

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Department)
FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB) WEBINAR MEETING**

**September 29, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Chris Gallo
Doug Graham
Ed Needham
Gary Silveria, Vice Chair
Greg Cunningham
Jake Evans
Melissa McQueen, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

David McEuen

CDFA

Adriana Avalos
Angelia Johnson
Amadou Ba
Barzin Moradi
Brittnie Sabalbro
Carla Sanchez
Elizabeth Moseby
Emad Jahanzad
Evelyne Ndiaye
Kimber Collins-Florian
Kris Gulliver
Mark Cady
Martin Burger
Maryam Khosravifard
Natalie Jacuzzi
Natalie Krout-Greenberg
Nick Young
Patrick Barbree
Sadia Naseem
Stacy Aylesworth
Yanhong Li

INTERESTED PARTIES

Brandon Richards
Rebekah Finn
Renee Pinel

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melissa McQueen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Self-introductions were made, and a quorum was present. David McEuen was absent.

Chair McQueen announced Dr. Dale Woods retirement in August, wishing him well in retirement. Jay Irvine resigned from his company which resulted in his resignation from the board.

APPROVE JUNE 2, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Chair McQueen requested the board review the minutes from the June 2, 2020 FIAB meeting.

MOTION: Ed Needham moved to approve the minutes; Gary Silveria seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES

Natalie Krout-Greenberg reported that the Department continues its partnership with industry in efforts to help prevent food safety outbreaks and look at ways to strengthen food safety measures throughout the state. The Department has been working closely with the leafy greens industry on research, and continues inspections on behalf of FDA for the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. The Department has also worked closely with CalRecycle, the Department's Produce Safety Program, and the Fertilizer program for surveillance work surrounding compost.

Krout-Greenberg announced that there continues to be efforts in the Housing for the Harvest Program, which creates housing opportunities for farm and food processing workers to isolate due to COVID-19. The program is a partnership with the Department of General Services, local counties, and food/hotel services.

The Division's Office of Farm to Fork's Farm to School program appropriation of \$10 million received last year is focused on school meal infrastructures and opportunities to procure California grown products throughout the state. The Farm to School program will be preparing a request for proposal (RFP) in the coming months.

Dr. Amadou Ba reported that the Branch has been adjusting to the new work environment due to the pandemic and the impact on staff due to the 2020 Personal Leave Program implemented in July; staff are encouraged to use the leave credits. The Branch is working to address the five percent budget reduction for fiscal year (FY) 2021/22. Dr. Ba stated the Branch plans to fill the vacant position from Dr. Woods recent retirement in early November.

Dr. Ba announced that the rulemaking to reduce the mill assessment rate was approved and became effective on July 1, 2020. The contract between the Feed program lab and the University of California, Davis (UCD) is moving forward. The Feed program is working diligently with the Department's Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) lab to make the transfer less impactful on the Fertilizer program. The Feed program's Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards cooperative agreement ended; the program received a new five-year cooperative agreement grant totaling \$2.6 million.

The Branch has been working with the Department's Farmer Equity Advisor on diversity and farm equity on boards and commissions. The Advisor has been leading this effort by hosting bimonthly meetings to discuss ways to recruit potential members into new boards, including an outreach and education plan.

FUND CONDITION / MILL ASSESSMENT / BUDGETS

Dr. Ba reported that as of July 1, 2019, the beginning balance combined total for the Commercial Fertilizer and Organic Input Material (OIM) programs was about \$11.4 million; total revenue was about \$7.9 million; expenditures were about \$6.1 million; and encumbrances were \$134,633, with an adjusted balance of about \$13.1 million.

The beginning balance for the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) was about \$5.1 million, revenue was about \$3.0 million, expenditures were about \$1.6 million, and encumbrances through June 30, 2020 were about \$802,316, with a total adjusted balance of about \$5.7 million.

Dr. Ba reported that the current FY 2019/20 mill assessment total to date is about \$9.0 million; the Fertilizer program projects a \$1.5 million decrease per year due to the implementation of the new regulations.

Dr. Ba presented the Fertilizer and OIM program budgets announcing that there is no change in the approved budget FY 2020/21. The proposed budget FY 2021/22 will be presented for board approval later in the meeting.

