

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Food Innovation Center 1207 NW Naito Pkwy, Portland, OR
Thursday, December 12, 2013, 10:00 A.M.

Call to Order/Introductions

Megan Thompson, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. the following Commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Megan, were present: Les Stephens, Tim Ramsey, Jim Markman, Dan Crouse, Stacey Cooper, Steve Agidius, Mike Halliday, Jeff Heater, Tom Brateng and Steve Sandau.

Dennis Hannapel, ODA Trade Policy Specialist, Brian Tuck, MCAREC, Sue Root, Oregon Cherry Growers, Eric Shrum, Western Ag Improvement, Jean Godfrey, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers, Camille Holloday, Synergistic Pesticide Lab, Kris Anderson, ODA Commodity Commission Program Manager, Dana Branson and LeRoy Nickerson, OSCC Administrators were also present. Shannon Brubaker, ODA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Manager and Theresa Yoshioka, ODA International Trade Manager joined the meeting in progress.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on October 16, 2013 were emailed in advance. *Jeff Heater moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

The financial statements for October and November were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. There were no questions. *Stacey Cooper moved and Dan Crouse seconded to accept the financial reports for October and November as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

ODA Report

Kris Anderson stated that there is a meeting notice for the Commodity Commission Advisory Committee scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, December 13, 2013. She will go over the fees for oversight costs just billed. They were slightly under projection because of a reduction in building rent negotiated regarding common space in the building. It's a little too early to project costs for the next cycle, but one factor to keep in mind that there are no furlough days scheduled this year so the salary expenses will be higher. Dairy is looking at promoting exports actively and Potato is working on promotion to Vietnam.

Dennis Hannapel had mentioned some grant programs in a previous meeting that are under-utilized. One of those mentioned - the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) grants are still available. He gave an update on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) activity - 22,000 comments were submitted from various organizations and companies. United Fresh has proposed that the rules be revised with the current comment and sent out again for a second round of comments before being finalized. There has no forward movement on the Farm Bill mainly because of controversy over SNAP and some crop subsidies. The expectation is that there will be no regulations regarding immigration until 2014. South Korea just announced they will not recognize U.S. standards for organic produce and this will interfere with shipments. Hanjin, Portland's biggest trans-Pacific container carrier, has announced that they will be leaving Portland by January 2014. This will have a big impact on Oregon commodities shipping out of Portland because Hanjin handles an estimated 80% of all container shipments out of that port. Dennis also said that ODA has received a Specialty Crop grant (SCBG) for a trade mission to Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam to investigate opportunities for Oregon products. Kris added that these trips seem to have more impact when growers are involved.

Shannon Brubaker reported the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the next round of SCBG will open January 6, 2014. The SCBGP Program is funded through the Farm Bill; there is potential impact to the Oregon Program in a good way in that the funding structure is anticipated to change - looking at the average value of specialty crop production in the state and the acreage of specialty crop in the state - this could bring a potential increase to the Oregon SCBGP funding. In addition there is a new set aside funding for multi-state grants, to which a group of nine states are helping design criteria to help guide the USDA on how this funding should move forward should this remain a part of the Farm Bill upon passage. The goal is to have the definitions out within 180 days of the passage of the Farm Bill. There was a question regarding the priorities for the next Oregon SBCG proposals. Shannon said there are seven priorities identified on the ODA website at this address: www.oregon.gov/ODA.ADMD/pages/grants_spec_crops.aspx.

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG)

Jean Godfrey, Executive Director, came to the meeting today to talk about the Labor Symposium that she is organizing for the CGFG. A definite date has not been selected yet. She is trying to schedule around all the other winter ag meetings. Her plan is to bring in

representatives from the state Agricultural Recruitment System (ARS) and H2A programs to discuss how they work, the requirements and give growers a chance to ask questions. There will also be representatives from companies that have used H2A for the past several years to talk about their experience, answer questions and offer suggestions. A labor contractor has been invited to provide information also. CGFG is a non-profit and could possibly assist with advertising for labor in a collective sense. There are limitations to the ads to be considered, but the time for planning is now before the need for workers arises. Willamette Valley growers can be invited to attend if they are looking for some different options.

Jean also talked about Global GAP training that CGFG will be offering. If there are questions or you need more information contact Dana and she will forward the information or get you in touch with Jean.

