



OREGON SWEET CHERRY COMMISSION

Phone: (503) 274-5458

www.osweetcherry.org

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2022

MCAREC

3005 Experiment Station Dr, Hood River, OR 97031

Chairman Stacey Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners present included:

Vacant	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	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Others present included: Kris Anderson; *Commodity Commission Oversight Manager, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture*, Megan Thompson; *Sage Fruit*, Stuart Reitz; *Interim Director Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center*, BJ Thurlby; *NW Cherry Growers*, Keith Hu; *NW Cherry Growers*, James Michael; *NW Cherry Growers*, Rachel Leisso, PhD; *USDA*, Chris Adams, Assistant Professor, *OSU College of Agricultural Sciences*, Peter Verbrugge; *Pacific Coast Cherry Packers*, Rachel Jorlin; *McClaskey Orchards*, Silvestre Deras; *McClaskey Orchards*, Randi Alexander-Rolison; *OSCC Administrative Office*, Julie Hoffman; *OSCC Administrative Office*.

### MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The minutes of August 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.

**Jeff Heater moved to approve the August 17, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Ian Chandler. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.**

Co-Administrator Julie Hoffman provided a financial statement through September 30, 2022 showing a beginning fund balance of \$576,554.88. Revenue through September 30, 2022 was \$289,585.77, and expenses totalling 23,150.17, giving a total revenue and fund balance of \$842,990.48.

**Jeff Heater 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 Alexander-Rolison reports that the admin staff are all moved into the new office, also located in Portland. This new space is spacious, clean, safe and fits the needs of staff and the commission, also saving money monthly on rent.

It was requested of the Commissioners to notify admin of those that will be attending the Cherry Research Review in Yakima WA in person in order for hotel rooms and registration to be completed. It was decided that Stacey Cooper, Megan Tompson, Sue Root, Wade Root, Tony Guisto, Ian Chandler, Julie Hoffman and Randi Alexander-Rolison would be in attendance both days. Others were encouraged to join via Zoom on the first day.

Currently there are two open positions on Commission; Handler 1 and Producer 1. At this time, they can be opened to "at large" instead of region specific (if applied).

## **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT – Kris Anderson**

Anderson reports that Director Taylor is officially awaiting permanent assignment with USDA in Washington D.C., Lauren Henderson has been asked to step in as acting Director. Henderson will be attending a trade mission to Kenya later in the month of October to represent ag trade connections. ODA and Business Oregon are currently on a trade mission, visiting South Korea and Japan. Oregon representation included blueberries, raspberries and blackberries.

Anderson requested that the two open OSCC positions have applications turned in at the same time for ease of appointment, although recognizes this may not be possible.

The Hemp Commission now has their nine regular commissioners assigned. They will start collecting assessments quarterly after Jan 1, 2023 at 1% of all sales. Expected budget for this commission is \$300,000.

Hugh Link is retiring from the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission. Anderson is assisting in the recruitment and hiring process of the new ED.

Commission audits are needed by a few state commodity commissions. Anderson provided an audit review form to an Oregon firm providing change of administrator audits to some commodity commissions. This information applies more to other commissions than OSCC.

## **OSU RESEARCH & EXTENSION REPORT**

Stuart Reitz reports that the renovation process is still in the works. Several delays have deterred any movement lately in this process. Reitz encourages Commissioners to talk

with Dean Simonich (staci.simonich@oregonstate.edu) about filling the director position at MCAREC; who/what qualities are wanted, duties and qualifications. No timeline yet on getting someone hired.

Chris Adams, Assistant Professor, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences reports he and other researchers at MCAREC are trying to find appropriate work stations while renovations are happening. The electrical and ventilation system has to be upgraded, leaving the building uninhabitable for the next (at least) three months. Creative solutions are being utilized to find appropriate solutions to the renovation delays.

### **USDA - Rachel Leisso, PhD**

Leisso submitted a proposal for funding consideration related to sweet cherry export and wanted to get more in-depth feedback from the Commissioners in order to make the proposal appropriate for the sweet cherry industry needs. There were five specific questions asked of OSCC; Why is this a priority project? What percent of cherries are treated? What is an appropriate list of cultivars to focus on? Is there a need for a late season cultivar? Is there a report packers and shoppers can provide that show recorded shipping issues?

Commissioners and attendees from Northwest Cherries provided pertinent feedback to these questions and guided Leisso in a clear direction to upgrade the proposal.

### **10 minute Break**

### **Northwest Cherry Growers Report**

BJ Thurbury, James Michael and Keith Hu of Northwest Cherry Growers gave the Commission the slide show presentation of the annual report for cherries grown and sold local, nationally and internationally. Slide show provided with minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

### **NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME & LOCATION**

December 14, 2022, 10:00 am at Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Chairman Cooper Adjourned the meeting at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Randi Alexander-Rolison*  
Co-Administrator