

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  
June 5, 2014 2:00 p.m.

Megan Thompson, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M. The following Commissioners consisting of a quorum including Megan were present: Steve Agidius, Andrea Galloway, Dan Crouse, Jeff Heater, Jim Markman, Tim Ramsey, Stacey Cooper, Steve Sandau, Mike Halliday and Les Stephens. Brian Tuck, Mid-Columbia Agriculture Research & Extension Center (MCAREC) and Administrators Dana Branson and LeRoy Nickerson were present.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting were emailed in advance and available at the meeting. *Jeff Heater moved and Steve Agidius seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Financial Reports**

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

### **Administrator's Report**

At the April meeting Dana mentioned that the OSCC had been approached by the organizers of The Bite of Oregon, a fundraising event for Special Olympics Oregon about being a sponsor for The Chef's Table. After working with B.J. Thurlby and the Washington State Fruit Commission (WSFC) an agreement was signed for sweet cherries to sponsor two menu items at the event. Northwest Cherries (NWC) will provide brochures, handouts, posters and other items. The sponsorship fee was paid by WSFC and additional charges for cherries, banners and other expenses incurred will be reimbursed by them as well. This is part of the promotion activities that OSCC pays for. The OSCC receives five (5) passes for commissioners for the event as part of the benefits for sponsorship. Pro Chefs of Oregon is in charge of developing the menu items. They called and asked if there was a certain variety of cherry or anything in particular we'd like to focus on. Dana told them it would be nice to have one menu item that could use fresh, frozen or canned cherries to make and one that uses maraschino cherries. The event is August 8 – 10 in Waterfront Park in Portland and has area-wide digital, print and TV media coverage.

There are three open Commission positions and three applications have been received by ODA. Tim Ramsey is eligible for re-appointment. Ryan Bond has applied from the Wasco County area and Leonard Aubert has applied from the Hood River area. We are just waiting for notice of their appointment.

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 is willing to be an OSCC representative again. John Carter has expressed a desire to begin stepping back, but we haven't confirmed that so we will assume he's willing for one more year. *Andrea Galloway moved and Jeff Heater seconded to have John Carter and Stacey Cooper act as the OSCC representatives to the NCGIF for next year.*

### **Chairperson'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. There were no questions on the plan. There are no significant changes from previous years. *Les Stephens moved and Jeff Heater seconded to approve and accept the plan as written. The motion carried unanimously.*

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

Megan Thompson, Bryce Molesworth and Dana Branson attended the 5 State Cherry Meeting in Yakima on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The fresh crop estimate for Oregon (40,000 tons) is up from last year and if it's accurate it will meet or surpass the 2012 record of 38,114 tons. Megan said most districts in Washington look good, but there are a few holes. The reason for the lighter spots could be winter damage or frost.

Mark Powers, Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC), came to The Dalles with Michelle Miranda, a trade policy staffer for Ron Wyden. They met with Megan and Dan Crouse on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Megan and Dan gave her information on how many fresh and processed cherries are exported and to what countries. They discussed MRL's, free trade policy and reduced tariffs impacts to the cherry industry.

### **Northwest Horticulture Council Report**

Dan Crouse attended the NHC annual meeting on May 22. NHC is continuing to work through staff transition plans and Chris Schlect has announced that he will retire in 2017. Mark Powers is in line to take Chris's place and aide to Doc Hastings, who is retiring, has expressed an interest in back filling Mark's position. The background and contacts in Washington, D.C. should make for a good fit.

### **Research Committee**

A meeting with our Washington counterparts on the cherry-breeding program (BPAC) was scheduled for yesterday in Prosser, but none of the Oregon representatives were available to go. The same group came down today for the pre-harvest tour and planned to do a walk through of the BPAC test plot at MCAREC. This didn't work out for most of the Oregon representatives again because of this meeting, however, Bryce Molesworth, at least one member from Oregon will be with them at MCAREC this afternoon.

The reports are that the Prosser test block has improved, but there are problems with gophers and it looks like not enough fertilizer was applied so the trees aren't doing as well as they could. There is another BPAC test plot at Sagemore that's doing much better. When the test trees are not well managed it makes it difficult to accurately appraise the variety's potential. The same test tree looks less than desirable in one location and promising at another – which one is right? Eric Shrum and Dan Crouse plan to go up to Prosser to look around this summer and they will have a report at the August OSCC meeting.

The first variety that was advanced for on-farm testing in three locations (1 in Oregon and 2 in Washington) has a test planting of 100 trees on Omeg's place. The plot originally picked out was not used, but the trees did get planted.

The date for a research priority-setting meeting was discussed. It was pointed out that last year the priorities were sent in via email for compilation by Dana. The method worked well because each person could complete it when they had time. The current priority list will be emailed to the Research Committee members and each member can make their changes and/or additions and email it back to the OSCC office. Dana will check with Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission to get our list together before they have their meeting.

The budget hearing was closed at 2:31. No one came to give comments and the discussion continued.

### **2013-2014 Budget Discussion**

Copies of the proposed budget were handed out at the meeting for those who didn't already have a copy. The proposed budget was included in the OSCC newsletter mailed in mid-May. There were no changes made to the proposed budget and no further discussion. *Stacey Cooper moved and Jeff Heater seconded to adopt the 2014-2015 budget as proposed for \$2,467,305. The motion carried unanimously.*

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

Brian Tuck is looking for a college student or young adult over 18 to help with work at the research station such as mowing, tree planting, etc. The hourly rate is \$10 per hour. If you know of anyone that's interested please send them his way.

Preston Brown, hired as the Farm Manager, is doing a good job and learning a lot. MCAREC now has three people licensed to spray, which is very beneficial to spread the work and get it done on time. With different trials for different researchers there's a lot to manage. Eric Shrum is consulting on sprays, the recommendation gets sent to the researcher with a 24-hour turn around for comments. This is working well.

A new cherry block has been planted for Peter Shearer's work and there are new pear and cherry trees for Todd Einhorn. Brian feels good with the progress they

have made at providing core support for the researchers and feels the station is moving forward in a positive direction.

The plans for the annual MCAREC Field Day are underway. Brian said they are looking at moving away from the traditional formal presentations to a lower key field tour for growers. The date has been set for July 30 and will finish with a BBQ. More details will be provided as the plans are finalized.

### **Nomination and approval of Next Year's Officers**

The nominations for officers for next year were opened. *Steve Agidius nominated Jeff Heater for Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Crouse seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Jeff Heater nominated Megan Thompson for Chair and Dan Crouse for Vice-Chair, Tim Ramsey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.* Officers are as follows: Megan Thompson, Chairwoman, Dan Crouse, Vice-Chairman, Jeff Heater, Secretary/Treasurer.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

This is Mike Halliday and Steve Agidius'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 **Wednesday, August 13, 2014** in the Hood River Extension meeting room, 3005 Experiment Station Dr., Hood River, OR 97031 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.