Dr. Ba stated the Fertilizer and OIM program proposes about \$3.6 million for salary, wages, and benefits, noting a slight decrease from the approved budget FY 2020/21 due to the five percent reduction below what was previously proposed. Total operating expenses and equipment are about \$1.155 million which include facilities operations and cost for vehicles that require replacement; there is a decrease in travel due to the pandemic. The total operating expenses and equipment for proposed budget FY 2021/22 accounts for contract/grant including UC data review, tonnage reporting, and Office of Information Technology (IT) data processing. The bulk of the increase in the total operating expenses is from the OIM inspection contract.

Dr. Ba reported total distributed costs were about \$2.34 million. The CAC budget costs are distributed between the Fertilizer and OIM program, highlighting a minor increase on the chem lab equipment line item but decrease in the overall chem lab budget line item. The CAC is proposing a budget of about \$1.5 million for the lab which will be detailed later in their presentation. Dr. Ba mentioned that there is no major impact on the Fertilizer program with the Feed program lab transfer to UCD. The proposed budget FY 2021/22 for the Fertilizer Program is \$5,566,827 and OIM program is \$1,528,414 for a combined total of about \$7.09 million.

MOTION: Greg Cunningham moved to approve the proposed budget FY 2021/22 for the Fertilizer and OIM program; Doug Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

Dr. Ba presented the FREP proposed FY 2021/22 budget, noting total personnel services of \$741,886. The increase in personnel services is due to staff reclassifications and merit salary adjustments. Dr. Ba reported total operating expenses of about \$1.9 million, highlighting the major line item of about \$1.8 million for the research contract which absorbs newly approved research projects and encumbrances. The distributed costs for indirect admin/exec and indirect IT are provided by the Department's Budget office. Dr. Ba mentioned a pro rata line for special funds transferred to general funds for support to state agencies such as Department of Finance, State Treasurer's Office, and the California State Legislature; there is a different accounting process for pro rata which is not accounted for in the FREP proposed FY 2021/22 budget. Total distributed costs of \$156,725 with a total net program cost of about \$2.8 million are projected in proposed FY 2021/22 budget.

Chair McQueen asked when the charges would appear in the pro rata line item. Dr. Ba stated the program expects to have a number by mid-year projections in January 2021.

MOTION: Gary Silveria moved to approve the proposed FY 2021/22 budget for FREP; Greg Cunningham seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (TASC) VACANCIES

Chair McQueen announced that there are three terms expiring and a fourth vacancy that the board will need to fill for the remainder of former board member Jay Irvine's term in October of 2022. Doug Graham will not be reapplying to board; Gary Silveria and Melissa McQueen are both interested in serving another term on the board. Chair McQueen asked the board for four board recommendations to fill the vacant positions.

Needham stated that at the last meeting, the board had a chance to hear from Christina Johnson, Ag Director from Blue Mountain Minerals, a company that provides 75 percent of the volume of liming material going through the state. Needham recommended Christina Johnson; he has known Johnson since 2011 and Johnson would be a great asset to the board based on her 15+ years of professional experience with the liming materials industry.

Jake Evans asked if Johnson is married to Needham. Needham responded that they are married and that he had disclosed that in a previous meeting. Needham stated it is important to have major representation on the board in soil amendments.

Cunningham recommended that the board reappoint Gary Silveria and Melissa McQueen and then focus on selecting two new potential board members to recommend to the secretary. Needham agreed.

Chair McQueen stated Timothy Howard, Western Division Fertilizer Manager of Helena Agri-Enterprises, has been very engaged in the fertilizer industry and represents a national fertilizer distributor.

Evans agreed that Howard would be a good fit with the board, bringing expertise and feedback from the chemical fertilizer industry. Evans stated that Miguel Duarte, Co-Founder/Vice President of Operations at Duarte & Associates LLC, could be a potential board member stating representation from the end user community would be a great addition to the board.

Chris Gallo agreed with Chair McQueen's statement about Howard, stating that he has worked with Howard on other boards that represent a lot of businesses in California and that Howard understands a lot of what the members do on the board.

Needham reiterated his recommendation of Christina Johnson versus Miguel Duarte stating if there is a conflict that he would resign his board member position to allow Christina Johnson appointment to the board.

Renee Pinel asked if the Department would consider it a conflict to have married board members. Dr. Ba stated that the program would need to ask the Department's Legal Office because there may be other government laws that would pertain to this issue.

