



OREGON SWEET CHERRY COMMISSION

Phone: (503) 274-5458

www.osweetcherry.org

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 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	Kristoff Fowler	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
-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N

Others present included: Stuart Reitz; *Interim Director Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center*, Riley Bushe; *Director of Congressional Relations and Export Programs, Northwest Horticultural Council*, Randi Alexander-Rolison; *OSCC Administrative Office*, Julie Hoffman; *OSCC Administrative Office*, Will Wise, *CEO Oregon Beef Council*.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting were provided to the commission prior to the meeting. Chairman Cooper asked if there were any questions or edits pertaining to the minutes. Being none,

Ian Chandler moved to approve the October 19, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Mike Omeg. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

Co-Administrator Julie Hoffman provided a financial statement through November 30, 2022 showing a beginning fund balance of \$576,592.38. Revenue through November 30, 2022 was \$1,228,473.97, and expenses totalling \$647,906.00, giving a total revenue and fund balance of \$580,567.97.

Ian Chandler moved to approve the, November 30, 2022 financials. Seconded by Wade Root. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

Cooper gave the “go ahead” to pay \$50,000.00 of the renovation payments to OSU.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kristoff Fowler, new commissioner in the Producer 1 position introduced himself. Alexander-Rolison reported the Handler 1 position remains open. At this time, the position is open to the state at-large.

The OSCC handbook has been submitted to Commodity Commission Oversight Manager Kris Anderson, for review and edits. Once it is approved by ODA Alexander-Rolison will distribute to commissioners and use parts for the website update.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Review of new research projects with suggested funding from OSCC:

Schmidt at \$1,500

Zhao at \$16,450

Galimba at \$27,992.25

Adams at \$7,590

Sallato at \$17,501

Leisso at \$54,944, OSCC wants to provide alterations to the proposed project.

Proposed funding of new research is \$125,997.25, continued projects is \$212,456.74, making total research \$338,433.99. This does not include the remaining \$50,000 renovation expense.

Ian Chandler moved to approve the research projects as presented, with further discussion and final dollar amount decisions to be made at the budget planning meeting. Seconded by Mike Omeg. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

California Research Review will be held in Stockton, CA on January 17, 2023. Cooper and Omeg expressed interest in attending.

Ian Chandler moved for the commission to authorize up to three commissioners attending the California Research Meeting. Seconded by Wade Root. A roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT

Alexander-Rolison reported Kris Anderson will be retiring at the end of December 2022. Jess Paulson, Director of Market Access & Certification Program Area, wants to talk with all commissioners interested in giving insight to what the new Commodity Commission Oversight Manager (CCOM) duties would be; what tasks could be given to commissions, what tasks could be given to other ODA departments, and what tasks could be strengthened by the CCOM. Paulson requests all input be provided prior to December 25, 2022. ODA is considering having Anderson return for a minimal amount of time (after 6 weeks post retirement) to train a new person. This training period would

add an additional \$11,000 to the ODA oversight fee for 2023-24.
Commissioners requested that a Zoom call be set up with Paulson.

OSU RESEARCH & EXTENSION REPORT - Stuart Reitz

Reitz reports a search committee is in place for the MCAREC director. OSU Dean Simonich has appointed a stakeholder advisory panel. A meeting is scheduled December 15, 2022 to review the position description. Draft version of the description was recently sent out, and feedback is encouraged. The position will stand at 50% research, 50% administrative with a wide range of research expertise. Interviews will be scheduled in March 2023.

Renovation plan revisions have been made, resulting in energy savings throughout the building. Energy trust incentives have been applied for to help with costs of equipment. Currently the plan is to purchase all equipment and materials needed in advance, then begin work in an effort to streamline the project completion.

The ARS lab will be getting a new roof in the spring. Electrical and plumbing work will also happen in order to have a nitrogen generator installed, providing researchers with a controlled atmosphere.

Administrative support position description has been made, posting will be active the first of the year (2023).

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL - Riley Bushue

Bushe reports trade policy hasn't seen substance changes from the Biden administration. WTO ruled against Section 232 tariffs. Biden's administration is going to leave the 232 tariffs in place. NWHC is looking at what can be done to remove retaliatory tariffs and find a pathway forward. Talks with the Dept of Commerce and Trade Representative staff confirm this is the best approach at this time.

Where labor laws are concerned, the H2A rule was released at the end of Oct/early Nov. Minimal changes, if growers have joint employer contracts with H2A, Bushe encourages to look those new contracts over to understand changes and reach out with any questions.

A new rule from the Department of Labor (DOL) on the adverse effect wage rate should be coming out any time. The DOL published under current rule the new wage rates.

They increased by 3%, putting wages just under \$18/hr.

Recent Senate negotiations on an ag work force bill broke down the bipartisan conversations over one specific item, making the proposed bill fall apart. Conversations about an updated bill are happening, as well as immigration.

USDA announced plans for phase two of the Emergency Relief Program. The intent is to move forward "filling gaps" from the first phase, based on revenue and tax forms.

Megan Thompson, OSCC representative to NWHC sent in a report as well; NWHC Meeting held on Nov. 10, 2022 in the Yakima office. General board meeting: Review of minutes, financials, yearly insurance and investment review. Work force issues in the Senate. They had a fly in in Washington DC to continue the discussion of Farm Workforce Modernization Act, NW horticultural sent 2 representatives, one apple grower from Washington also attended.

Discussion about a research project called Apple Life cycle assessment was discussed. The NWHC is proposing this project, science based research regarding greenhouse gas admission and sequestration in tree fruit production. Follow up zoom was held on December 2nd which the board of trustees discussed and voted to fund this project. Committee reports were presented. Next meeting is not until May.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME & LOCATION

February 22, 2022 10:00 am at Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Chairman Cooper Adjourned the meeting at 11:13 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Randi Alexander-Rolison
Co-Administrator