

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Columbia Gorge Community College Campus, Readiness Center
400 E. Scenic Dr., The Dalles, OR 97058
Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 1:00 P.M.

Call to Order/Introductions

Megan Thompson, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. the following Commissioners consisting of a quorum, including Megan, were present: Steve Sandau, Stacey Cooper, Jim Markman, Leonard Aubert, Ryan Bond, Dan Crouse, Les Stephens, Tim Ramsey, Tom Brateng and Jeff Heater.

Brian Tuck, Mid-Columbia Ag Research and Experiment Center (MCAREC), Eric Shrum, Western Ag, Sue Root and Gip Redman, Oregon Cherry Growers and Dana Branson, OSCC Administrators were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on December 4, 2014 were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Jeff Heater moved and Leonard Aubert seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

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

Administrator's Activity Report

Several more fruit stands and smaller packers that were sent assessment report forms via certified mail did respond. Only three of the nine follow up letters sent certified mail in December have not responded in any way. The penalties and interest were generally small and in the interest of good will *Leonard Aubert moved and Dan Crouse seconded to waive these small penalties for this year. The motion carried unanimously.* Dana asked for guidance on how to handle the companies that have not responded at all. *Les Stephens moved and Dan Crouse seconded to send the collection letter provided by the Department of Justice. The motion carried unanimously.*

Chairwoman's Report

Megan Thompson reported on the California Research Meeting. California is unsure of their crop for 2015. They are struggling with degree days in the north and water shortages in the southern part of the state. They estimate they'll have 40% of a normal crop. Greg Costa will send copies about a project they want to fund to control SWD by sterilizing them genetically. There is a possibility that other soft fruit groups will contribute money also. California will only be funding continuing projects for the most part this year, not any new ones.

Kris Anderson sent an email prior to the meeting regarding a SCBG proposal from the Hop Commission. They would like to know if any other commodity commission have interest in working with the Farm Bureau, Work Force Oregon and other specialty crop commodities to develop a calendar showing dates and needs to help plan for farm labor. The consensus was that cherry growers and workers have a good idea of where and when the harvest will peak and they plan their movements around it. Dana will ask Kris what the goal of the calendar idea was.

Research Committee Report

Washington has not finalized research funding, but Eric (and others?) have been in touch with Dena Yabarra, the Washington Research Committee Chair. There are questions regarding the cherry cultivar program, but there are assurances the trees that are there will be maintained or culled. The program is important to WSU and they want to keep it going.

The cash estimate for 2015 was discussed based on crop estimates for 2015 and estimated expenses for the remainder of the 2014-15 fiscal year. The amount of research funding has increased over the years as the crop size has grown. Last meeting it was suggested that the reserve for research and operations be increased to reflect that. *Stacey Cooper moved and Jeff Heater seconded to increase the research reserve to \$350,000. The motion carried unanimously.*

Each project was discussed at the following amounts:

PI	Continuing Projects	Amount
Oraguzie	New genomic regions controlling production & fruit disorder traits	\$ 6,710
lezzoni	MSU sweet cherry rootstocks	\$ 11,516
Peace	After RosBREED: developing/deploying new cherry DNA tests	\$ 10,500
Wang	Improving shipping quality by pre-harvest Na and NaCl sprays	\$35,596
Whiting/Einhorn	Effects of near-harvest irrigation on fruit quality	\$ 8,852
Shearer	Insecticide resistance of SWD in sweet cherry	\$ 87,420

Beers	Developing a management strategy for little cherry disease	\$ 10,000
Grove	Factors affecting the fruit phase of cherry mildew	\$ 17,010
	New Projects	
lezzoni	Consulting for the cherry breeding program	\$ 3,250
Einhorn	New programs to increase fruit size and improve harvest quality	\$ 43,791
Hubbard	Managing acclimation, hardiness and bacterial canker	\$ 43,657
Grove	PM viability during postharvest handling of cherry fruit	\$ 15,627
Shearer	Developing IPM for SWD in sweet cherries	\$ 27,604
Walse	Residue remediation postharvest to reduce MRL trade barriers	\$ 1,250
Tuck	MCAREC Support	\$ 24,930
Einhorn	Assessment of freeze injury	\$ 6,928
Total		\$ 354,641

Based on the detail above and discussion *Dan Crouse moved and Ryan Bond seconded to fund research for 2015 up to \$400,000.* There was discussion regarding funding support for MCAREC. Brian Tuck explained this type of support is in lieu of higher plot fees because they can discourage grantors. Tom Brateng doesn't approve of direct funding for MCAREC. *The motion carried with Tom Brateng abstaining.*

OSU Research & Extension Report

Dr. Dan Edge is the new dean. Brian will be inviting people to come and meet him. Brian expressed his thanks to Eric Shrum for his consulting services to the station. It helps with the workload for Todd Einhorn and the other researchers. MCAREC is using Mike Omeg as a labor contractor and the station is still looking for donated equipment – a backhoe, tractor, etc.

Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)

NHC staff has been active in the lysteria problem with apples and the port work slow down affecting export shipments.

Old Business

As a follow up on The Dalles Chamber of Commerce Cherry Festival Float from last meeting – they are seeking donations to help with making it nice. It was suggested that would be a good item for the newsletter next time because funding should come from individuals, not the commission.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be April 7, 2015 in Hood River at the MCAREC Extension meeting room starting at 10:00 a.m. **Note the change in start time from the previous meeting.**

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.