Krout-Greenberg stated that the Department's goal with its boards is to have a full representation of diversity across the industries it is serving in the areas of expertise, time spent in the industry, and other various sectors. The Department has a nepotism

policy that would need to be reviewed by the Legal Office to determine if it would be a conflict of interest to have a married couple serving together on a board. Krout-Greenberg encouraged the board members to put forward their recommendations and the Department would parse through details with Legal given the policies in place.

Dr. Ba reminded the board that the secretary has the prerogative to review the list of all the candidates and do her due diligence to select individuals as appropriate.

Chair McQueen stated it would be fair for the board to recommend four candidates to the secretary and requested board input.

Needham recommended Timothy Howard, Christina Johnson, Gary Silveria and Melissa McQueen.

Evans recommended Timothy Howard, Miguel Duarte, Gary Silveria and Melissa McQueen. Doug Graham agreed with Evan's recommendation, until the Department gets clarification on the nepotism policy.

Krout-Greenberg stated that work is being done to obtain additional information for the board to consider when making board recommendations but has not been able to contact the Department's Legal Office.

Chair McQueen suggested moving to the next agenda item. Depending upon whether a response is received from Legal, it can proceed with making recommendations to fill the vacancies.

Chair McQueen reported the FREP Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC) has done its due diligence and had recommended four candidates. Dr. Ba stated the TASC deliberated extensively on the 10 candidates before recommending the following four TASC members: Jan Hopmans, Jerome Pier, Daniel Rodrigues, and Sebastian Saa.

MOTION: Ed Needham moved to approve the four TASC recommendations; Gary Silveria seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Martin Burger reported on the total registrations as of August 31, 2020 for conventional fertilizer and OIM that were approved (2,106 OIM; 7,667 fertilizer), provisional (201 OIM; 613 fertilizer), pending review (81 OIM; 495 fertilizer), resubmitted (207 OIM; 197 fertilizer), or in data/revisions required (326 OIM; 531 fertilizer) status. Dr. Burger also reported on the total number of new applications and renewals for conventional fertilizer and OIM that have been completed during telework compared to approvals completed in the same period last year.

Dr. Burger stated that a lime score is not required in California; however if the Oregon lime score is presented on labels, the Fertilizer program will check the calculation as outlined in the last FIAB meeting. The Fertilizer program has been in communication with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to ensure that the same lab analysis for calcium carbonate equivalents and the same calculations to determine the Oregon lime

score are being used. In the last two months, the program found one error in the display of sieve analysis, and two firms had to adjust the lime scores displayed on labels.

Needham stated that at the last meeting the program mentioned reviewing labels that were new or renewed and was considering if regulations would be needed if lime score was going to be enforced. He reported Blue Mountain Minerals was contacted by the program, first stating labels were approved and then contacted again stating the label was incorrect due the analysis on file, resulting in double payment of fees within a month's period.

Kris Gulliver stated that the issue was a change in the guarantee, not the lime score. California law requires a firm to submit a new registration when there is a change in guarantee. If there are old labels in the channels of trade, firms must maintain those registrations in addition to submitting a new registration and payment for any label with new guarantees, which explains the double payment.

Needham expressed the importance of having a process in place for lime score calculations. Nick Young asked if the goal is to add a California lime score into the regulations, or memorialize Oregon's lime score as part of the regulations, or drop the issue. Young stated that it is the program's goal to understand the issue from an industry perspective, determine if it is plausible, and find if it is of interest across industry rather than just among selective firms. Needham stated that labels need an accurate lime score. Young asked Needham what he is seeking on the label and if it should be a standard requirement across the board within California. Needham replied that lime score needs to be standard requirement across the state because of the importance of accurate numbers on the labels and of the program's ability to educate growers about limestone.

Evans suggested a taskforce with industry and program staff to help identify issues and make progress on those issues as action items on how to improve issues for industry. Evans further suggest that Needham should be part of the taskforce because of his expertise in the needs of industry.

Chair McQueen, Young, and Needham agreed with Evans' taskforce suggestion. Young suggested that the taskforce determine whether to move forward with putting lime score in regulations, whether it is Oregon's lime score or a new one.

MOTION: Ed Needham moved to approve forming a subcommittee/taskforce to discuss a limescore labeling standard; Jake Evans seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

Needham recommended Christina Johnson for the taskforce, if there is no conflict with the Department's nepotism policy, and asked if there were other volunteers. Kris Gulliver, Nick Young, and Martin Burger volunteered.

