



OREGON SWEET CHERRY COMMISSION
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2022

Mid Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center.
 2990 Experiment Station Dr, Hood River, OR 97031

Chairman Megan Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.
 Commissioners present included:

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|--------|----------|--------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Vacant | Sue Root | Vacant | JD Walker | Megan Thompson | Wade Root | Jeff Heater | Anthony Guisto | Stacey Cooper | Michael Omeg | Kerry Newberry |
| H1 | H2 | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | P5 | P6 | P7 | P8 | PM |
| N | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |

Others present included: Kris Anderson; Oregon Department of Agriculture Commodity Commission Oversight Program Manager, Riley Bushue; Northwest Horticulture Council, Rachel Leisso, ARS; Stuart Reitz; Interim Director Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Tony Shepherd; public member, Randi Alexander-Rolison; OSCC Administrative Office, Julie Hoffman; OSCC Administrative Office, Will Wise; Oregon Beef Council.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The minutes for the December 1, 2021 meeting were reviewed by the Commission.

Stacy Cooper moved to approve the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Anthony Guisto. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

It is noted that Constant Contact emails are not being received/accepted by the ODA server, and a few commissioners are also having issues with minutes being delivered via Constant Contact. Staff will now provide minutes and financials via email (primarily randi@orbeef.org) to help eliminate the issue.

Co-Administrator Julie Hoffman provided a financial statement for July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 that showed a beginning fund balance as of July 1, 2021 of **\$703,087.06**. Revenue through December 31, 2021 was **\$908,385.74**, giving a total revenue and fund balance

\$1,611,472.80 with total expenses through December 31, 2021 of **\$763,974.05**, leaving an ending fund balance of **\$847,498.75**.

Hoffman also provided an updated financial report on 2/8/2022 that carried income and expenses through January 31, 2022.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fund Balance Carried Forward | \$ 703,087.06 |
| Income | <u>909,096.51</u> |
| Revenue and Fund Balance | \$1,612,183.57 |
| Expenses thru Jan 31, 2022 | <u>(794,402.69)</u> |
| Ending Fund Balance | \$ 817,780.88 |

On the Budget Report July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 (As of December 31, 2021) JD Walker noted that “REVENUES 2020-2021 TO DATE” needed to be corrected to show 2021-2022.

Stacy Cooper moved to approve the February 9, 2022 financials with edits. Seconded by Wade Root. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

It was requested that line items in the BUDGET REPORT form be made more specific, for example, listing Northwest Horticulture Council in the Public Relations line item and Fresh Fruit Promotion specified as to whom is included there.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Alexander-Rolison has made updates to the current OSCC website. Listing commissioners, upcoming meeting dates and appropriate links. The website is archaic and needs to be aesthetically and informationally updated. Stacy Cooper commented that an updated website would be beneficial and a useful tool for staff and as an effort to promote Sweet Cherries in Oregon. Julie Hoffman reported that there would not be an additional costs associated with a website for the 2021-22 year, however, when working on the 2022-23 budget the commission can expect there to be increased expenditures for the website hosting as well as the time to create and maintain the site on Randi Alexander-Rolison’s part.

The commission suggested that the updates include research projects, links to associated organizations, information on commissioners, how to become involved with OSCC and visually appealing images.

Julie Hoffman shared with the commission that she is thankful for Randi Alexander-Rolison’s assistance and being a co-administrator.

Oregon Ag Fest sent a financial request in the amount of \$250 to OSCC. The event will take place April 23 and 24.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT – Kris Anderson

It is requested that we get the 2022-23 budget sent to Kris no later than June 5th. This allows time for review, changes and signatures of all necessary parties.

The State of Oregon funded a disaster relief fund for those affected by weather and wildfires. You can go to oda.fyi/dap to sign up to receive informational emails and be a part of the program.

Commissioner appointments and re-appointment time has come. OSCC has the H1 position vacant (State at Large -- fresh). This term ends June 30, 2022. To apply for a partial term, the deadline for applicants is Feb 11, 2022. If it remains open past the deadline, the application for all other re-appointment and new positions is March 15, 2022.

