

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 1.162
Thursday, June 1, 2017, 2:00 P.M.

Call to Order/Introductions

Dan Crouse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. the following Commissioners including Dan, were present: Jim Markman, Ryan Bond, Andrea Galloway, Steve Sandau and Megan Thompson; Stacey Cooper joined at 2:06 p.m. constituting a quorum. Les Stephens and Kris Brunner joined the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Jeff Heater, The Dalles Fruit Co., Steve Castagnoli, Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research & Extension Center (MCAREC) Director, Dalila Rendon, MCAREC Entomologist, Kris Anderson, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Commodity Commission Program Manager, Steve Freeman, Pacific Coast Producers, Sue Root and Mike Elias, Oregon Cherry Growers, Inc. (OCG), Bryce Molesworth, representing National Cherry Growers & Industries Foundation (NCGIF), Dan Crunican, Oregon Food Bank and Dana Branson, Administrator, were also present.

These items were moved up on the agenda until a quorum was reached and to accommodate our guest.

Discussion Re: NCGIF Future – Bryce Molesworth

Bryce Molesworth has served many positions within NCGIF over the years. Currently he's the Promotion Committee Chairman. The number of maraschino cherry processors and the amount of money they are willing to contribute to NCGIF promotion efforts has declined. Last year only one processor was participating (OCG) and the sale of OCG to Pacific Coast Producers that was just finalized means there currently are no processors participating. In addition, Cheryl Kroupa, the long-time Marketing Director is retiring this fall and the brine cherry growers in the Willamette Valley expressed at the last meeting that they do not believe the promotions have an effect on the maraschino market. Bryce said he came to the meeting today just to inform the Commission of the status of NCGIF so plans can be made on what to do.

Stacey Cooper commented Washington and Michigan are having similar discussions. One suggestion from B.J. Thurlby is to use the promotion

money to set up an industry, multi-state organization along the lines of USA Apple or U.S. Apple Association to work together to advance the industry. No details have been worked out. There's not enough information to make a decision today. The time frame for making a rule change is about 60 days, brine assessment collection by one packinghouse will be complete for the most part by September 15. These are important factors to keep in mind.

Update on the Cherry Breeding Program – Bryce Molesworth

Bryce Molesworth and John Carter made a trip up to Prosser to look at the experimental blocks. They made recommendations to remove some trees and decisions are in the works to do that. John Carter will not be available the next few months to visit the trials. Bryce is willing to continue to go as his schedule permits and if anyone else has time please let him know.

The Budget Hearing was opened at 2:17 p.m.

5 State Meeting Report – Megan Thompson

A crop of 23-25 million boxes was estimated at the meeting. Yakima and the Tri-Cities area have a better looking crop this year. The potential spread in timing between districts looks good (100 day spread over the NW season as a whole) and the late crop appears to be large at this point. The California crop is almost finished with 8-10 million boxes, which is a good year for them. The Dalles crop is estimated to be at or slightly lower than 2016. The estimated start date for Dallesport is June 15, June 12 for Tri-Cities. The port of Seattle is adding cargo flights to China. Kris Anderson thought Cathay Pacific had added a flight(s) out of Portland also.

Administrator's Activity Report

Dana reported that applications for all the open commission positions have been sent in with the exception of the processed handler position currently held by Tim Ramsey who will not be re-applying. There are two potential applicants.

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 met with the sales rep for "Growing Oregon" the publication featuring Oregon agriculture regarding an ad in their magazine that will come out in September. OSCC/NW CHERRIES did not participate with an ad last year. There was a smaller ad available for under \$2000 so James Michael, NW Cherries, contracted for this September 2017 issue.

OSCC has received two requests for support for agricultural education – one from AgLink to participate again in the Denim & Diamonds fund raiser dinner (Adopt-a-Farmer) and the Summer Ag Institute (continuing ed credits for K-12 teachers). OSCC has sent support to these causes in the past. There was discussion to remind everyone of what each group works on. In addition, OSCC received an invoice for membership dues in AgLink. A small membership (\$150) has also been done for the past several years.