Young suggested that field program staff recruit individuals from industry and allow no more than five industry representatives. Needham stated it could be a challenge that Blue Mountain Minerals owns the two major limestone companies in California and

recommended the program reach out to a representative in Salinas. Young stated that he will send an email first and then go from there.

Dr. Barzin Moradi suggested a representative from CAC lab be involved and to provide analytical services as needed. Needham agreed and added that the lab representative needs to understand lime score testing and sieve analysis. Dr. Moradi asked Maryam Khosravifard to be involved for the time being. Khosravifard agreed stating that if another lab representative is found that might be more beneficial, that individual will be assigned.

Dr. Burger stated that at the last meeting, Needham requested gypsum and gypsum equivalents as an agenda item because the quality of the materials are not the same. CAC analyzes for calcium and sulfur and uses conversion factors to determine calcium sulfate dihydrate and gypsum equivalent concentrations. Dr. Burger noted the blending anhydrite and dihydrate possibly occurs. Needham ask for clarification on whether CAC is unable to distinguish between anhydrate and dihydrate. Dr. Burger responded that CAC cannot distinguish between anhydrite and dihydrate and always reports gypsum equivalents.

Needham stated he gets a very detailed gypsum analysis report based on anhydrate and dihydrate from Wallace Labs. Young stated it would be helpful to look at their lab method if they are willing to share. Khosravifard asked Needham for assistance in obtaining their lab's information on the methods.

Dr. Moradi stated that with CAC's capacity for research and development, its staff can study what has been published and utilize that to develop a method to distinguish between anhydrite and dihydrate. However this would be time consuming and resource intensive. If other labs could share their method, CAC would be able to act quickly to develop and validate a method for anhydrate and dihydrate analysis.

Needham stated that a firm is bringing in material from Nevada, which is an anhydrate or gypsum equivalent material, and blending it with their 55 percent material to develop different labels. He is concerned over the ability to maintain the consistency of the blended material and uncertain what can be done about it. Young replied that current regulations state firms can guarantee gypsum, or gypsum equivalent, or both; therefore, with a blended material, a firm can have both guaranteed analyses that are completely valid. Young suggested the direction might be to look deeper at dihydrate and anhydrate with the lab analysis to determine if amended regulations are necessary.

Needham asked if the lab could differentiate between dihydrite and anhydrate and asked what the program requires for the difference in gypsum equivalent versus that derived from calcium sulfur dihydrate. Young responded that it is based on guarantees; the program checks for guarantees of calcium and sulfur, and is now evaluating gypsum equivalent based on the value of sulfur and the value of calcium. Young stated the program does not have the capability to differentiate between anhydrite and dihydrate in gypsum equivalent material. However, the program can provide the gypsum equivalent

values as determined by sulfur and calcium, and there can be a vast difference between those two.

Young stated that, for decades, regulations have not addressed the differences; a firm can have those guarantees as long as they are accurate and are what is required on the label. The products that the program samples and analyzes are based on the guarantees; if the guarantees are deficient, a firm receives a violation and the program follows up regarding those. Young firmly reiterated that the Department does not have the capability to differentiate between anhydrite versus dihydrate.

Dr. Burger stated that at the last meeting, he mentioned the program had started to track the nitrogen isotope ratio of liquid ammonia fertilizer products from the point of manufacture to distribution and sale. However, the UCD Stable Isotope Facility was not performing isotope analyses until recently due to the pandemic.

Evans stated there is a gray zone regarding isotope analysis. Fraud could occur and not be detected; companies could sell OIM ammonia fertilizer that potentially could have been blended with conventional fertilizer. Evans questioned whether the program can identify products in the grey zone with stable isotopes and asked for the program's thoughts at the next meeting on how to overcome that and also how the program plans to address that. Dr. Burger replied that the program only tests the nitrogen stable isotopes of the final product and does not use stable isotope analysis to determine whether a product is organic or not; the program relies on inspections of the manufacturing process, including nitrogen mass balance, to verify that a product is organic. The isotope testing gives the program a baseline to track product integrity in the channels of trade, Dr. Burger said.

Evans stated that if a firm wants to commit fraud, it could manufacture organic products blended with conventional fertilizer; then the baseline isotope analysis would be false and fraud would not be detected. Evans asserted that the department and the industry would be challenged more and more to find ways to overcome fraud in organic products and encouraged the Department to learn more about isotopes.

