

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Albers Mill Building, Room 370
1200 NW Naito Pkwy, Portland, OR 97208
Tuesday, November 29, 2016 10:00 A.M.

Call to Order/Introductions

Dan Crouse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. the following Commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Dan, were present: Steve Sandau, Stacey Cooper, Jim Markman, Les Stephens, Megan Thompson and Leonard Aubert.

Eric Shrum, Western-Ag, Steve Castagnoli, MCAREC, Sue Davis, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Trade Development Manager, Tom Kubitz, Seneca Foods, Dan Crunican, Oregon Food Bank and Dana Branson, OSCC Administrator were also present.

While the group was waiting to reach a quorum of Commissioners Dana went through the collections activity so far this season. She read the letters of explanation on why payments were late that were received. Dan asked for volunteers to work as a committee with Dana to communicate either in writing or in person with direct sellers regarding assessments. Jim Markman and Les Stephens agreed to be on the committee. Dan will check with Ryan Bond also.

Jared Gidley resigned as the Wasco County producer representative because he is no longer employed with Orchard View Farms. He is a Hood River County producer and is eligible to apply for the Willamette Valley position that has now been open for more than two months and one meeting as required by our Administrative Rules. His application has been submitted. Megan Thompson reminded Dana to post the Wasco County producer position opening on the OSCC website to make sure people know about it. It is posted on the ODA website. Dana has contacted Orchard View Farms and they plan to submit an application.

ODA Report

Kris Anderson was not able to attend the meeting. Sue Davis, Trade Development Manager, introduced herself to the Commission. She works out of an office in Hood River about three days a week as well as traveling around the state.

Once the quorum was reached the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 11, 2016 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Leonard Aubert moved and Megan Thompson seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

The financial statements for October were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. There were no questions. *Stacey Cooper moved and Jim Markman seconded to accept the financial reports for October as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Administrator's Activity Report

The discussion on collections continued. *Stacey Cooper moved and Leonard Aubert seconded to forgive the late penalty and interest for the three companies that wrote letters of explanation. The motion carried unanimously.*

Dana gave an update on the Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plans (IPMSP) project being done at OSU by Katie Murray. OSCC provided a letter of support for the project earlier this year. At this time no funding is being requested. The model is based on one being successfully used in Arizona for the past several years. Currently the OSU team is working on crop pest losses workshops for onion and cranberries. They plan to start on hazelnuts and cherries in Spring 2017. Katie will be contacting Lynn Long, Mike Doke (Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers) and me to get contact information for growers interested in participating.

Jared Gidley was the OSCC Secretary/Treasurer so *Megan Thompson moved to nominate Leonard Aubert for the position and Stacey Cooper seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

With Jared's resignation there are currently only two authorized signers on the checking account for the OSCC and each check requires two signatures. *Les Stephens moved and Megan Thompson seconded to authorize the addition of Stacey Cooper, Vice Chairwoman, and Leonard Aubert, Secretary/Treasurer to the signature card at Columbia Bank. The motion carried unanimously.* Dana will take a copy of these minutes to the bank and notify Stacey and Leonard when they can go in to sign.

Cherry Institute is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2017 in Yakima. There will be an orchard tour hosted by Matt Whiting on Thursday, January 19 at the Prosser Station. Pre-registration deadline is January 4, 2017. If you need more information please contact Dana or Kathy Keeth at the Washington State Fruit Commission.

A crop and cash estimate for the year to date was handed out. Deposits of brine assessments received to date were included.

Chairman’s Report

The California Research Review is scheduled for January 25, 2017 in Stockton, CA. The last few years we have sent representatives. *Megan Thompson moved and Stacey cooper seconded to pay reasonable travel costs for up to three people to attend. The motion carried unanimously.* Dan will coordinate the representatives.