Dana went over the current Administrative Rule Change that was submitted to change the due date for all assessments. After the meeting in April and some comments from processors it was decided NOT to change the due date for Brined, Canned or Frozen cherries. The only due date that will change is the one for Fresh Market assessments from September 1 to October 1. No one attended the public hearing to make comments on May 22, 2017. Dana will complete the paper work to finalize the rule change.

The Budget hearing was closed at 2:34. There were no comments.

With the budget hearing closed the following items were voted on:

The minutes of the regular meeting held on April 13, 2017 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Ryan Bond moved and Megan Thompson 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. There was no further discussion. *Megan Thompson moved and Jim Markman seconded to accept the financial reports for April as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Stacey Cooper moved and Les Stephens seconded to approve funding support for AgLink's Denim & Diamonds fund raising dinner at the same level as last year. The motion carried unanimously.

Stacey Cooper moved and Ryan Bond seconded to approve \$150 membership in AgLink this year. The motion carried unanimously.

Stacey Cooper moved and Ryan Bond seconded to approve the Administrative Rules Change proposed by Dana, which moved the assessment due for Fresh Market cherries only from September 1 to October 1. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim Markman moved and Ryan Bond seconded to approve \$300 for the OSU Summer Ag Institute program. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Activity

Jim Markman moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to approve the 2017-2018 budget as published in the Spring newsletter. The motion carried unanimously.

The 2017-2018 Operational Plan has been drafted. Dana thought Kris Anderson needed to approve it first, but that's not correct. She will email a copy to the Commissioners for their review. It will be on the August meeting agenda to discuss and approve.

Eric Shrum, co-Chairman of the Research Committee, joined the meeting and gave his report on a recent meeting he attended with Washington State University (WSU) staff to discuss the search for a new person to head the Cherry Breeding Program. Eric has agreed to serve as the Chairman of the search committee of WSU, Washington State Fruit Commission and OSCC representatives. The committee is optimistically hoping to have the position advertised by June 15. Eric explained the lengthy timeline of the hiring process. WSU thinks the hiring can be done by September 1st, but Eric thinks January 1st is more realistic.

Megan Thompson moved and Les Stephens seconded to approve the slate of the following Commissioners for officers as nominated at the April 13, 2017 meeting:

Dan Crouse, Chairman

Stacey Cooper, Vice Chairwoman

Leonard Aubert, 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. *Megan Thompson nominated Stacey Cooper and Ryan Bond. It was seconded by Les Stephens - the motion carried unanimously.*

Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)

Dan Crouse reported attending the Annual meeting. The organization is in flux for several reasons – one, because the Farm Bill is not complete. NHC would like to know the preference of growers/shippers for regulations/control to be at the federal or state level? The consensus of the OSCC Commissioners is they prefer the state level. Other issues

creating uncertainty at NHC – federal tax reform, immigration reform/enforcement, Food Safety Modernization Act, three open positions.

OSU Research & Extension Report

Steve Castagnoli introduced Dalila Rendon, the post-doctoral candidate working under the supervision of Vaughn Walton on entomology at MCAREC. He reported that budget operations are stable for now with the reduction in personnel expenses and said things are getting done in spite of having fewer people. The current projects approved from the November Research Review are continuing – David Gibeaut, Drew Hubbard and Yan’s wife along with a post-doc and two visiting scholars from China are carrying on. Steve thinks Yan’s projects could continue through the 2018 growing season with temporary help to replace the visiting scholars after they leave in October 2017.

An entomology research project description and funding request was sent out to the OSCC before the meeting. There were questions and a discussion about the project. *Stacey Cooper moved and Megan Thompson seconded to approve \$11,480 for the entomology project proposed for the season. The motion carried unanimously.*

Old Business

Les Stephens moved to withdraw his motion regarding getting an estimate of the cost for the audit suggested by Harry Noah of the maraschino promotions program. Jim Markman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

There was no new business.

Oregon Food Bank

Dan Crunican attended the orchard tour and the meeting. The Oregon Food Bank is interested in donations of cherries this season if there are some cherries that can’t be sold. The Oregon Food Bank is also looking for an 8,000-square foot warehouse space preferably in The Dalles area. Please contact him with any help you may have.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, August 16, 2017 in the OSU Extension Meeting Room, 2990 Experiment Station Dr., Hood River, OR starting at **10:00** a.m.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.