



OREGON SWEET CHERRY COMMISSION

Phone: (503) 274-5458

www.osweetcherry.org

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 August 17, 2022
 Stave & Stone Winery
 3827 Fletcher Dr., Hood River, OR 97031

Chairman Stacey Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
 Commissioners present included:

Mike Elias	Sue Root	Vacant	JD Walker	Ian Chandler	Wade Root	Jeff Heater	Tony Guisto	Stacey Cooper	Michael Omeg	Kerry Newberry
Handler 1	Handler 2	Producer 1	Producer 2	Producer 3	Producer 4	Producer 5	Producer 6	Producer 7	Producer 8	Public Member
N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Others present included: Riley Bushue; *Northwest Horticulture Council*, Stuart Reitz; *Interim Director Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center*, Randi Alexander-Rolison; *OSCC Administrative Office*, Julie Hoffman; *OSCC Administrative Office*.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The minutes of June 1 and June 17, 2022 were provided to the Commission prior to the meeting. Chairman Cooper asked if there were any questions or edits pertaining to the minutes.

Tony Guisto moved to approve the June 1, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by JD Walker. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

JD Walker moved to approve the June 17, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Tony Guisto. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

Co-Administrator Julie Hoffman provided a financial statement for July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022 showing a beginning fund balance of \$576,554.88. Revenue through July 31, 2022 was \$602.53, giving a total revenue and fund balance \$577,157.41 with zero expenses through July 31, 2022.

Ian Chandler moved to approve the, July 31, 2022 financials. Seconded by Tony Guisto. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Co-Administrator Randi Alexander-Rolison created an OSCC Commissioner handbook that included commissioner guidelines and requirements from ODA, Administrative Rules and Commissioner Map. JD Walker and Stacey Cooper volunteered to review and edit the handbook prior to it being passed on to Kris Anderson with ODA for final review. Walker pointed out a correction in the commissioner map; the area outlined for Western Oregon is incorrect.

A commissioner contact sheet was passed around and shared online, Commissioners were asked to make corrections if needed. Tony Guisto updated his email to be the corrected one already used by the administrative office.

Alexander-Rolison shared that content for the new website is currently being created, and shared with the group four new OSCC logo ideas for the Commissioners to review. Conversation among the group indicated they all liked the same one the most.

Tony Guisto moved that the new OSCC logo be the Oregon state outline, with cherries in the Columbia River area. Seconded by Ian Chandler. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - STACEY COOPER

Cooper was part of the 2023 PNW Cherry & Stone Fruit Research Priorities meeting recently. The priorities for the RFPs were sent to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. Cooper shared that the pre-proposals are due 8/25 and the research review will be in Yakima Nov 8-9 and encouraged all commissioners to attend, even if only virtually. Cooper made the suggestion that when listening to the project proposals to give more time and consideration to the ongoing projects to confirm they are doing the work the Commission wants/needs/assumes they are doing, to determine if they want to continue funding, especially with funds being decreased this year.

Cooper would like to hire someone to do walk-arounds, as this was done previously by John Carter. Cooper requested this happen at the Hood River Station, however has not seen this happen yet. Cooper has a person in mind that works in the industry that would be interested in doing this if the OSCC deems this an appropriate use of funds. Cost would be travel and time involved with walk-arounds.

Mike Omeg asked the group if Ashley Thompson had been approached about this and being a cherry agent for Oregon. Omeg suggested that researchers Thompson and Galimba are the ones that *should* currently be representing Oregon and participating in the walk-arounds as part of the scope of work and research they provide. It was proposed that Cooper write a letter to both researchers requesting they attend these events and report back to the Commission at the end of the season.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT – Kris Anderson

None

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURE COUNCIL REPORT - Riley Bushue

Bushue reported that on the federal level trade front, India finally approved non-fumigated access for cherries. This long awaited good news and by next season there should be proper guidelines in place for all.

In July NWHC hosted three people from USDA AVIS that are negotiating on this industry's behalf. This was an initial introduction to the area for these representatives. Bushue thanked those that opened their orchards and facilities up for the tour. It was a positive experience for all. The tour provided a better understanding of practices within the industry and will allow these representatives to advocate more appropriately.

In consideration of the congressional front and labor immigration reform conversations, the bill passed in the House, waiting for something to happen in the Senate prior to the end of the year. Good conversations are reported to be happening with a few senators, although no details are set in place yet. Bushue is personally skeptical that anything will happen prior to the election. NWHC will continue to have appropriate conversations and keep the Pacific Northwest top of mind with immigration considerations.

OSU RESEARCH & EXTENSION REPORT – Stuart Reitz

Reitz extended gratitude from Rachel Leisso with ARS, for supporting the new project started this year of looking at cherry microbiomes. Leisson collected fruit from four locations; two in The Dalles, Moser and Parkdale (reportedly it all appears really good). Fruit will continue to be held in storage to see if any decay or disease issues come up.

A new technician was hired to work in the lab with Leisso. The lab continues to be setup and advanced to fit the needs of the station and researchers.

OSU researchers, Chris Adams and Kelsey Galimba have a grad student working on the leafhopper and cherry x disease projects with them. Dr. Adams and his crew continue their work with spotted wing drosophila, and are looking forward to catching many in the research traps.

Lab renovations continue. The original structure is an eighty year old barn, additions have needed to be modified over the years. Ductwork happening now will result in better ventilation and energy savings. Plans for electrical work will and lab space renovations will begin in the fall. OSU will be using the USDA building while renovations happen.

In regards to finding a director for the MCAREC station, the timeline is unclear, as many of the stations throughout the state currently have interim directors. Several conversations are being held with Dean Staci Simonich about the position and details of it.

OLD BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

Alexander-Rolison has completed all contracts for the 22-23 FY and is waiting for Dep. of Justice to review and approve the Task Order with ARF and the Financial Assistance Agreement with Washington State Fruit Commission. Once those have DOJ approval, they will be sent to the appropriate persons for final signatures.

NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME & LOCATION

Considering the availability for Northwest Cherries, Oct 18, 19, or 20 at Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Adjourned 1:55 p.m.