Oregon Food Bank – Dan Crunican

Dan Crunican is the Food Resource Developer for the organization. He brought information on how growers can donate fruit that’s excess or salvageable to distribute to area food banks and pantries. There are state and federal tax credits available for the donations based on the wholesale value and the Food Bank can assist with bins, pick up and possibly picking costs for the donation. They are in need of clamshell containers to help with their distribution. Visit their website for more information <https://www.oregonfoodbank.org>.

Research Committee Report

The group went through the continuing projects first because they’re normally funded at the same percentage level as the previous year. After discussion and review of each project request the list of continuing projects including the Breeding Program project listed as “NEW” follows:

Researcher	Project Title-abbreviated	Requested	Oregon \$
Peace	Streamlining the Breeding Program	\$150,000	\$37,500
Wang	Strategies to reduce postharvest splitting	33,185	8,296
Wang	Ensuring ocean shipping quality	46,794	35,096
Probst	Sources of primary cherry powdery mildew	25,040	6,260
Probst	ABC of cherry powdery mildew	82,187	20,547
Pscheidt	Cherry virus diagnostic survey	34,626	34,626
Beers	Integrated pest mgmt of SWD	57,932	14,483
Hubbard	Manage acclimation hardiness bacterial canker	44,503	44,503
Total			\$201,311

Megan Thompson moved and Leonard Aubert seconded to approve up to \$201,311 with the assumption Washington funds at the levels OSCC estimated. The motion carried unanimously.

The new projects were discussed one by one and consensus was reached as follows:

Researcher	Project Title-abbreviated	Requested	Oregon \$
Whiting	Precision pollination	\$74,566	\$ 0
Salazar	Predicting flower bud hardiness	83,802	41,901
Choi	Non-toxic RNAi-based insecticide for SWD	43,880	10,970
Iezzoni	MSU sweet cherry rootstocks	81,012	17,753
Gibeaut	Preservation & retention of green stems	15,708	7,854
Gibeaut	Model reporting	31,416	15,708
Gibeaut	Print color maturation profiles-dark sweets	6,142	6,142
Total			\$ 100,328

Whiting's project did not rate highly for Oregon, but there might be interest from Washington. Les Stephens made the point that the equipment manufacturer involved should be putting in money because they stand to gain if the theory proves effective. There is also more coordination of work to be done between Salazar and Gibeaut to make sure we're not duplicating work and that the end result is user friendly and effective. The Commission might ask to review the progress on their work before releasing the second half of funds. Eric and Dan will work with Dena Ybarra and Mike Willet on this. There are still some questions about the printing of the color maturation chart, which will be discussed with Gibeaut.

Another item that was brought up at the Research Review is a request to contribute to the cost of hiring a new cherry breeder. WSU has estimated that with approximately \$100,000 they could speed up the process and get someone on board by next season. Oregon's share of that is \$25,000.

Megan Thompson moved and Leonard Aubert seconded to approve funding up to \$146,189 for these new projects with the assumption Washington funds at the levels OSCC estimated. The motion carried unanimously.

MCAREC

Steve Castagnoli, the Interim Director at MCAREC, gave a list of the recent staff changes. He reported that the post-doc entomology position opening is expected to be announced any day. Prior to the election, the CAS deans were hopeful of approving one of the two vacated tenure tract positions in January and the other as early as July 2017. The goal is to refill those positions as soon as possible, but the defeat of measure 97 and an anticipated budget cut make the timeframe less certain now. He discussed other personnel and staffing goals for the station, such as having more of the administrative functions handled in the centralized OSU Business Center. The Farm Foreman is working under Steve's direction on farm operations. Jeff Heater, Eric Shrum and Mike McCarthy recently provided

consultation on pruning, which is now underway. The Commissioners thanked Steve for taking time to attend the meeting and to provide information.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:25 and reconvened at 12:50.

Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)

Dan attended the bi-annual meeting, which will be Chris Schlect's last one as he will be retiring in March

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be February 9, 2017 starting at 10:00 a.m. The location is still to be determined.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.