

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
2667 Reed Rd., Hood River, OR 97031
Phone: (541) 386-5761 FAX: (541) 386-3191

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Albers Mill Building, Room 240
1200 NW Naito Pkwy, Portland, OR 97208
Thursday, December 17, 2015, 10:00 A.M.

Call to Order/Introductions

Dan Crouse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. the following Commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Dan, were present: Stacey Cooper, Jim Markman, Leonard Aubert, Ryan Bond, Tom Brateng, Jared Gidley, Les Stephens, Tim Ramsey and Andrea Galloway.

Megan Thompson, and Sue Root, Oregon Cherry Growers, Kris Anderson, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Commodity Commission Program Manager, and Dana Branson, OSCC Administrator were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on October 8, 2015 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Leonard Aubert moved and Ryan Bond 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 Jim Markman seconded to accept the financial reports for October and November as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

ODA Report

Kris told the group about a Potato Commission event collaborating with Pro Chefs Oregon and held at a culinary school to taste test and rank other characteristics of several varieties of potatoes. Results can then used in promotional efforts and it acquaints chefs with other kinds of potatoes. She mentioned it as a possibility for other commodity groups to use.

The Department of Education received approximately \$800,000 from the Legislature to fund grants that Commodity Commissions can apply for to improve/expand Oregon agricultural products in school lunch programs. The rules for participation have been issued and collaboration with other commodities is encouraged.

Kris went over some staff changes in Ag Development and Marketing. The Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA) rules were discussed briefly. Stephanie Page in the Salem ODA office was given as a good reference for questions growers might have.

Administrator's Activity Report

Dana made calls and sent emails to those fruit stands and growers with outstanding reports after the October meeting and three responded with reports and/or payments. At this time there are still five fruit stands and individuals that were sent assessment report forms that have either not responded or haven't followed through to send a report or payment.

Andrea Galloway moved and Ryan Bond seconded to waive the penalties and interest for this year only on the late payments in order to take the time to educate the delinquent/non-reporters about the law . In addition Dana is to send a registered letter to each one explaining the process for and that future penalties will be charged. The motion carried unanimously.

Last year OSCC voted to approve the Master Agreement (MA) with the Agricultural Research Foundation (ARF) for one year. It could have been approved for up to five years. Russ Karow of ARF, Kris Anderson and Dana have continued working through details to develop a process and agreement that would be acceptable to all parties to include research payments to universities other than Oregon State (OSU) under the MA and Task Order. An agreement exists between Washington State (WSU) and ARF and this will be used a template. Russ has agreed to work with the other universities to get those agreements. He has requested that OSCC consider approving the MA for the next four years to facilitate the process. *Ryan Bond moved and Tim Ramsey seconded to approve the MA with ARF through June 2020. The motion carried unanimously.*

The last audit of the Commission books was for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The legal requirement is an independent audit every five years so the next one is due for the fiscal year June 30, 2016. Dana contacted the firm that was hired to do the past review and received a bid of \$5,000 to perform an audit for the current fiscal year. The commissioners asked Dana to solicit another bid to compare prices. Grove, Mueller and Swank were recommended because they do audits for other commodity commissions. Dana will contact them.

Cherry Institute is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2016 in Yakima. There will be an orchard tour hosted by Matt Whiting on Thursday, January 14 at the Prosser Station. Pre-registration deadline is December 28, 2015.

A crop and cash estimate for 2015 was handed out. Deposits of brine assessments received to date were included.

Chairman's Report

The California Research Review is scheduled for January 26, 2015 in Stockton, CA. The last few years we have sent representatives. *Stacey Cooper moved and Jim Markman seconded to pay reasonable travel costs for up to three people to attend. The motion carried unanimously.* Dan will coordinate the representatives.

Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)

NHC's main focus has been on the lysteria problem in apples and the Country of Origin labeling issue (COOL) that could result in retaliatory tariffs by Canada and Mexico on cherries.

Ryan Bond attended the latest Science Advisory Board meeting. The topics of interest to cherry growers were related to reducing use of or eliminating Lorsban because of ground water concerns and the temporary increase in the Minimum Residue Level (MRLs) in Europe on phosphites. Sweet cherry shipments to Europe are minimal for the Northwest so this is not a major concern.

Denim & Diamonds

Ten growers and/or Commissioners attended the fundraiser for the Agri-Business Council representing the OSCC. The event was well attended, a new name for the organization was announced – Oregon Aglink and everyone enjoyed the evening.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:48 and reconvened at 12:15.

Research Committee Report

The group went through the projects and amounts approved by the Washington Commission for new projects only. The continuing project funding was not available yet. Washington still has some questions on the California project RNAi based strategy for control of SWD regarding the process.

Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission (WTFRC) is going through administrative changes and transitions take time. The breeding program is still in a maintenance mode and the main thing identified that needs to be done is an inventory of the crosses and material actually there. Dena Ybarra, Inez and Tom Auvil managed the trees, harvest and fruit evaluations last year, but don't have time to do it again. They did develop

very good protocols for evaluations that could be used by others. There's no proposal yet for what will be done this year, however Eric thinks it will be in the \$150,000 range – same as last year. We want to make sure the germ plasm(s) that were brought in are maintained because they can't be replaced.

After much discussion *Stacey Cooper moved and Jim Markman seconded to fund the continuing projects as listed below up to \$255,501 with the assumption Washington funds at the levels OSCC estimated. The motion carried unanimously.*

Researcher	Project Title-abbreviated	Requested	Oregon \$
WTFRC	Breeding Program	\$150,000	\$37,500
Sandefur	New cherry DNA tests	43,000	10,500
Iezzoni	MSU sweet cherry rootstocks - CVRC \$7k	31,291	6,073
Gibeaut	Incr fruit size, improve harvest quality	59,585	22,189
Wang	Pre-harvest Na and NaCl sprays	40,505	36,454
Probst	PM viability postharvest handling	57,987	14,497
Beers	Mgmt strategy for little cherry	62,743	10,000
Shearer	Insecticide resistance of SWD	97,623	73,218
Hubbard	Manging acclimation hardiness bacterial canker	43,820	43,820
Walse	Residue remediation to lower MRL barriers	5,000	1,250
Total			\$255,501

The new projects were discussed one by one and consensus was reached as follows:

Researcher	Project Title-abbreviated	Requested	Oregon \$
Ganjyal	Strategy to reduce postharvest splitting	\$31,407	\$ 7,852
Wang	Ensuring ocean shipping quality	45,452	34,156
Pscheidt	Cherry virus diagnostic survey	8,349	8,349
Beers	Integrated pest mgmt of SWD	85,424	21,356
Probst	Sources of primary cherry powdery mildew	24,872	6,218
Probst	ABC of cherry powdery mildew	81,321	20,330
Tuck	MCAREC Operations Support	23,855	23,855
Choi	RNAi-based strategy SWD control	49,880	12,470
Total			\$134,586

Stacey Cooper moved and Leonard Aubert seconded to approve funding for these \$134,586 for these new projects with one caveat. Dana is to call Jay Pscheidt regarding the cherry virus survey. OSCC wants him to understand that funding for the second year of the project will depend on what the survey findings are. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Les Stephens reported that Gray & Company has been sold to Seneca Foods in Washington. The transfer of management will be complete in two years.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be February 16, 2016 in the Boardroom (Building 1, Room 1.162) of the Columbia Gorge Community College, 400 E Scenic Dr. in The Dalles, OR at the starting at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.