

**Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission**  
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Mid-Columbia Ag Research & Extension Center  
Extension Annex Meeting Room  
2990 Experiment Station Dr., Hood River, OR 97301  
Thursday, February 15, 2018 9:00 A.M.

### **Call to Order/Introductions**

Dan Crouse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. the following Commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Dan, were present: Stacey Cooper, Jim Markman, Les Stephens, Megan Thompson, Brad Pickering, Steve Sandau, Kris Brunner and Wade Root. Ryan Bond joined the meeting at 9:12.

Kris Anderson ODA Commodity Commission Program Manager, Jeff Heater, Western Ag, Dan Crunican, Oregon Food Bank and Dana Branson, OSCC Administrator were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on November 28, 2017 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Megan Thompson moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

The minutes of the Special meetings held on January 19 and 22, 2018 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Stacey Cooper moved and Brad Pickering seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on February 15, 2018 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Kris Brunner moved and Megan Thompson seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

The financial statements for November, December and January were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. There were no questions. *Jim Markman moved and Megan Thompson seconded to accept the financial reports for all three months as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Administrator's Activity Report**

Dana went over the assessments and funds estimate for the fiscal year. There were no questions.

There was discussion about contacting Oregon State University (OSU) College of Ag inquiring about the timeline for creating tenure track positions at MCAREC for the entomology and post-harvest positions currently filled by temporary appointments of post-doctoral scientists. Dana talked with Steve Castagnoli, who was unable to attend today. He gave assurances that he and Joyce Loper want to have these positions filled as tenure track and continue working with OSU to facilitate it.

Through Special meetings the search for a new Administrator has begun. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is in favor of using an Interagency Agreement with another commodity commission or other government agency to perform the function. So far there have been calls and discussion with or about Pear Bureau Northwest, AgLink, the Oregon Dairy Council and the Oregon Beef Council. AgLink is not an option because it's not a government agency. The Oregon Dairy Council and the Pear Bureau declined after reviewing the job description and their staffing. The Beef Council is looking at the possibility more closely and their Board is meeting February 26 to decide. If a government agency cannot be contracted Kris Anderson said OSCC will have to go back to DOJ to see what benefits, etc. are required for a part-time position. Dana will check with the Beef Council to see if sending an OSCC representative to their meeting would be helpful.

The OSCC has been asked to write a letter of support for a Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) project for a Berry Health Benefits Symposium in May 2019 that will be held in Oregon. There is no cost to OSCC. *Megan Thompson moved and Ryan Bond seconded to provide a letter of support. The motion carried unanimously.*

Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission (WTFRC) notified OSCC of their research funding and the funds committed by California to the projects listed in the November 28, 2017 OSCC minutes. At that meeting OSCC approved up to 25% of the total amount requested by Joanna Chiu ( $\$31,384 * 25\% = \$7,846$ ) depending on how much Washington and California approved. California was able to commit \$15,000, which lowers the total need to \$16,384 and the OSCC portion to \$4,904. Dana will notify WTFRC.

### **ODA Report – Kris Anderson**

The ODA will begin recruiting for open Commission positions. Alexis Taylor, ODA Director, would ideally like two applications for each position and a variety of applicants – large and small, minorities, older and younger, etc. Terms are expiring for Jim Markman (Public member), Andrea Galloway (P9 Eastern OR) and Dan Crouse (P5 Wasco) and these individuals are term limited. Wade Root (P4 Wasco) was appointed for a partial term so he's eligible for re-appointment. Leonard Aubert (P8 Hood River) recently resigned so that position is open. The application form is being updated, but until it is approved continue to use the old form. There was discussion about potential applicants to contact.

There is also a position on the Commodity Commission Oversight Advisory Committee. Ryan Bond has applied.

Kris talked about the policies on harassment, safe work places and ethics that she emailed to the Commissioners. Online training is available and is recommended.

