



**Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)**
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 900-5022

**September 16, 2016
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

TASC Members

Dr. Jerome Pier
Dr. John Bushoven
Mr. Rex Dufour
Dr. Eric Ellison
Mr. Chuck Hornung
Ms. DD Levine
Dr. Rob Mikkelsen
Dr. Barzin Moradi
Mr. Steve Spangler

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Mr. Mark Cady
Ms. Brooke Elliott
Ms. Kristen Fernandez
Ms. Natalie Jacuzzi
Dr. Doug West

Interested Party

Ms. Kim Hensley

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jerome Pier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 the minutes of the July 12, 2016 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Rex Dufour moved to approve the July 12, 2016, minutes; Mr. Chuck Hornung seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 9 – 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba announced that several bills have moved through legislature.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1811 concerns Organic Input Material (OIM) inspections and provisional registrations. This bill changes existing law to match the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) standards, where only high-risk facilities need to be inspected annually. Also, the two-year fertilizer registration and renewal cycle will be divided into four registration cycle segments, which will better distribute the incoming registrations and renewals. Currently, about 10,000 labels are renewed every two years. The labels will be divided into groups by firm name, and there will be two cycles in year one and two cycles in year two.

Assembly Bill 2511, which pertains to biochar, also moved through the legislature with no opposition. Biochar is now defined as a fertilizing material, requiring product label registration and mill assessment payment. A Budget Change Proposal (BCP) was sent to the Department of Finance requesting one Environmental Scientist position for the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) to focus on standards for biochar product label requirements.

In the FMIP, Dr. Marja Koivunen left her position as a Senior Environmental Scientist to join the public sector. Ms. Lubna Durrani was hired as an Environmental Scientist.

At the Division level, funding has been received for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Inspection and Compliance Branch will receive \$11.7 million to perform food safety audits. The Feed Program will receive \$450,000 yearly, for a five-year period, to assist with animal feed safety standards.

Ten applications were received for the three TASC membership vacancies, and five of the applications will be presented to the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board and to the CDFA Secretary, Ms. Karen Ross, for approval. The TASC needs to be a diverse group, with knowledge of all aspects of fertilizer use.

UPDATE ON THE STATE AND REGIONAL WATER BOARDS PROGRAMS

In September 2016, the State Water Quality Control Board released the response to the petitions of the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for growers in the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed. The Board is responding to comments received during workshops. After the proposed order is released, it will go through another round of public comments. The final order is expected to be adopted in 2017, and each of the Regional Water Boards will be required to adopt agricultural orders that are consistent with the State Board order.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF 2016 SPECIAL FULL PROPOSALS

Dr. Pier led discussion in reviewing and voting on the 2016 special full proposals; 15 proposals were received. TASC voted a majority "yes" for the following six proposals:

- Evaluation of Biochar for On-Farm Soil Management in California
Sanjai et al.
- Understanding Influences on Grower Decision-Making and Adoption of Improved Nitrogen Management Practices
Mark Lubell, Patrick Brown
- A Nitrogen Management Training Program for Growers Phase II
Parry Klassen, Terry Prichard
- Expanding the California Fertilization guidelines to support nutrient management decisions for minor annual crops
Daniel Geisseler
- Soil biochar amendment to improve nitrogen and water management
Suduan Gao
- University of California Nursery and Floriculture Alliance Fertilizers and Plant Nutrition Education program
Lorence R. Oki et al.

TASC voted a majority “no” for the nine following proposals:

- Irrigation Training Program with Certification of Completion
Khaled Bali et al.
- Biochar and N Management in Desert Vegetable Production Systems
Charles Sanchez
- Is biochar a panacea for California agriculture?
Kurt Spokas, Kathleen Hall
- Can biochar help California’s vegetable crops? A study of its effects on soil
Costanza Zavalloni et al.
- Improving Soil Health in the Central Valley: The role of Biochar in Addressing Nutrient and Drought Challenges for Trees
Greg Douhan, Elizabeth Fichtner
- Optimizing Organic Vineyard Floor Management Approaches Using Biochar
David Smart
- Increasing Implementation of Conservation Practices to Protect Groundwater
Casey Creamer, John Dickey
- Integrated On-Farm Decision Support Network for Nitrate Monitoring
Kaomine Vang, William Green
- Bioenergy Development, LLC/USDA-ARS Testing of Biochar in California
Greg Shipley, Jeff Novak

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled via a Doodle poll.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Rex Dufour moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Eric Ellison seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 9 – 0.

Dr. Pier adjourned the meeting at 3:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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

12/28/2016
Date