

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
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BUDGET HEARING and REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Columbia Gorge Community College
400 E. Scenic Dr, Building 1, Room 1.454
Tuesday, May 31, 2016, 2:00 P.M.

Call to Order/Introductions

Dan Crouse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. the following Commissioners including Dan, were present: Stacey Cooper, Jim Markman, Ryan Bond, Jeff Heater, Les Stephens, Andrea Galloway, Jared Gidley and Tim Ramsey constituting a quorum.

Brian Tuck, Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research & Extension Center (MCAREC) and Dana Branson, Administrator, were also present. Kris Anderson, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Commodity Commission Program Manager joined the meeting at 2:10.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on April 12, 2016 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Tim Ramsey moved and Jeff Heater seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

The financial statements for April were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. Dana explained that Jim Markman brought to her attention that some items in the budget column of the monthly Budget Report didn't match the numbers approved in the 2015-16 budget. Dana checked and discovered they'd been off since the beginning of the fiscal year. The numbers reported each month are correct and the financial report was not sent out to anyone except the commissioners. No decisions were made based on incorrect information and Dana has gone back and corrected the previous months' as well as this month. There were no further questions. *Jim Markman moved and Jeff Heater seconded to accept the financial reports for April as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Administrator's Activity Report

Dana reported that applications for all the open commission positions have been sent in with the exception of one position for the Willamette Valley that has been open for all this year. Tim Ramsey said he would get information out to Oregon Cherry Growers (OCG) to see if a volunteer would come forward.

Dana reminded everyone to turn in any expenses that need to be reimbursed by the commission by June 30 to get into the current fiscal year.

Dana reported briefly on the 5 State Cherry meeting she attended May 23rd in Richland, WA. The Northwest crop estimate has already been reduced to 18.3 million boxes for this season down from 19.3 million.

Dana met with the sales rep for "Growing Oregon" an annual publication featuring Oregon agriculture regarding an ad in their magazine that will come out in September. There was a question about timing of the publication and how it is distributed – Dana will look into those questions. **(The day after the meeting Dana talked with the sales rep about these two questions. There was no particular reason for choosing September as the publication date, however, the magazine is distributed all through the year at events such as Ag Fest, the State Fair, Feast, The Bite, the horticulture show, etc. It's also mailed to all Oregon legislators and many Chambers of Commerce and groups such as Mid-Columbia Fruit Growers are participating. The Oregon Department of Ag takes the lead in distribution.)** After discussion including information from James Michael at NW Cherries the consensus of the group was not to purchase the ad this year.

The budget hearing was opened at 2:19 p.m.

Discussion continued with a request again this year for funding from the Summer Ag Institute (SAI), a 3-credit graduate level course for K-12 educators with little or no agricultural background offered through OSU.

Since no business could be concluded while the hearing is open the discussion turned to the details regarding estimates in the budget.

The budget hearing was closed at 2:36.

Chairman's Activity

Andrea Galloway moved and Ryan Bond seconded to approve the Marketing Operations Plan for 2016-2017 that was emailed in advance of the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Bond moved and Andrea Galloway seconded to approve the 2016-2017 budget as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.

To finish the discussion regarding SAI, *Jeff Heater moved and Les Stephens seconded to approve \$350 for the program. The motion carried unanimously.*

Jeff Heater moved and Jim Markman seconded to nominate the following Commissioners for officers next year:

Dan Crouse, Chairman

Stacey Cooper, Vice Chairwoman

Jared Gidley, Secretary/Treasurer

The vote was unanimous to approve the whole slate.

Each year the OSCC appoints two representatives for the National Cherry Growers & Industries Foundation board. *It was moved by Jim Markman and seconded by Tim Ramsey to renew the appointments of John Carter and Stacey Cooper. The motion carried unanimously.*

ODA Report

Kris Anderson reported that the Ag Marketing Division is re-organizing along regional growing area lines, rather than having staff assigned to either domestic or international marketing. Erick Garman has been assigned to cover the Columbia Gorge and the Columbia Basin. She will see about bringing him to a meeting soon.

Research Committee Report

There were supposed to be samples from the new variety cherry blocks in Prosser, but they ran into problems and there weren't any. The new person hired to manage the breeding program is on premise documenting what's there and putting procedures in place. Bryce Molesworth and John Carter have fewer responsibilities this summer and have volunteered to visit Prosser periodically to check on the work being done and report back to OSCC.

There was discussion regarding Todd Einhorn's decision about the job offer in Michigan. Todd has done valuable research for cherry and pear growers at MCAREC. OSCC Commissioners and representatives from Mid-Columbia Fruit Growers have been working with OSU to improve his compensation and address work issues to convince him to stay. Commissioner Jeff Heater commented to Brian Tuck that the loss of staff at MCAREC is a direct reflection of his management style. This was also brought to the attention of OSU leadership during discussions with them.

Dana will send out the prior year list of research priorities mid-July to members of the Research Committee for input and updating. The due date for responses will be August 1 and she will send the list the

Washington Research Committee. A combined list will be made public so researchers know where to focus their project proposals.

Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)

Dan Crouse wasn't able to attend the annual meeting due to the season starting early. He reported from their minutes that a budget was approved, Chris Schlect will be retiring March 31 and there were reports on work being done on minimum residue levels (MRL's) on exports to various countries.

OSU Research & Extension Report

Brian Tuck is projecting June 27 as the harvest date for the station, perhaps sooner. He has been able find labor for picking through a contractor approved by OSU.

Vaughn Walton has taken over the SWD work since Shearer is gone. He has hired a grad student that will be working at MCAREC

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be August 2, 2016 in Class Room 1.334 in Building 1, third floor, Columbia Gorge Community College campus, 400 E Scenic Dr., The Dalles, OR at the starting at **10:30** a.m. Please note the start time was adjusted slightly.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.