Eric Garman is working with a PR firm on a marketing survey to determine if it would be advantageous to 'brand' Oregon agriculture. He will be coming to a future OSCC meeting to explain more.

Kris went over the recent activity on proposed SB 1514 mandating the review of state boards and agencies every other year. Commodity Commissions were exempted early in the process.

### **Chairman/Research Committee Report**

Delila Rendon is working with Vaughn Walton to replace the SPLAT project that was funded at the November 28 meeting because the chemical material to be used was discontinued. When it's finalized it will be sent to OSCC for consideration.

Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) merger with NW Fruit Exporters has been held up due to some changes being requested by the US Justice Department. An audit of NHC found the amount of "unrestricted net assets" were over the amount allowed. The money will be returned to the agencies that paid. OSCC will be receiving \$186.75 and will not be billed for their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter assessments, which are \$2,067.25.

### **California Research Review – Les Stephens**

Les reported that California growers are more concerned with SWD and other insects and not so much with virus detection/control or breeding new cherry varieties. There is work being done with Kasumin to control bacterial canker. Megan Thompson suggested checking with Nik Wiman who has also been investigating that for the Willamette Valley. California is very interested in finding a mechanical harvesting method for Fresh cherries due to ongoing labor concerns. A researcher has been asked to develop a project and is still in preliminary evaluation.

### **Update on Cherry Breeder position at WSU**

Nothing specific to report on except that interviews and developing an offer are underway.

### **Assessment Review Committee Report – Brad Pickering**

Brad went over the information he provided to the committee prior to and during the meeting on February 12 comparing Washington and Oregon's assessment collection on processed cherries (brined, canned and frozen). This showed how much was collected and how much would have been collected if both states followed the same calculation method. **The committee recommended raising the assessment rate on processed cherries to \$9.00 per ton and NOT to change the method of calculation from packed weight to delivered weight.** This will equalize the amount collected from all cherry growers for the purposes of Research and Administration of the OSCC. *Les Stephens moved and Steve Sandau seconded to authorize amending the Administrative Rule to increase the assessment on Brined, Canned and Frozen cherries from \$6.75 to \$9.00 per ton packed(paid) weight. The motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was recessed at 10:13 and resumed at 10:30. Jeff Heater left at the break.

### **Old Business- Discussion regarding Commission Geographic Representation**

The current Administrative Rule is written regarding the number of Commissioners and who or where they represent. The total number as it is today is 12 members. They are:  
1 – Public Member  
2 – Handler positions – one fresh handler and one processed handler

- 3 – Producer Position from West of the Cascades
- 5 – Producer positions from Columbia River area – Hood River & Wasco Counties
- 1 – Producer position from Eastern Oregon

The industry is changing because of consolidation among the packinghouses, reduction of acreage in some areas and more offline and salvage fruit being used in processing. In addition it has been difficult to recruit applicants from some areas resulting in a position being open for some length of time. If some positions are designated at-large the recruitment will hopefully be easier and reducing the total number of positions reduces the number needed for a quorum to six members.

After discussion *Stacey Cooper moved and Megan Thompson seconded to authorize amending the Administrative Rule to a total of 11 members as follows:*

- 1 – Public Member*
- 2 – Handler positions – one fresh handler and one processed handler*
- 2 – Producer Position from West of the Cascades*
- 4 – Producer positions from Columbia River area – Hood River & Wasco Counties*
- 2 – At-large Producer positions*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **New Business**

There was no new business

### **Oregon Food Bank – Dan Crunican**

Dan attended the meeting today to remind everyone that the Oregon Food Bank is an option for surplus cherries with no home. They help get food to all 21 food banks throughout the state. There is a facility in The Dalles that serves Sherman, Wasco and Hood River Counties. Please contact them in the unfortunate circumstance with your surplus.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 26, 2018 in the second floor classroom at the Food Innovation Center, 1207 NW Naito Pkwy., Portland, OR starting at **10:00 a.m.** Please note start time.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.