Young reported that all inspection and sampling efforts have resumed with enhanced inspection procedures and Personal Protective Equipment still in place. The program is at an all-time high for official complaints received that are solely web based. The mill assessment rulemaking became effective July 1, 2020, reducing the mill assessment rate to 1.5 mills (\$0.0015) per dollar of fertilizing material sales and memorialized the investigational allowance table for sample lab analysis deficiencies. The program will be presenting another rulemaking for proposed amendments to update and add language to fertilizer materials sampling methods.

Young reported that the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) summer annual conference, which was held on July 31 and August 3-4, 2020, consisted of 243 attendees encompassing 37 states and Canada. The first Biostimulant Committee meeting resulted in the development of three initial working groups for labeling, model bill, and efficacy data guidelines. The Biostimulant

Committee will re-convene in a virtual meeting in October or November, prior to AAPFCO winter annual conference. Young reported that the International Organization of Standards (ISO) working group voted unanimously to adopt the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed definition for biostimulant. The ISO working group is also working on additional ISO-related definitions. The next AAPFCO meeting will be in February of 2021.

Mark Cady reported that the Central Coast Regional Water Board (Water Board) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Draft Agricultural Order for Discharges to Irrigated Lands 4.0 (Ag Order 4.0) that were made publicly available in the spring of 2020 with a written public comment deadline for the Draft EIR and Draft Ag Order 4.0 of June 22, 2020. Water Board meetings were held over multiple dates in September and October to discuss the Draft Ag Order 4.0. There have been questions about the way that Nitrogen and applications are being calculated with conventional versus organic inputs and about the economic analysis that went into the report. The Water Board is required by court order to have the new order adopted in January 2021.

Natalie Jacuzzi announced The FREP WPHA Nutrient Management Conference will be held online on October 28 - 29, 2020. Jacuzzi reported that 15 RFPs moved to the full proposal stage; 10 were recommended for funding. Jacuzzi gave a report on all 15 of the proposals.

MOTION: Gary Silveria moved to approve the recommended FREP grant proposals for funding; Doug Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

Dr. Ba asked Krout-Greenberg if an update had been received from the Legal Office for the board to move forward with recommendations. Krout-Greenberg stated that there has been no response from Legal and requested that the board consider the Department's nepotism policy and conflict of interest policies how they extend to the board, including the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene), to ensure that all is in the best interest of public members. Bagley-Keene becomes important in ensuring serial meetings are not occurring, which are meetings that can occur back to back without a gathering of the board. Krout-Greenberg stated that Legal would likely advise the program to consider these things and may also have additional issues to consider.

Chair McQueen asked for board recommendations to fill three board positions and one additional board member position for the remainder of former board member Jay Irvine's term until 2022.

Evans reiterated his board recommendation to appoint Timothy Howard, Miguel Duarte, Gary Silveria, and Melissa McQueen stating he is open to Needham's recommendation. Graham agreed with Evan's board recommendation to the secretary.

Needham asked to table the discussion regarding Christina Johnson until the board gets clarification from Legal.

Needham asked for clarification on whether, if he and Johnson were both approved to be on the board at the same time, would they conversing on board issues outside of a

board meeting be in violation of Bagley-Keene. Krout-Greenberg replied there may be a concern of serial meetings with regard to Bagley-Keene, noting that at this time, a direct answer cannot be provided without asking the Department's Legal Office to take a deeper dive into the issue. The board needs to be able to articulate, in detail, how each candidate fits the needs of the board and industry and will be able to represent the decisions that come before this board.

Krout-Greenberg stated that, if there are action items that need to be discussed by the board, members cannot discuss them outside of the board meetings, which is the premise of Bagley-Keene, to ensure that the public has an opportunity to weigh in on deliberations of this board and that everything we do is out in the open and transparent. Whether the board chooses to put four or five names forward, it is important for the program to give this issue to our Legal Office to consider. Krout-Greenberg stated that if Johnson is the most qualified individual for the seat, then her name should be put forward to the secretary and the Legal Office will be asked to consider all the other components as to whether Johnson is an appropriate fit given the nepotism policy, Bagley-Keene, possible conflict of interest, or any other legal issue. Krout-Greenberg asked for the board to put forward a name for each seat; members must consider who are the most qualified individuals.

