

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
Regular Commission Meeting
Cowboy's
The Dalles, OR
February 5, 2013 4:30 p.m.

Megan Thompson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:40 P.M. The following Commissioners consisting of a quorum including Megan were present: Tom Brateng, Steve Sandau, Dan Crouse, Jeff Heater, Mike Halliday, Jim Markman, Steve Agidius, Stacey Cooper and Bryce Molesworth. Brian Tuck and Ilea Bouse, Mid-Columbia Area Extension & Experiment Center (MCAREC) and Administrators Dana Branson and LeRoy Nickerson were present.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2012 meeting were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Jeff Heater moved and Dan Crouse seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Financial Reports

The financial statements for December were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. Copies of the January statements were handed out at the meeting. Dana went through the highlights of activity. There were no questions. *Bryce Molesworth moved and Jeff Heater seconded to approve the reports as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

ODA Report

Kris Anderson was not able to attend.

Administrator's Report

One handler notified the OSCC office that they had miscalculated their fresh tonnage and an additional amount was owed. They sent a revised report and the payment with the other assessments that were due December 15. The error amounted to 477 tons and the penalty and interest would be approximately \$1,355. The Commissioners believe it was an honest mistake and that it was rectified as soon as it was known. *Dan Crouse moved and Tom Brateng seconded to waive the penalty and interest. The motion carried unanimously.*

Dana reported on the progress she's made with the website and encouraged the Commissioners to take a look at it to offer suggestions. The website is www.osweetcherry.org.

During discussions regarding brine assessments, tonnage and reporting Dana was made aware of a grower that has not paid assessments for the past two years. She sent an email and report forms early this week and will keep the Commission informed on the results.

Chairperson's Report

The Northwest Horticultural Council is taking an active part in responding to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rules by forming committees to review and draft improvements. The committees are: 1) Water, 2) Harvest Equipment, Tools, and Buildings, 3) Animal Intrusions/Soil Amendments, and 4) Warehouse/Health and Hygiene (farm & warehouse). Megan has volunteered to be on the warehouse committee. Other Mid-Columbia volunteers are Eric Shrum, Craig Mallon and Fred Duckwall. If you're interested please contact Dana. The meetings will be done by conference call and this is an important issue.

Research Committee

Bryce reported that the California Research meeting attended last week was very good. California has improved their program and the amount of money to devote to it by voting to assess all varieties that are fresh packed, instead of just Bings as in the past. One report given was an overview of the website for IPM. The home page address is www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/. From there you can select the type of pests and on the next page select the crop or plant you're interested in. There is also great information about weeds – click on the Home, garden, turf and landscape category, then either search for weeds or go down the list and find weeds. There are pictures of what they look like at sprouting and information about how to control them. They're doing work on SWD (Van Steenwyk) and bacterial canker. We brought back four copies of their reports.

Washington State Fruit Commission (WSFC) asked Grove to rewrite his powdery mildew (PM) project and a copy was emailed out to the Commissioners to review. He has studied PM for years and we still don't have much direct benefit on how to control/avoid it. It is not a subject that can be ignored because growers spend a lot of money trying to control it. Could we put a caveat on the project to discontinue further funding if it's failing – as Grove himself admits it might. Progress reports are written into the proposal and WSFC will be watching closely also. *Mike Halliday moved and Jeff Heater seconded to fund up to 25% for one year (providing WSFC approves 75% funding on Thursday). After one year OSCC will revisit and review continuing funds for the remaining years. The motion carried unanimously.*

At the December meeting Brian Tuck asked for monetary support for fumigation to plant two to three new cherry blocks they're planning. The Commissioners requested a written proposal, which was emailed prior to the meeting. The proposal is a 3-year project including planting costs, trees and maintenance. The proposal came in higher and more involved than we expected. Brian explained that he's trying to build long-term sustainability into the station. The OSU budget is not getting better, they need to revamp the blocks to modernize and attract and keep researchers. The fumigation has not been done yet and even though it's not included in the proposal it will be done. Some questioned the trees listed in the proposal – why Lapins? Peter Shearer uses the Lapins for insect trials and Todd Einhorn and Lynn Long recommended the varieties chosen. There was also a question of if they'd already been ordered. The Attikas are coming; Skeena and Lapins are on order. There was a question about using Gisela rootstock because it's more expensive, prone to bacterial canker and might die. Could future

plantings be on a different rootstock? Brian said again Todd and Lynn made the recommendation. Tom Brateng asked if a portion of the planting could be done to accommodate machine harvest? Brian said they would try, but it would require changing the rootstock and variety. He asked that Tom come and look at the plot and describe what he needs.

Brian and Ilea went outside while the proposal was discussed further. At the end a committee was formed to meet with Todd Einhorn, Peter Shearer and Brian to discuss costs, set up a plan to accommodate the Willamette Valley growers request, timing, varieties and rootstocks. The committee is Mike Halliday, Megan Thompson, Steve Agidius, Tom Brateng, Dan Crouse and Gip Redman.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 6:05 and reconvened at 6:31.

OSU Research & Extension Report

Brian Tuck didn't have much more to add except that he's watching the Federal and state budget proceedings closely.

Old Business

There was a question asked if all the assessment reports for the 2012 season have been received. There is one outstanding. Money has been sent in, but the report with the detail by grower has not. Dana sent a reminder request via email on Monday.

New Business

There was no new business.

The next regular meeting of the OSCC was scheduled for **Thursday, April 11, 2013**. Bryce Molesworth offered to hold it at his home in Mosier, 1656 Walker Farm Rd. We will start at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.