OSU Research & Extension Report

Brian Tuck reported that he is still working on hiring a Farm Manager for MCAREC. He's looking for someone who's physically able to do the manual labor required in an orchard. This is not a desk job.

OSU is working on the Oregon Open Campus program that aims to offer the University degree classes to the local community through Junior Colleges. They want to get people thinking about getting a higher degree and different ways to go about that.

Administrator's Activity Report

Dana briefed the Commissioners about the assessments that have been received to date. The final due date for processed cherry assessments is December 15th so not all of them are in. The final obligations for research and the ODA oversight fee will be in the mail tomorrow.

The assessment payment for one small fresh cherry operation was received late. It appeared to be an unintentional omission of the check with the report and then a problem with the mail. The interest and penalty would be under \$30. *Tom Brateng moved and Jeff Heater seconded to waive the charges. The motion carries unanimously.*

A letter was set in early September to a small fresh cherry operation that has not been reporting and paying assessments on their fruit and cherries purchased from others. The owner contacted the OSCC office and after a conversation mid-September agreed to send in the report and payment, but it has not been received. Dana sent a follow up letter dated November 21 requesting a response by December 15 and

noting that interest and penalties would begin to accrue beyond that date. Today is December 12th and if nothing is received Dana would like some advice on how the Commissioners would like to her to proceed. After discussion Dana was advised to follow up with a phone call again and see if she can get a commitment to send payment.

Dana briefly went through a request for a donation to the Oregon Farm Bureau Scholarship Fund and a letter from the Agri-Business Council looking for volunteers for their Adopt-A-Farmer campaign. There was no action on these items. She also reminded the group of Cherry Institute which will in Yakima, WA on January 10, 2014. The cost is \$30 for the program and lunch. It is recommended that you pre-register by Monday, December 30th by calling Kathy (509) 853-3504 or email cherryinstitute@wastatefruit.com.

ODA Report – additional

Theresa Yoshioka joined the meeting in progress and she is working on planning trade shows and mission for 2015. Please contact her if you or someone you know in the industry has suggestions or ideas. She also has a current request for a small amount of clean cherry pits for a product feasibility study. Again, please contact her if you can help.

Research Committee Report

Before Eric Shrum started on the 2014 Research funding discussion he asked about the status of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between OSCC, Washington State University (WSU), the Washington State Research Foundation (WSRF) and the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission (WTFRC). Dana explained that the agreement has not been sent to the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) because we were waiting for Washington to put in the legal authority references to the appropriate Washington statutes. This agreement is to set up the committee that will govern Cherry Cultivar Licensing and it's getting critical to get this finalized because there are experimental trees coming out of the program to be planted in test plots this spring. Eric went through the membership of the committee as proposed. *Tim Ramsey moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to have a vote of support for the MOA and send it to DOJ to being their review.* This agreement has been in the works for quite a while and some Commissioners have not had a chance to read it. Kris made copies for everyone to look over during lunch. The group will call for the vote at that time.

The discussion moved on to research funding. Megan explained the columns on the worksheet handed. The first column was the committee's first look at funding before we realized that Washington didn't have enough money to fund all the projects. By using some of

their reserves they have approximately \$160,000 for new projects. Because of this the projects by Maine, Knight, Ganjyal and Noratto will not be funded at all by Washington and so funding from OSCC will be zero also. After talking with Dena Ybarra, Research Committee Chair for Washington, the OSCC increased our funding on Oregon researchers Wang, Shearer and Einhorn's portion of Whiting's project. There was a question about why Washington is short on money this year because the 2012 crop was very large and 2013 was average. Eric will ask some questions about that when he next talks to Dena. There was discussion regarding SWD research and the need for the industry to standardize on one trap instead of continuing to spend money debating the value of several different traps. California has a project to develop a pheromone trap that they asked for help with. SWD has brought Washington, Oregon and California together to work on the problem and that is a benefit. The industry needs to identify more materials to rotate on SWD and with more coordination between researchers we can find them. Little cherry virus is not prevalent in Oregon, but it is present and has been in the past so we want to be involved in controlling it. *Jeff Heater moved and Steve Agidius seconded to accept the recommendation for new and continuing projects plus the request for support from MCAREC as presented.* Tom Brateng asked for clarification on what the MCAREC project is for and stressed that he didn't think it should be an ongoing commitment. Brian went over briefly the items planned, such as deer fence.