Pinel stated that she interacts and participates with many state boards noting that it is state law that board members do not discuss actionable issues outside of the board meeting. The Department is not trying to generate obstacles and should not be perceived that way; however, it is how state advisory boards operate, it is just California Law. Pinel stated that from an outsider perspective, there is a level of discomfort with putting four names forward when there are so many additional questions that need to be answered. Pinel suggested that the board consider the four names before going on to discuss the possible issues around Johnson; then those questions can be answered. The board should not be expected to vote on a candidate with the likelihood of a problem which would cause another board member to resign. Additionally, that would not be good perceptually to the public.

Krout-Greenberg responded that Pinel made good points. Bagley-Keene holds the Department and the board to an obligation that its meetings are open meetings and that they are held in accordance with ultimate transparency in all aspects. As a state entity, the board must deliberate on and decide who are the best candidates to seat on the board; she stated that she looks at the expertise of the board to recommend the best fit to fill these open seats.

Chair McQueen agreed stating the board must look at the candidates with a broad representation of what the board is looking for to represent the industry; she requested a motion.

Ed Needham left the meeting.

MOTION: Jake Evans moved to approve Timothy Howard, Miguel Duarte, Gary Silveria, and Melissa McQueen for board recommendations to the secretary; Doug Graham, seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 6 to 0.

Dr. Ba stated that there be a board motion to select a specific person to fill the remainder of former member Jay Irvine's seat until 2022.

MOTION: Jake Evans moved to approve Miguel Duarte to fill the remainder of the board seat for two years; Doug Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 6 to 0.

CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY (CAC) LAB UPDATE

Khosravifard presented the sample turnaround time of assays received between January to July 2020 with a breakdown of the percentage of assays completed between 10, 15, and 21 days. Khosravifard presented a bar graph illustrating improved fertilizer assay turnaround time for the last quarter compared to last year and year to date.

CAC received a total of 475 samples with an average number of assays per sample of 3.58; the number of reruns were 17percent. Khosravifard summarized CAC's accomplishments, which included improved turnaround time, completing soluble silicon method validation; running the new Agilent Inductively Couple Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-OES) smoothly; validating the new IC instrument for sulfates, thiosulfates, chlorides, and nitrates; and working to consolidate sample digestion for metals and minerals. Photos of CAC's modernized equipment were presented, including the original and micro Kjeldahl units, the UltraWave Digestor, and the Questron; this equipment has enhanced CAC's capability in turnaround time. CAC has been working on nine technologies, of which eight are fully implemented.

Khosravifard announced CAC's partnership with AAPFCO committees: Magruder, Laboratory, Slow Release, and Terms and Definitions. The AAPFCO partnership is an effective means to develop consistent and robust methods for fertilizer analysis; identify problematic products that do not fit current methodologies; build on knowledge gained from other States' labs in analytical method improvements; and establish uniformity in the enforcement of labeling standards. CAC is working diligently with AAPFCO committees to resolve fertilizer analysis challenges.

Khosravifard reported that the equipment schedule for the next three years includes two Inductively couple plasma (ICPs), sulfur analyzer, Ultra Wave Microwave, Dishwasher, repairs and replacements of older equipment, and other instruments as needed for method developments. She gave a report of Fertilizer lab staff, including a breakdown of fulltime and temporary staff. Khosravifard presented the lab budget including CAC's lab staffing and operations plan with total program cost of about \$1.5 million. CAC is staying within the same budget as approved FY 2020/21 budget with some minor changes to the proposed FY 2021/22budget.

Silveria asked if there is a possibility of a virtual tour of the lab. Khosravifard stated yes and that the CAC is open to virtual or in-person board members visit at one of the next FIAB meetings.

Chair McQueen commented that CAC has made fabulous improvemets on turnaround time with the new equipment and asked about the timeline for the Feed program fully

transferring out of CAC. Khosravifard replied that as of this week CAC is no longer receiving feed samples, just finishing assays of samples already recieved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chair McQueen asked for agenda items for the next FIAB meeting. She stated her appreciation for the opportunity to participate on the board as Chairperson and would like to continue, if given the privilege, to serve another term on the board. Chair McQueen stated that she is open to offering her Chairperson role for another board member to have the opportunity. Chair McQueen asked for it to be discussion for next meeting if still she is still nominated. Silveria asked for a lime score working group update from Needham and Young.

NEXT MEETING

The next FIAB meeting will be on February 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: Gary Silveria moved to adjourn the meeting; Doug Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a 6 to 0 vote.

Chair McQueen adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Dr. Martin Burger
Acting Environmental Program Manager I
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program

09/29/2020

Date