



**Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

744 La Guardia Street, Building A

Salinas, CA 93905

July 12, 2017

10:00 AM

MINUTES

TASC Members

Dr. Jerome Pier
Mr. Rex Dufour
Dr. Eric Ellison
Mr. Chuck Hornung
Ms. DD Levine
Dr. John Bushoven
Dr. Steve Petrie
Dr. Barzin Moradi
Mr. David McEuen
Ms. Jenny Rempel

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Mr. Mark Cady
Ms. Brooke Elliott
Ms. Natalie Jacuzzi
Ms. Nicole Crouch

Interested Party

Ms. Brittany Munoz

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jerome Pier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM and welcomed the subcommittee. Dr. Marc Los Huertos was not able to attend the meeting. Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Pier requested the subcommittee review and approve the minutes of the March 10, 2017, meeting.

MOTION: Dr. John Bushoven moved to approve the March 10, 2017, minutes; Mr. David McEuen seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 10 – 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba announced changes in California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) staff. Dr. Doug West, Environmental Scientist with FREP, retired after working for CDFA for 10 years. Nirmal Saini, Branch Chief of the Center for Analytical Chemistry, retired after 41 years of working for the state.

New employees include Nicole Crouch, Agriculture Aide with FREP, and Dr. Martin Burger, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) with Fertilizer Registration. Marilyn Boehnke, a part-time retired annuitant, will return to a full-time position as an Associate Governmental Program Analyst with the branch office support staff. In the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS) Branch, Max Meyer and Gabrielle McNamara are summer interns.

Antimicrobial Use Stewardship (AUS) is a new program in CDFA. Senate Bill (SB) 27 created the AUS program with general funding, because the program works on a public safety issues. Through a new Budget Change Proposal (BCP), signed by the governor, two new positions will be added to the FFLDRS branch this year.

A BCP for biochar allows the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program to hire one additional Environmental Scientist. This position will help with biochar product registration.

SB 623 is still subject to further development. The current language suggests that it will be a vehicle for providing funding mechanisms to support safe drinking water for the impacted community. Many groups and stakeholders are involved in the discussion. It has been suggested that mill assessment on fertilizing materials would provide approximately \$20 million.

The CalCannabis program continues to hire in order to provide sufficient staff for the growing program. CalCannabis is developing an Environmental Impact Report on the crop, and is drafting regulations based on California Proposition 64. A comment period will be provided.

CDFA embarked on a pilot project to assess the prevalence of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in organic products. The pilot project selected 23 blind samples for the presence of GMO material testing. Seven of the 23 samples sent to laboratories contained some level of GMOs in animal feed products. Testing will continue next year. The next sample test will not be blind, and CDFA will follow up with enforcement of regulations. There will be approximately 60 samples, 30 of which will be feed samples.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF 2017 FULL PROPOSALS

Dr. Pier led discussion in reviewing and voting on the 2017 concept proposals; nine proposals were received. TASC voted a majority “yes” for the following four proposals, all contingent on submission of a revised version addressing TASC comments and suggestions.

- A System Nitrogen Balance for Container Plant Production
Lorence R. Okj, Bruno J.L. Pitton

- Training on Crop Management that Integrates Climate, Soil and Irrigation System Data to Minimize Nutrient Loss and Optimize Irrigation Efficiency
Trina Walley
- Assessment of Harvested and Sequestered Nitrogen Content to Improve Nitrogen Management in Perennial Crops
John Dickey, Ken Cassman
- Evaluation of Nitrogen Uptake and Applied Irrigation Water in Asian Vegetables Bok Choy, On Choy, Chives, Daikon, and Lemongrass
Aparna Gazula, Ruth-Dahlquist Willard, Daniel Geisseler

TASC voted a majority “no” for the five following proposals.

- Understanding Nitrate Fate and Transport below the Root-Zone under a Groundwater-Reuse Nutrient-Irrigation Management Program
Bwalya Malama, Cristina Lazcano, Christopher Appel, Gregory Schwartz
- Synchronization of irrigation volumes and N fertigation rates to optimize resource use efficiency in processing tomatoes under buried drip
Felipe H. Barrios Masias
- Coupling Soil-Microbial-Hydrologic Processes to Design New Nutrient Management Guidelines for Micro-Irrigated Agricultural Systems
Helen E Dahlke, Daniel Geisseler, Jorge LM Rodrigues, and William R Horwath
- Corn Nitrogen Uptake and Water Use Model for California Growers
Mark Lundy
- Rapid Rate of Travel Evaluation of Connection between Nitrate in Root Zone and Groundwater as Affected by Crop and Soil Management
John Dickey, Ken Cassman

RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS

Ideas and suggestions for the future research priorities will be on the next meeting agenda.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The current vice chair’s term is expiring, and a new vice chair for TASC will be selected. Biochar information will be presented, based on Max Meyer’s research of the latest biochar literature.

TASC VACANCIES

The next TASC terms to expire are Eric Ellison, Marc Los Huertos, Rex Dufour, and Jerome Pier. Four TASC positions will open in September 2017, and FREP received 10 applications for TASC positions. FREP recommends the positions to be filled by Eric Ellison, Rex Dufour, Jerome Pier, and Marja Koivunen. The Fertilizer Inspection

Advisory Board will review FREP's recommendations and select four people to serve on TASC.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled via a Doodle poll.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Rex Dufour moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Steve Petrie seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 10 – 0.

Dr. Pier adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Amadou Ba for Barzin Moradi

August 17, 2017

Dr. Barzin Moradi
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Date