



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

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 101

Sacramento, CA 95833

(916) 900-5022

August 7, 2018

9:00 AM

MINUTES

TASC Members

Dr. Jerome Pier
Rex Dufour
Dr. Eric Ellison
DD Levine
David McEuen
Dr. Marja Koivunen
Dr. Steve Petrie
Jenny Rempel

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Dr. Martin Burger
Mark Cady
Nicole Crouch
Brooke Elliott
Natalie Jacuzzi
Kelsea Jones

Interested Party

Ramy Colfer

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jerome Pier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed the subcommittee. Dr. John Bushoven and Chuck Hornung were 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 the minutes of March 2, 2018, meeting.

MOTION: David McEuen moved to approve the March 2, 2018, minutes; Dr. Eric Ellison seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 8 – 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba explained that the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program has appointed two positions that had been vacant for four to five months. Dr. Jennifer Tucker was appointed as Deputy Administrator. Miles McEvoy previously held the position, but retired. Dr. Clarissa Matthew is the new National List

Manager. The National List identifies substances, such as pesticides and fertilizers, that are allowed in organic crop and livestock production.

Because 2018 is an election year, many agencies, including CDFA, are working on final report transition documents. Also within the Department, the Animal Health Division is heavily involved with the issue of Virulent Newcastle Disease in Southern California. Staff is surveying the spread of the disease and quarantining facilities if necessary. The disease has mainly impacted backyard chickens, and no commercial facilities have been found to have chickens with the disease. In legislation, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act continues to be discussed. The legislature is considering the collection of \$17 million from mill assessments through fertilizer sales and from other resources and groups, including water purveyors.

New Inspection Services Division staff includes four Environmental Scientists to review fertilizer registrations. There are also two summer interns, Kelsea Jones and Kyle Schneider.

TASC VACANCIES AND APPLICANTS

Dr. Amadou Ba explained that three TASC member vacancies will open in September 2018. One of these vacancies was previously held by CDFA staff. Because TASC recommendations are reviewed by the CDFA Secretary, the CDFA TASC member was deemed a double advisory and unnecessary moving forward. Therefore, the position previously held by CDFA staff is now open to the public. In addition, the terms of the current members DD Levine and John Bushoven will expire in September 2018.

Twelve people submitted applications for three TASC vacancies. FREP recommended six applicants for TASC to consider nominating: Laurent Ahiablame, Tom Bottoms, Suduan Gao, DD Levine, Aliasghar Montazar, and Luis Solari. After discussion, Jerome Pier nominated Tom Bottoms, Suduan Gao, and DD Levine.

MOTION: Dr. Ellison moved to approve the nominations; Mr. McEuen seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 8 – 0.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF 2018 FULL PROPOSALS

Dr. Pier led discussion in reviewing and voting on the 2018 full proposals; 12 proposals were received. TASC voted a majority “yes” for the following six proposals.

- Understanding Influences on Grower Decision-Making and Adoption of Improved Nitrogen Management Practices in the Southern San Joaquin Valley
Patrick Brown and Mark Lubell
- Improving Nitrate and Salinity Management Strategies for Almonds Grown under Microirrigation (15-0523 Extension)
Patrick Brown

- Assessing Drip Irrigation and Nitrogen Management of Fresh Onions Produced in California Low Desert
Jairo Diaz, Roberto Soto, and Daniel Geisseler
- Promoting the Adoption of Soil Nitrogen Quick Tests by Spanish-Speaking Operators on Strawberry Ranches in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties
Gerry Spinelli
- Efficient Water and Nitrogen Management Practices for Mixed Leafy Baby Green Vegetables in the Desert
Charles Sanchez
- Pima Cotton Nitrogen Management, Uptake, and Removal – Impacts of Varieties, Subsurface Drip and Furrow Irrigation
Robert Hutmacher

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

- Improving Nitrogen and Water Use Efficiency in the Low Desert Carrot Production through Efficient Irrigation Technology and Management Tools
Aliasghar Montazar
- Impact of Recycled Almond Hulls on Nitrogen and Potassium Dynamics in Almond Orchards
Patrick Brown, Christopher Simmons, and Sat Darshan Khalsa
- Developing a Nitrogen Mineralization Model for Organically Managed Vegetable Farms on the Central Coast
Joji Muramoto, Carol Shennan, Richard Smith, Mike Cahn, and Daniel Geisseler
- “Crop Nutrient Minute” Video Series
Parry Klassen
- Nitrogen Management in a Suitcase: Direct Measurement of Nitrate in Irrigation Water and Planning Assistance for Growers
Chris Rose and Amy King
- An Integrated Framework for Assessing Effects of Irrigation and Fertigation Management on Nitrate Movement in the Deep Vadose Zone
Isaya Kisekka, Thomas Harter, and Jan Hopmans

PUBLIC COMMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

No public comments were made.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Ideas and suggestions for future research priorities and the process of the Request for Proposals will be on the next meeting agenda.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled via Doodle poll, with choices in November and December 2018.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Pier moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Dufour seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 8 – 0.

Dr. Pier adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Mark Cady

September 6, 2018

Mark Cady
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Date