(Rose/Bill)Ask Alan to take lead in designing State Fair booth.

Alan agreed to talk with the coordinator for the State Fairs.

Next meeting will be end of November. No date set.