There was discussion then about the value processed growers get out of what they put in for assessments. Brine cherries pay \$12.25 per ton and \$5.50 is used for generic promotion for maraschino cherries with National Cherry Growers & Industries Foundation. The remaining \$6.75 is used for research and to support administrative costs of the commission. Research on insect control in general and SWD and BMSB is of benefit to all growers. Research on pseudomonas, which has been done in the recent past, is also applicable to processed and fresh growers, especially in Hood River and Willamette Valley. Tom Brateng said he is interested in machine harvest – the current technology and method is not sustainable, but MCAREC was not willing to do that. Tim Ramsey thought that new cultivar and root stock research may come up with some possibilities, but the machinery itself is probably more suited to private industry development. Tom responded that he would like some help now, planting new varieties doesn't work because he'll be retired. Some research has been suggested to find a chemical method of getting the cherries off the trees with stems, but it wouldn't be an easy fix and the public is increasingly opposed to chemical usage. There was a call for the vote on the motion on the floor stated in the previous paragraph. *The*

motion carried unanimously. The following table shows the projects by title and the amount approved for OSCC funding subject to revision if Washington approves at levels other than those expected and or if California contributes to any project.

Continued Projects	Title	Amount
Oraguzie	PNW sweet cherry breeding	\$ 51,025.00
Einhorn	Early season est of fruit set & size potential	\$ 45,723.00
Wang	Extending storage/shipping	\$ 18,334.50
Grove	Factors affecting the fruit phase of cherry mildew	\$ 16,955.50
Walse	Novel postharvest fumigation of sweet cherries to fruit fly pests	\$ 3,500.00
Landolt	Identification of chemical lure for SWD	\$ 8,000.00
Bliss	Consulting on PNW breeding	\$ 1,875.00
Iezzoni	Consulting on PNW breeding	\$ 3,250.00
New Projects		
Oraguzie	Genomic regions controlling fruit disorders traits and production	\$ 6,501.00
Peace	Developing/deploying new sweet cherry DNA tests	\$ 10,000.00
Wang	Improving shipping quality of sweet cherry by post-harvest sprays	\$ 32,000.00
Iezzoni	MSU Cherry rootstocks: pre-commercialization	\$ 12,612.50
Whiting/Einhorn	Effects of near harvest irrigation	\$ 15,000.00
Shearer	Insecticide resistance SWD in sweet cherry	\$ 30,000.00
Beers	Developing a mgmt strategy for little cherry disease	\$ 10,000.00
Tuck	Support for MCAREC	\$ 23,771.00
Total 2013-2014		\$288,547.50

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:09 and reconvened at 12:35.

The Commissioners had the opportunity to review the MOA on the Cherry Cultivar Program discussed earlier in the meeting. To repeat *Tim Ramsey moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to have a vote of*

support for the MOA and send it to DOJ to being their review. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

California is holding their Research Review meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 in Stockton, CA. Last year OSCC sent four representatives. Washington is planning on sending some people this year also to look for projects that could potentially be of benefit to Northwest growers. Dan Crouse read through the 15 projects under consideration for funding in California. Four of the projects we've already seen at the Northwest Cherry Research Review meeting. Two of the four are Oregon researchers at MCAREC and California contributed \$18,000 to them last year. Nine projects involve insect control, mainly SWD, pre and post harvest. The last two study foliar disease and control of canker diseases in sweet cherries. *Jeff Heater moved and Steve Agidius seconded to send a minimum of three and a maximum of five people to the California meeting. The motion carried unanimously.* Megan Thompson will check with those interested in going regarding schedules and we'll try to set up tours and visits with growers down there.

Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)

Dan Crouse attended both the Trustee meeting and the Science Advisory meeting as the OSCC representative. Mike Willet has been working with China on protocols to allow Chinese apples into the States. They learned that the enforcement of Minimum Residue Levels (MRL's) is inconsistent between Chinese ports. It seems once an early shipment is checked anything after that is assumed to be OK. Finally, NHC is still working through personnel issues due to transition planning and a retirement.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

Camille Holloday attended the meeting today. She and her husband own a lab located in Beaverton that analyzes current use pesticides in soil and leaf samples for insurance claims, herbicide carryover, spray drift, spills and bad tank mixes to give some examples. They can also do fruit testing for pesticide residue.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at the Food Innovation 2nd floor classroom, 1209 NW Naito Pkwy in Portland, OR beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.