



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington

WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Steakhouse 9 - Lynden, WA

April 14, 2014

Chair Bryan Sakuma presiding.

Chair Sakuma called the meeting to order at 10:36 AM.

Commissioners present: Rob Dhaliwal, Bryan Sakuma, Matt Maberry, Andy Enfield, and Leif Olsen, Margaret Tucker.

Administrative staff present: Alan Schreiber and Heather Stieglmeyer.

Guests present: Leighton Overson, Harley Soltes, Gurmeet Singh, Dick Mombell, Randy Pavilnac, Tom Peerbolt, Brad Felger, Lisa DeVetter and Rebecca Weber.

Approval of February 2015 Minutes

Bryan asked for approval of the meeting minutes.

Andy Enfield moved to approve the meeting minutes. Matt Maberry second. Motion passed unanimously.

Expiring Board Positions

Alan- Matt Mayberry declined to continue in his current position. Leif Olson accepted the nomination to continue in his current position. We are having difficulties finding something to replace Matt's position.

Leif Olson accepted to return to his Position 1 board position.

Chairman- I would like to come back to this at the end of the meeting. This will allow time for everyone to think of others who might fill this position.

Alan- Margaret Tucker's last meeting. She has served on the board for over 20 years. Alan thanked her for her service and appreciate the time she has contributed to the Washington Blueberry commission.

Margaret Tucker- Thanked everyone for allowing her to serve all these years! Rebecca Weber will be her replacement. A formal announcement will take place at a later date.

Financials

Treasurer's Report

Alan reviewed the quarterly financials explaining each line item and the expenses associated with each. Alan asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. Alan then explained that the financials were as of April 10 and did not reflect that 5 checks for Chairman Sakuma to sign at the meeting. Alan then reviewed the check detail.

Chairman Sakuma asked for a motion to approve the current financials.

Rob Dhaliwal moved to approve the treasure's report. Andy Enfield seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Production Estimates

The NABC has asked for an estimate of Washington's projected blueberry harvest. Chairman Sakuma stated that- a lot of places are reporting production as being what they collect assessments on. Schreiber feels that Washington produces more than the volume on which assessments are paid.

Schreiber projected 105 million pounds will be produced in 2015 and requested input from the board and others in attendance.

Lisa DeVetter- looking like next week will be a good week for pollination. Most plants did well over the winter. Better than last year.

Chairman- the Skagit area is looking like it will produce a lot of blueberries..

Leighton Overson- looking good. Dukes looking about average.

Harley Soltes- looking good. No winter or frost damage.

Tom Peerbolt- everything is looking good in SW Washington..

Chairman- I'm comfortable with 110,000,000. There was general agreement that Washington would produce 110 million pounds in 2015.

Old Business

Promotion Committee Report

China Project ready to kick off. Allocating money and signed a deal with Markets Plus to give us sales leads. Lee Hui Dong will send us sales leads for dried, juiced and concentrate products. Alan- we will do this for 12 months and we will see what we want to do after that. We can also stop sooner if we choose to.

We are looking for someone to go on the India and South Korea trips.

Local Promotion Efforts- Chairman- we need to contact the Oregon Blueberry Commission and hook up with them on a promotional level to see what they are doing. Maybe do a cooperative advertisement.

Research Committee Report

Alan- there is little to report on WA blueberry research. Awards have been made, researchers are doing their work.

SCBG- coordinate with Washington Red Raspberry on the Tobin Peever led project submitted by WSU for botrytis control. \$150,000 for 2 years, full proposal due by the end of the month.

Lisa DeVetter is doing a pollination and boron project.

Alan- coordinating with Oregon and Washington on research- would like to get a common research format. How do we want to get our research reports out?

Any Enfield- we somehow need to get it to the growers.

Alan- electronically or hard copy? Share with Oregon and British Columbia? What would you like the WBC to do to do?

Chairman- I think electronically one way or the other. Either CD or thumb drive.

Margaret Tucker- can you charge non-growers?

Alan- we will do a thumb drive and mail it to all growers.

Food Safety Report

Alan- see MRL handout.

Food Safety and Labor Meetings- we had to cancel the Prosser and Battle Ground meetings due to low attendance. We would like to do more next year.

Alan- submitted the SCBG for food safety and were as invited to make a full proposal. Dr. Zhu (WSU) is submitting the proposal.

Alan- how interested would everyone be in a kill step for blueberries? We have money in the contingency fund we would have Zhu work with a grower to set up her research to test the kill step.

Lisa DeVetter- we are 15,000 short for the HPLC. We need the money for 2015 but could use it in 2016.

Chairman- can the funding be split into 2 years? Lisa DeVetter- yes, the total cost for the project is \$70,000.

Chairman- can I have a motion to approve Lisa DeVetter's requested funding?

Rob Dhaliwal moved to spend \$5,000 of WBC money to help purchase a HPLC for the WSU Small Fruit Research Project. Any Enfield second. Motion Passed unanimously.

Rob Dhaliwal moved to spend up to \$5,000 for food safety project with WSU. Matt Maberry, second it. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from NABC, USHBC

Rob Dhaliwal- USHBC meeting in Orlando- was the same as last year. 1.1 billion pounds produced in North America, this included the wild blueberries

BCI call at 1:00 PM

Matt Lantz— report on market access efforts in China, Korea and Australia.

Rob Dhaliwal- NABC- increase funding, still pushing for health research.

New Business

Alan- WSCPR tour July 28-30th.

Alan/Chairman- we put \$1500 towards the labor issue, it will take 2-3 months for a decision.

Alan- Washington Blueberry School 2015. The Oregon school was well attended.

Dick Mombell.- I was highly impressed with all aspects of the school. A little spendy with, the registration at \$300.

Alan- will work with WSU to get the blueberry school, would like to have one every few years.

Other Business

Chairman- needing names for the open board position. We will continue to look for someone and have them selected by our next meeting in June.

Chairman- motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 1:41 PM