Other open positions include: P1 (all areas west of the Cascade Mountains), P2 (all areas west of the Cascade Mountains), P3 (Wasco/Hood River Counties), P6 (Wasco/Hood River Counties). If no one applies for these positions, there is a waiting period of 60 days, and then an applicant from another area may be considered. A map of the regions where each position is held/represented is in the administrative rules. (See also attached map).

There are also two openings for the Commodity Commission Oversight Program, this committee provides oversight for ODA management. The people qualified to be on this committee are Commissioners or Commission Administrators. To apply for a commissioner position or to be on the ODA oversight committee, go to oda.direct/commissions.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- Megan Thompson

The California Research Review was canceled with no plans to reschedule at this time.

Thompson reported that research funding has changed some from when the OSCC last met. There was an expected \$20,000 to \$40,000 coming from the Nursery Association, however that ended up being \$80,000. This is a pleasant surprise. With the research dollars WA is contributing, it changes the total amount needed from OSCC to \$3243,325.50. Julie Hoffman will update the research worksheet and send it to all commissioners. The research dollars committed to will be added to the 2022-2023 budget for review and approval at the next meeting. Previously, the research budget had been approved for \$400,000.00, no further motions or approvals needed at this time.

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURE COUNCIL REPORT - Riley Bushue

Federal OSHA put out an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking. This covers topics such as; how temperatures should be monitored in the field, what metrics should be used, should people be looking at personal cooling devices for workers. The NWHC provided comments on the work

that farmers already do in regards to these topics. They will continue to monitor the discussion on these items.

Trade is another hot topic being monitored. NWHC is talking with the US trade representative about relief for retaliatory trade tariffs.

Export into India has a brighter future with expanded access to this country. NWHC is keeping close tabs on this and it appears this will be easier than trade with Japan.

Bushue also reports that there is a lot of conversation about the heat disaster relief money. USDA is working on the particulars of how this applies to tree fruit commodities, and although skeptical, the conversation tends to be leaning towards a positive outcome. More to come on this.

Megan Thompson added that she, Stacy Cooper, Hood River growers and a representative from the Strawberry Commission were on a call recently with representative Earl Blumenhouer about the farm bill and got some details about disaster relief.

OSU RESEARCH & EXTENSION REPORT – Stuart Reitz

Stuart introduced himself, he has been with OSU for over 9 years. He is the interim director of the Hood River station and is helping the newly appointed researcher with their projects and getting footing within the area. He reports the OSU is looking for a permanent director of the Hood River station, the timeline is within the year. Dean Alan Sams is leaving at the end of February to go back to Texas A&M, adding another layer of difficulty to getting someone at the Hood River station.

Reitz also reports that the ARS lab is almost complete, as well as the OSU space.

Rachel Leisso, new research scientist at the Hood River station also introduced herself. The focus of Leisso's work is post-harvest issues in pear and sweet cherry. Grant funding is yet to be applied for, as the position was recently filled in December. At the current time, Leisso's main task is to supply the new lab with needed equipment.

OLD BUSINESS

Research Committee- a good way to introduce one to the commission without the commitment. Does the OSCC want to revitalize this committee? The Vice Chair would serve as the committee chair, how does the OSCC get others involved? Commissioners would like to have updates on Cherry Day to growers and others in the industry. There is a lot of money that goes into research, and it would be appreciated if more growers gave a voice/vote to this committee. Julie Hoffman shared that Steve Sandau would be interested in serving on this committee.

OSCC also has the option to hold a position on the NW Horticultural Council. Dan Crouse is currently serving as the OSCC representative. Rylee Bushue will confirm when his term is up and the OSCC can appoint a new representative to that board.

NEW BUSINESS

Ag Fest request of \$250.

Stacy Cooper moved to support the AgFest request of \$250. Anthony Guisto Seconded. A roll call was taken, motion passed unanimously. (Mike Omeg was no longer part of the meeting).

Will Wise shared that the OR Food and Beverage Alliance is looking for a PT position that will be housed in the Food Innovation Center. OSCC provided a letter of support for this position. Megan Thompson asked Wise to keep OSCC apprised of the decisions and ongoing decisions of the Food and Beverage Alliance, especially in consideration of trade and tariffs.

Website- JD Walker requested a correction from those listed as processors to producers.

NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME & LOCATION

April 13, 2022, 10:00 a.m, Hood River. In person w/ Zoom option

Adjourned 11:30 a.m.