

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 23, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Mid-Columbia Ag Research & Extension Center
Extension Annex Meeting Room
2990 Experiment Station Dr, Hood River, OR 9701

Call to Order/Introductions

Megan Thompson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The following commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Megan, were present: Tony Guisto, Stacey Cooper, Jeff Heater, attended in person. Sue Root, Mike Omeg and Kerry Newberry were on the conference call. J.D. Walker was unable to attend.

Eric Shrum, *Western-Ag*, Steve Castagnoli, *MCAREC*, Kelsey Galimba, *Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Oregon State University*, Will Wise, *Oregon Beef Council*, Riley Bushue, *Northwest Horticulture Council*, and Julie Hoffman, current OSCC Administrator were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on May 26th, 2021, were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Jeff Heater moved, and Stacey Cooper seconded to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion carried unanimously.*

The financial statements for May, June and July 2021 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. Julie Hoffman reported the total assessment income through the month of June 2021 \$1,182,675.19.

Expenses for the past fiscal year were \$1,321,244.05.

As of June 30, 2021, the cash balance was \$703,087.06. During the month of July 2021, interest income was \$348.82. This brings the fund balance as of July 31, 2021, to \$703,435.88. *Stacey Cooper moved, and Jeff Heater seconded to accept the financial reports for both months as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Administrator's Activity Report

Julie Hoffman reported that the Research Review with Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission will be held on November 9 and 10. The first day will be on Zoom and the second day the Oregon and Washington Committees will meet in

person to vote on proposals. The pre-proposal voting deadline will be on September 13 and the teleconference will be on September 16.

Chairman's Report

Megan Thompson asked for a harvest round table discussion. The Commissioners reported that the heat dome that we experienced late June and early July did have some effect on the early harvest varieties. The consensus was that this year would be the worst harvest yield since 2009, but there was optimism that the later varieties would be better.

Northwest Horticultural Council Report

Riley Bushue reported that the appropriations process in Congress is moving along and the NHC is working to secure funding for research of Little Cherry Disease. Ag labor and immigration are concerns for producers and this is high on their agenda. Senator Crapo from Idaho has been working with NHC on the labor and immigration issues along with the new OSHA requirements for employee working conditions during heat events.

OSU Research & Extension Report-Steve Castagnoli

Steve Castagnoli's focus over the past few months has been to make progress with the funding for capital improvements at the Hood River Research Center. There is a grant that Oregon State University has secured and the project can move forward if the tree fruit industry agrees to provide \$200,000 in matching funds. Steve has made a presentation to the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers, and they will have a discussion at their next meeting. Steve gave the commission a tour of the facilities.

The Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission discussed the need for the improvements and in general is supportive of this project. Tony Guisto commented that he would like to see local contractors work on the project. This project is scheduled to begin early next year.

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Theresa Yoshioka, *International Trade Manager*, reported for Kris Anderson who had a conflict with this meeting. The ODA office at the Food Innovation Center has closed and employees are all working at home.

Old Business

There was no old business

New Business

There was no new business

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, October 14, 2021, Mid-Columbia Ag Research and Extension Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.