

Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission
Budget Hearing & Regular Commission Meeting
Columbia Gorge Community College,
400 E. Scenic Dr., Bldg. 1, Rm. 1.162
The Dalles, OR
May 21, 2015 2:00 p.m.

Megan Thompson, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 2:13 P.M. The following Commissioners consisting of a quorum including Megan were present: Andrea Galloway, Dan Crouse, Jeff Heater, Jim Markman, Stacey Cooper, Steve Sandau, Ryan Bond, Tom Brateng and Les Stephens. Brian Tuck, Mid-Columbia Agriculture Research & Extension Center (MCAREC), Eric Shrum, serving as Research Committee co-Chair, Kris Anderson, ODA Commodity Commission Program Manager and Administrator Dana Branson were present.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 7, 2015 meeting and the April 23, 2015 Special meeting were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Jeff Heater moved and Andrea Galloway seconded to approve both meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Financial Reports

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

The Budget hearing was opened at 2:15 p.m. The meeting continued with reports.

ODA Report

Kris Anderson has applications from Andrea Galloway and as of this meeting, Dan Crouse and Jim Markman. All are eligible for re-appointment. We still need to find growers interested to represent the Willamette Valley and The Dalles area to replace Steve Sandau and Megan Thompson. Both of them are term limited.

The Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) that was used for OSCC research funding has been revised to update the terms and conditions. The revisions took several months and work with input from the Agricultural Research Foundation (ARF), the Commodity Commission Advisory Committee members and Kris Anderson. A Master Agreement for Oregon State University (OSU) and Extension research projects is complete. It can be approved for up to five years without having to be reviewed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) as long as no wording is changed. The concern of OSCC is that the Master Agreement claims all Intellectual Property rights on discoveries made by OSU researchers. OSCC has an agreement with Washington State University (WSU) regarding new cherry varieties (Intellectual Property) developed through cooperation between the two research groups in the breeding program. The breeding program has been

working on new varieties for several years. OSCC doesn't want to give away or lose access to any rights to new varieties they've been contributing to. The Budget Hearing was closed at 2:52 p.m. No one came to give comments and the meeting continued.

Andrea Galloway moved and Les Stephens seconded to approve the Master Agreement with ARF for one year subject to the conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with WSU being valid under it and to work with ARF and OSU to identify those projects that OSCC is funding that come under the MOA. The motion carried unanimously.

The Oversight Fee for 2015-16 may not cover all the DOJ billing yet for the work on the Master Agreement for ARF. Dana had increased the amount budgeted for the ODA fee so it shouldn't be an issue.

Research Committee

Eric Shrum gave the report and said that the breeding program is stable. The crosses identified have been planted, the horticultural care of the trees is coming around under the direction of Dena Ybarra and fruit evaluations will start next week directed by Tom Auvil. Evaluations will be done every Tuesday and Thursday. The irrigation district for the breeding block is experiencing a water shortage. We've been assured that the test plot will have access to water through a well. The program has lost some support from the Washington growers. There haven't been any late varieties developed or identified; there are a few early ones that might work out, but they still need to be evaluated and positively identified.

Should the OSCC have a face-to-face meeting to get input on research priorities or use email? It's difficult to get people together – cherries will be done early, but then the researchers and some growers will be working on pears. Andrea Galloway expressed the need for more applicable information to come out of the research funded. She suggested funding work that does analysis of prior years' work in an area and then provides conclusions with recommendations for growers. Could we put out an RFP stating that by area of concern – for example powdery mildew? There is some concern regarding liability if specific recommendations are given. With all that said, the group decided to start with collection of research priorities by email including researchers input and developing the OSCC list from there.

Administrator's Report

OSCC and NW Cherries have signed the agreements with Special Olympics for a one-half sponsorship for The Bite again this August 7,8 and 9 in Portland.

Dana received a request for a letter of support for a Food Innovation Center (FIC) Specialty Crop Block Grant application. The grant proposal was discussed along with the commitment being requested. *Ryan Bond moved and Dan Crouse seconded to approve sending a letter of support from OSCC. The motion carried unanimously.*

Chairwoman's Report

Dana emailed a copy of the Operational Plan for the marketing plans received from NW Cherries and National Cherry Growers & Industries Foundation (NCGIF) in advance of the meeting. The changes in the NCGIF marketing plans were discussed briefly and there were no other questions. *Jeff Heater moved and Ryan bond seconded to approve and accept the plan as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Copies of the proposed budget were handed out at the meeting for those who didn't already have a copy. At the April meeting an increase was approved for the Administrative Services, but more information was requested from Kris Anderson regarding comparisons with other Commissions' administrative rates. The increase was not included in the proposed budget because it was still under discussion. The comparison information was provided and based on it *Dan Crouse moved and Steve Sandau seconded to increase the Administrative Services annual contract by \$5,775 to \$44,275. The motion carried unanimously. Andrea Galloway moved and Dan Crouse seconded to adopt the 2015-2015 budget as amended for \$2,213,476. The motion carried unanimously.*

Nomination and approval of Next Year's Officers

The nominations for officers for next year were opened. *Stacey Cooper nominated Dan Crouse for Chairman and Jeff Heater for Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Brateng seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Les Stephens nominated Stacey Cooper for Vice-Chair, Tom Brateng seconded. The motion carried unanimously.* Officers are as follows: Dan Crouse, Chairman, Stacey Cooper, Vice-Chairman, Jeff Heater, Secretary/Treasurer.

Megan Thompson and Dana Branson attended the 5 State Cherry Meeting in Yakima on May 20th. The fresh crop estimate for Oregon (28,050 tons) is about 800 tons short of the 3-year low on record. Most districts in Washington look good, but there are a few holes. The Washington estimate is 167,500 tons and 1,100 tons total for Utah, Idaho and Montana for a total 197,550 tons. California shipping was reported to be finishing up next week and some NW cherries should be coming into the market next week as well. It looks like there will be a spread between Chelans and Bings.

Each year the OSCC appoints representatives to the NCGIF board; they are authorized to have two representatives. Last year Stacey Cooper and John Carter were appointed as the representatives. Stacey Cooper and John Carter are willing to be the OSCC representatives again. *Jeff Heater moved and Dan Crouse seconded to have John Carter and Stacey Cooper act as the OSCC representatives to the NCGIF for next year. The motion carried unanimously.*

Northwest Horticulture Council Report

Dan Crouse attended the NHC annual meeting. Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) continues to work on staffing, MRL's and Food Safety. The lysteria outbreak on apples has been a big issue. There is work being done with Korea to try to get them to accept the systems approach instead of fumigating shipments from the U.S.

OSU Research & Extension Report

Brian Tuck reported they had between 50-90% hail damage on their pears and some damage to the cherries. As to winter damage it varies depending on variety and type of crop. The cherry crop this year is very light overall due to winter damage, again specific reductions depending on variety. The issue with finding labor to help support farm operations is serious and they are having a very difficult time finding folks willing to help though they are recruiting using all sources available. With respect to priority for limited water, if it gets to that point where reductions are implemented this year, they have defined that Current Research Blocks get first priority for water with new plantings following and then those blocks not currently used for research.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

This is Megan Thompson and Steve Sandau's last meeting. They have each served six years, two consecutive terms. The Commissioners thanked them for their service.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 6, 2015** in the room, 400 E Scenic Dr., The Dalles, OR 97058 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.