

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
Regular Commission Meeting
Food Innovation Classroom
Portland, OR
December 7, 2012 10:00 a.m.

Megan Thompson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. The following Commissioners consisting of a quorum including Megan were present: Ed Johnson, Tom Brateng, Steve Sandau, Dan Crouse, Jeff Heater, Mike Halliday, Jim Markman, Stacey Cooper and Bryce Molesworth. Kris Anderson, ODA Commodity Commission Program Manager, Tim Ramsey, Oregon Cherry Growers, Brian Tuck, Mid-Columbia Area Extension & Experiment Center (MCAREC) and Administrators Dana Branson and LeRoy Nickerson were present.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Ed Johnson moved and Bryce Molesworth seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Financial Reports

The financial statements for October and November were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. There were no questions. *Jeff Heater moved and Jim Markman seconded to approve the reports as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

ODA Report

The Dairy Commission's draft legislation to revise ORS 576 to allow each Commission to change their fiscal year to a calendar year is planned to be introduced in January 2013. This was mentioned at the last meeting. The Sweet Cherry Commission may consider changing once the legislation is passed.

There will also be housekeeping legislation introduced to clarify and correct the language in SB 854 regarding the Commissions' authority related to Commission make-up. This was also discussed last meeting in more detail.

The governor's budget proposal for the Oregon Department of Agriculture has been issued - if you have questions please contact Katy Coba's office. One of the areas requested by ODA was more focus on water quality issues. The current proposal includes implementation of the 'Integrated Water Resources Strategy', which involves several departments within the state government.

Chairperson's Report

Megan reported on Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) activity. They are working on succession planning because the staff is small and there are several of them approaching retirement within the next few years. With the detailed issues they've been dealing with they are looking at hiring another person, increasing their office space and planning for the transition.

An agenda item tabled from last meeting is a review of the Administrator’s contract fee requested by Commissioner Andrea Galloway. Megan read a note from Andrea suggesting a 10% increase and mentioned that the fee had not been reviewed or changed for three years. Kris provided a comparison of 13 commissions’ rates paid to their administrators, noted for the differences in duties and responsibilities. A 10% increase would be \$3,500 a year in the contractor fee and an annual amount of \$38,500. *Bryce Molesworth moved and Mike Halliday seconded to increase the fee by 10% to \$38,500 per year effective January 1, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.*

The California Cherry Research Review is scheduled for February 1, 2013 in Stockton, CA. In past years the OSCC sent a representative, but we have not done so for at least three years. California representatives attended the NW Cherry Research Review again this year and they have stated their intent to contribute \$18,000 to two Oregon Researchers – Todd Einhorn and Yan Wang. There was discussion of how many to send and who was willing and had the time to go. The following people were selected; Megan Thompson, Stacey Cooper, Bryce Molesworth and Dana Branson. *Ed Johnson moved and Jeff Heater seconded to approve the expenses for out of state travel to the California Research Review. The motion carried unanimously.* Dana will research flights and hotels and coordinate with the group.

Research Committee

Dana handed out a summary of the research projects presented and under discussion for funding along with the estimated OSCC portion. As noted above California is willing to help fund two projects with \$18,000. Bryce Molesworth, Research Committee Chairman, led the discussion.

Bliss	Consulting for the PNW cherry project	\$ 1,875
Iezzoni	Consulting for the cherry breeding program	\$ 3,250
Oraguzie	Support for a full-time technician	\$ 7,187
Shearer/Brunner	Improving tools for early detection of BMSB (<i>Possible re-write</i>)	\$ 5,983
Walse	Novel postharvest fumigation of sweet cherries to fruit fly pests	\$ 8,500
Einhorn	Early season est fruit set & size potential (<i>assuming CA \$10k</i>)	\$37,433
Iezzoni	Cherry Rootstock Development	\$ 3,000
Oraguzie	Cherry Cultivar Program	\$38,700
Wang	Extending storage life (<i>assuming CA \$8k</i>)	\$18,913
Landolt	Lure for SWD	\$8,500
Shearer	SWD	\$28,297
Long	ReTain Trail on Regina	\$ 8,000
Grove	Effects of humidity on PM of cherry foliage & fruit (<i>WA ask for rewrite</i>)	\$0
	Total with current assumptions	\$169,638

Peter Shearer's SWD project did not get submitted in time for consideration at the Review in Yakima. The Research Committee thinks it's important enough that with or without Washington's participation it should be funded. Orchard View Farms has volunteered commercial orchard for a test plot, Eric Shrum will be involved with helping and the research needs to continue on how to control this insect.

