

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Columbia Gorge Community College, Boardroom, Bldg 1  
400 E. Scenic Dr., The Dalles, OR 97058  
Thursday, December 4, 2014, 10:00 A.M.

**Call to Order/Introductions**

Megan Thompson, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m. the following Commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Megan, were present: Steve Sandau, Stacey Cooper, Jim Markman, Leonard Aubert, Ryan Bond, and Jeff Heater.

Ilea Bouse, Mid-Columbia Ag Research and Experiment Center (MCAREC), Dana Branson and LeRoy Nickerson, OSCC Administrators were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on October 9, 2014 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Leonard Aubert moved and Jeff Heater 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. *Jeff Heater moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to accept the financial reports for October and November as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Administrator's Activity Report**

There are still some fruit and smaller packers that were sent assessment report forms that have not responded. Dana sent nine follow up letters via certified mail this week requesting reports. She also received some reports and payments past the 15-day grace period for this season approved at the last meeting. All but one of the late payments were small, under \$20. *Jeff Heater moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to waive these small penalties for this year. The motion carried unanimously.* The company with the larger penalty has been late before and is not new to reporting so that penalty will stand. There was a discussion of possibly raising the amount of fruit exempt from assessment, how it would be defined and what the process would be to make the change.

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. No action was taken.

The OSCC office received a request from The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce asking for involvement in the 2015 Northwest Cherry Festival, particularly restoring a float used in past years. The Commissioners asked Dana to get more information and specifics.

A crop and cash estimate for 2014 was handed out. There were no material changes from the last estimate.

Josh Hinerfeld contacted the OSCC to request time on the February meeting agenda to present information from Oregon Tilth regarding the market opportunities for certified organic crops and resources available to help those interested in a transition to organic. The Commissioners were agreeable to him coming, but suggested he might reach a larger audience by contacting Lynn Long and/or Steve Castagnoli to get on the agenda for their winter grower meetings. Dana will communicate that to Josh.

Dana reminded everyone that Cherry Institute is scheduled for January 16, 2015 in Yakima. Contact her if you need more information.

### **Chairwoman's Report**

The California Research Review is scheduled for January 27, 2015 in Stockton, CA. The last few years we have sent representatives. *Jeff Heater moved and Stacey Cooper seconded to pay reasonable travel costs for up to two people to attend. The motion carried unanimously.* Megan will coordinate the two representatives.

While everyone was in town for Cherry Research Review meeting Megan Thompson, Stacey Cooper, John Carter, Dan Crouse and Bryce Molesworth met with Washington State Fruit Commission, Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission and Washington State University representatives to review the latest draft of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the release of new cherry cultivars from the breeding program. This committee was satisfied with the agreement and felt OSCC should approve it. *Jeff Heater moved and Ryan Bond seconded to send the MOA to the Department of Justice, if necessary, for a final review and authorized approval. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Research Committee Report**

Eric Shrum and Dan Crouse, Co-Chairs of the Research Committee and Megan Thompson met with Dena Ybarra, the Chair of the Washington Research Committee at the Horticultural meeting in Yakima. Megan reviewed the discussion by project for the Commissioners since neither Eric nor Dan could be here today. No action was proposed because we don't know how much Washington is proposing to approve. Their meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup>.

It was suggested that the amount budgeted for the continuing years for each project we're considering be calculated. We don't want to over-commit for the future. Dana will send out a spreadsheet.

### **Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)**

NHC has hired two new staff, one to replace Deborah Carter and one to prepare for a future retirement. Laura Grunenfelder is currently working on Food Safety and final decisions on responsibilities will be made when everyone is in place.

### **OSU Research & Extension Report**

The hottest topic at MCAREC now is assessing the damage from the extreme temperatures in November. Lynn Long and Todd Einhorn have been out looking at orchards and providing information to growers.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

The amounts requested and paid for research in the last few years have continued to increase. Does the Commission need to reconsider the reserve level to preserve continuity of key research projects in the event of a couple of short years? This will be an agenda item for next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be February 4, 2015 in The Dalles at the Columbia Gorge Community College campus, Readiness Center (new building to the left of roundabout as you enter campus), Room 10.105 starting at 1:00 p.m. **Note the change in start time and new location.**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.