

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mid-Columbia Agriculture Research & Extension Center Meeting Room
3009 Experiment Station Dr., Hood River, OR 97031
Thursday, October 8, 2015, 10:00 A.M.

Call to Order/Introductions

Dan Crouse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. the following Commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Dan, were present: Stacey Cooper, Jim Markman, Leonard Aubert, Ryan Bond, Jeff Heater, Tom Brateng.

Kris Anderson, Commodity Commission Program Manager for Oregon Department of Ag, Brian Tuck, Mid-Columbia Ag Research and Experiment Center (MCAREC), B.J. Thurlby, Keith Hu and James Michael, Northwest Cherries/Washington State Fruit Commission, Mike Omeg and Bryce Molesworth, Wasco County cherry growers and Dana Branson, OSCC Administrator were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on August 6, 2015 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Stacey Cooper moved and Jeff Heater seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

The financial statements for August and September were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. There were no questions. *Leonard Aubert moved and Jeff Heater seconded to accept the financial reports as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

ODA – Kris Anderson

Kris reported on several trade missions being conducted by the state to Vietnam and Japan and some of the companies and participants involved. She also talked about the Feast Portland event held recently where Portland chefs worked with chefs from England and Norway using Oregon specialty foods to create awareness and raise money to fight childhood hunger in Oregon and around the country. There are several trade missions coordinated by Western United States Ag Trade Association that ODA and Oregon companies can participate in, including inbound from India and outbound to China, Taiwan, Mexico and South Korea to name a few. Kris brought a new copy of "Growing Oregon" magazine, a once a year publication with articles about Oregon agricultural products. NW

Cherries bought add space for this issue. Dana has 100 copies for distribution also. The Hood River Fruit Loop also received 100 copies for fruit stands.

Kris talked about the Master Agreement negotiated with the Ag Research Foundation (ARF) and the commodity commissions for this fiscal year. OSCC was fortunate to have an agreement in place between Washington State University (WSU) and ARF for research payments prior to the change. Dana and Kris are still working on finalizing payment agreements for researchers located at universities other than Oregon State University (OSU) and WSU.

Administrator's Activity Report

Dana reminded the group again of the dates and details for the NW Cherry Research Review coming up November 10-11 in Yakima, WA. She submitted the list of commissioners, research committee members and interested growers that want to receive the reports and proposals. She has a list of those planning to attend. Final reservations are requested by **October 29th** so she can notify the hotel. If anyone has questions or wants to be included please call or email Dana.

Dana went through the list of fresh assessment payments that were received late. Most of them were not significantly past due and/or a significant amount of money. One handler did send an explanation of why they were late at Dana's request – that was shared with the commissioners. *Jeff Heater moved and Tom Brateng seconded to waive penalties and interest on the handlers/direct sellers discussed during the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.*

ARF has notified OSCC that \$673.83 is remaining in an account designated for Matt Whiting's research project 'Investigating Post-Bloom Thinning and Testing of MSU Sweet Cherry Rootstock'. The options for this money were: 1) a refund check to OSCC, 2) move the funds to an account to be used for future research projects of Matt Whiting's, 3) move the funds to account managed by the WSU for future cherry research. *Tom Brateng moved and Jim Markman seconded to have the funds refunded to OSCC. The motion carried unanimously.*

Denim & Diamonds will be held on November 20 at the Oregon Convention Center. OSCC will receive 10 tickets for their sponsorship of the fund raising event. One Commissioner is planning to attend and the remaining tickets will be offered to growers. Dana will make the contacts.

It has been recommended that OSCC adopt a formal policy regarding excluding indirect costs of universities and other organizations when funding research projects. This has been the longstanding practice of OSCC. *Jeff Heater moved and Ryan Bond seconded to adopt formally the policy of excluding payment of indirect costs for research. The motion carried unanimously.*

Chairman's Report

Dan Crouse and Eric Shrum attended a meeting with WSU to hear about a stopgap proposal of how to proceed with the cherry breeding program for this upcoming year. No dollar amount has been decided as of today's meeting, but Dan thinks we'll have more information by October 22.

Research Committee Report

The final list of research projects to be presented for new funding at the Cherry Research meeting November 10 was passed around. The list is determined by a combination of votes from Washington and Oregon Commissions and Research Committee members.

MCAREC submitted a request for funds at this time to coincide with discussion and planning of research. The proposal was discussed in detail and basically the money requested would be used for upgrades, fencing and operational costs. Some Commissioners feel OSCC money should be used to fund research – not maintain a research station. If plot charges have to go up then they become part of the cost of research and must be considered in the decision of the project's merit. Any other state that likes an OSU project and chooses to fund it is contributing then to the plot charges also. Brian explained that he needs some time to adapt land use fees.

The weather station project proposed by Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG) was discussed in detail. The current weather station has been in place for several years. It's outdated and the manufacturer will not continue to support it for much longer. New cell phone technology has reduced the costs for an individual station and increased the amount of information that can be collected. The system being proposed is different than the one Washington is using. Some commissioners did not want to fund because both OSCC and CGFG collect assessments from growers and this request amounts to double dipping.

OSU Research & Extension Report

Brian Tuck reported that some blocks are being taken out that are not suitable for research to reduce expenses, irrigation systems are being upgraded to improve efficiency and they are working on getting production

up to help with supporting the station. Research blocks are not usually the best for production. They are hoping to finish the deer fence soon to stop the damage being done.

The meeting recessed at 12:11 for lunch and B.J. Thurlby began his report 12:35 p.m.

Northwest Cherries 2015 Season Review

B.J. Thurlby, President of Washington State Fruit Commission and NW Cherries kicked off the season overview. A total of 19,307,244 20 lb. equivalent boxes of cherries were shipped from the Northwest compared to an estimate of 20,500,00. The season came early this year. June temperatures were above normal and this was the hottest summer ever in the NW. June shipments from the NW were the largest ever recorded. 18.4 million boxes were shipped in 60 days compared to 84 days in 2014. 70% of the crop was shipped domestic and 30% was exported.

As the temperatures got higher expectations for a short crop grew. Some ads were dropped, but cherries kept coming. Sales prices were affected for late cherries.

The Rainier pack was lower by about 500,000 boxes from last year. California's production was down for their average again this year due to weather conditions. There was a short overlap between the NW and California in late May, early June.

Keith Hu, International Marketing Director reported in more detail on sales and promotional activities in export markets. China and South Korea continue to grow, but Canada is still the largest while Taiwan, Japan and the European Union are not as large a market as they once were. James Michael, Domestic Marketing Director went over the promotional activities and results in the domestic markets.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be December 8, 2015 at the Food Innovation Center upstairs classroom, 1207 NW Naito Parkway Portland, OR at 10:00 A.M.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.