



Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 900-5022

June 10, 2015
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

MINUTES

TASC Members

Mr. Jack Wackerman, Chair
Dr. Jerome Pier, Vice Chair
Dr. Dennis Chessman
Mr. Rex Dufour
Dr. Eric Ellison
Dr. Marja Koivunen
Dr. Marc Los Huertos
Dr. Doug West

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Mr. Mark Cady
Ms. Brooke Elliott
Ms. Natalie Jacuzzi
Dr. Barzin Moradi

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Jack Wackerman called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and welcomed the subcommittee. Mr. Charles Hornung, Dr. Robert Mikkelsen, and Mr. Steve Spangler were not able to attend the meeting. Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Mr. Jack Wackerman is leaving the TASC after years of service and leadership. Dr. Amadou Ba presented Mr. Wackerman a certificate of resolution, signed by Secretary Ross and Dr. Ba himself.

Dr. Ba gave an update of the status of the Special proposals, which were discussed in the last TASC meeting. The six proposals recommended for funding by the TASC were approved by the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB), and the contracts are being processed.

In the Governor's May revised budget proposal, a total of \$80 million was appropriated to the CDFA. The State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP) may receive

\$40 million, and the Dairy Digesters program may receive \$20 million. Additionally, the Healthy Soil Initiative may receive \$20 million to fund research through requests for proposals (RFPs) about topics such as carbon sequestration. Each of these programs is part of the climate change program and is part of the budget process. They must be approved by the Legislature to be fully funded.

Mr. Wackerman stated that the minutes from the previous meeting include information about the Organic Input Materials (OIM) program, and he was interested in learning more about the program. Dr. Ba provided a comprehensive update of the OIM program and responded to follow-up questions from the TASC members.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Wackerman requested the subcommittee review the minutes of the April 27, 2015, meeting. Dr. Marc Los Huertos requested a change to the information about grower self-certification in the last paragraph of "Department, Division, and Branch Updates." The paragraph will specify that grower self-certification will take place only in Central Valley.

MOTION: Dr. Jerome Pier moved to approve the minutes as amended; Dr. Marja Koivunen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF 2015 REGULAR FULL PROPOSALS

Dr. Ba explained the FREP budget and how grants are funded. The TASC should decide whether to fund proposals based on the scientific merit. If the funds are not all used, they will carry over to the next fiscal year's reserve fund.

Mr. Wackerman led discussion in reviewing the six proposals, and the subcommittee voted on every project after discussion of the merits.

Three proposals were selected for funding recommendation. Comments and suggestions were recorded to provide feedback to the project authors.

The project proposals recommended for funding approval are:

- *Prediction of Summer Leaf Nitrogen Concentration from Early Season Samples to Better Manage Nitrogen Inputs at the Right Time in Walnuts, Prunes, and Pears*
Patrick Brown, Emilio Laca, and Sebastian Saa
- *Improving Nitrate and Salinity Management Strategies for Almond Grown Under Micro-Irrigation*
Maziar M. Kandelous and Patrick H. Brown

- *Evaluation and Demonstration of N and P Management in Organic Leafy Green Vegetables on the Central Coast*
Richard Smith and T.K. Hartz

The FREP staff will send a letter to each of the project leaders informing them whether their proposal was selected for funding, pending the final decision of the FIAB and the CDFA Secretary.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The priorities for the 2016 request for proposals will be discussed at the next TASC meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place after the FREP annual conference, which will be scheduled at a later date.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Marc Los Huertos moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Jerome Pier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wackerman adjourned the meeting at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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

6/29/2015

Date