Lynn Long put in a project request to Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG) that was not approved. It is a trial on Regina using ReTain to improve fruit set. ReTain has been approved for use by the federal agency, but not by the state. The cost is \$8,000, which is reasonable and the Research Committee thinks the information would be valuable.

Based on the projects listed and the assumptions used *Ed Johnson moved to approve funding for the research projects above with variations not to exceed \$200,000. Jeff Heater seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

Administrator's Report

Dana handed out an assessment and cash estimate. It generated a discussion of how assessment collections are calculated in Oregon versus Washington particularly on brine and processed cherries. Dana was asked to contact the Washington State Fruit Commission to get an understanding of this to bring to the next meeting.

We failed to set the date for next year's NW Cherry Research Review at the meeting with Washington. The Washington group has suggested November 12-13, 2013 in Wenatchee, WA. The OSCC agreed that those dates and location were OK. Dana will notify WTFRC.

Deborah Carter, NHC, asked Dana to participate in meetings with the Specialty Crop Grant Program personnel regarding their interest in supporting a regional grant effort around Food Safety issues. This is an issue that affects tree fruit growers in all the northwest states and the USDA generally supports a regional approach in the granting process. Tree fruits have different issues from berries to consider in their research and proposed handling methods.

Dana has secured the domain name osweetcherry.org for two years to use for an OSCC website. The cost was under \$30 and there are discounts for longer terms. Hosting will be about \$180 per year. The content of the site discussed with a web designer was uploading the OSCC newsletters, meeting minutes, agendas, event notification, financials, commission members and links to other pertinent sites. Historical copies of minutes, newsletters, etc. could be available with a link to an archive. The web designer will train Dana on how to access and upload new information to reduce maintenance costs. *Jeff Heater moved and Bryce Molesworth seconded to move forward with website development with costs not to exceed \$5,000. The motion carried unanimously.*

OSU Research & Extension Report

Brian Tuck, MCAREC Regional Administrator, gave a short report. The staff is working on pruning and orchard winter work at the station. The budget discussions with the College of Agriculture are not calling any more reductions at this time. The retirement system is the big issue that needs to be addressed. The merger of the Extension and Research Station front offices is complete and service has improved with the office being open five days a week. Staff is working on the 100th Anniversary, which has been set for the afternoon of August 8, 2013.

Bryce Molesworth, Research Committee Chairman, added to his Research Committee Report that he, Jim McFerson from the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission, Kris Anderson and Dana Branson have been working on the Memorandum of Agreement for the Cherry Cultivar Development Program. The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) has reviewed a rough draft and we're on version 7 of the document. The next step is to go back to DOJ to settle more details.

Dan Crouse, the OSCC representative to the Science Advisory Committee of the NHC, attended his first meeting. He said there was a big discussion regarding organic pears, but nothing on sweet cherries this time.

At 11:33 a.m. in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(f) the OSCC went into Executive Session to consider records and information exempt by law from inspection. At 11:45 a.m. the session concluded and the regular meeting continued.

Under new business Brian Tuck said that he's planning on putting in a new block, perhaps two, of cherries at the station. The site needs to be fumigated before planting and if the OSCC could provide and funds toward that objective it would be very helpful. The Commissioners suggested that he write up a proposal and budget to submit for consideration. Brian said he's working with Lynn Long and Todd Einhorn for recommendations on the variety and rootstock to plant. Tom Brateng asked if any consideration or planning was being done to develop the block for machine harvest potential? That is the future for the Willamette Valley (WV) growers and Tom thinks the Hood River growing conditions are close enough to be meaningful to the WV growers. Brian will develop a proposal for next meeting.

The next regular meeting of the OSCC will be in the evening after Lynn Long's Winter Cherry Meeting on February 5th. The OSCC meeting will start about 5:00 p.m. Details are still being worked out and will be sent out with the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.