



2018 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Technical Review Committee

Public Meeting

March 28, 2018
10:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Auditorium
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Committee Members Present

Stephanie Etcheverria
William Matthews
Dan Parfitt
Steve Shaffer

Committee Members Absent

William Gatlin

CDFA Staff

Stacy Alridge
Jacqueline Castro
Kristi Duprey
Tiffany Kelly
Garrett McCord

Sheila Morco
Crystal Myers
Satoshi Okuno
Annika Paulson
Karen Ross

Stephen Tachiera
Nadine Scarbrough
Anna Shkrabak
James Spencer

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Karen Ross - Secretary, CDFA

Steve Shaffer, Chairman, Specialty Crop Technical Review Committee (TRC)

Secretary Ross welcomed the audience and celebrated the 12th year of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is a model program in the state for its competitiveness as well as its offering of grant writing assistance and support to applicants. She also made note that she appreciates the Concept Proposal process that SCBGP uses to make the grant more accessible to applicants.

Secretary Ross then expressed to the subcommittee chairs that she knows that reviewing these grants is no easy task and thanked them for their work. Ms. Ross then elucidated on the values of the various funding categories and their importance to the state's agricultural prowess.

Reviewers were a part of the two-step process that consisted of an initial Concept Proposal followed by a formal Grant Proposal. Both steps were given an administrative review by the Solicitation Team before going to the Technical Review Committee subcommittees for review and response.

Mr. Shaffer thanked Secretary Ross for her work and then proceeded to describe the review process for the participants and audience.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Subcommittee (SCGBP) Reports

Each subcommittee representative presented a brief summary, commented on the review process, and submitted the following Subcommittee Grant Proposal recommendations to the TRC Chair:

- **California Grown Promotion** - Mr. Shaffer, standing in for Mr. Gatlin, presented the subcommittee findings. The subcommittee reviewed 40 Concept Proposals totaling \$9.8 million, and 16 Grant Proposals totaling \$4.2 million. **Motion to submit the California Grown Promotion subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2018 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Schaffer. Seconded by Ms. Etcheverria. Motion is unanimous.**
- **Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education** – Ms. Etcheverria introduced herself as the subcommittee chair for the Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 44 concept proposals totaling \$10.6 million, and 16 grant proposals totaling \$3.8 million. **Motion to submit the Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2018 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Ms. Etcheverria. Seconded by Mr. Matthews. Motion is unanimous.**
- **Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers** - Mr. Matthews introduced himself as the subcommittee chair for the Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 44 concept proposals totaling \$9.4 million, and 22 grant proposals totaling \$4.4 million. **Motion to submit the Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2018 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Matthews. Seconded by Mr. Parfitt. Motion is unanimous.**
- **Environmental Stewardship and Conservation** - Mr. Shaffer introduced himself as the subcommittee chair for the Environmental Stewardship and Conservation funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 55 concept proposals totaling \$13.7 million, and 23 grant proposals totaling \$6.2 million. **Motion to submit the Environmental Stewardship and Conservation subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2018 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Shaffer. Seconded by Mr. Parfitt. Motion is unanimous.**
- **Plant Health and Pest Management** - Mr. Parfitt introduced himself as the subcommittee chair for the Plant Health and Pest Management funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 53 concept proposals totaling \$13.3 million, and 22 grant proposals totaling \$5.6 million. **Motion to submit the Plant Health and Pest Management subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2018 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Parfitt. Seconded by Mr. Shaffer. Motion is unanimous.**

Final Motion

Motion to submit the SCBGP Technical Review Committee recommendations from the five subcommittees to California Department of Food and Agriculture via Secretary Ross for review and eventual submission to United States Department of Agriculture was made by Mr. Shaffer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthews. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

The meeting was opened for public comments. No comments were voiced.

Closing Remarks

Secretary Ross accepted the recommendations of the TRC subcommittees. In addition, Secretary Ross noted that she has viewed some of the programs that have been funded through past SCBGP funding cycles and how successful they have been. She then asked that any future recommendations for the proposal and grant process be brought to her office or to the SCBGP solicitation team.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Shaffer, second by Mr. Parfitt. Unanimously approved.