



**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)**

California Department of Food and Agriculture
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 900-5022

**July 16, 2020
9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

MINUTES

TASC Members

Dr. Jerome Pier
Dr. Tom Bottoms
Rex Dufour
Dr. Eric Ellison
Dr. Lisa Hunt
Dr. Suduan Gao
Dr. Ben Faber
DD Levine
Dr. Steve Petrie

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Dr. Martin Burger
Mark Cady
Nicole Crouch
Natalie Jacuzzi
Dr. Emad Jahanzad

Public

Brandon Richards

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jerome Pier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM and welcomed the subcommittee. Dr. Marja Koivunen and David McEuen were not able to attend. Self-introductions were made. Mark Cady provided instructions on how to use the Zoom platform to send comments, ask questions, vote and how to participate in discussion. A quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Pier requested the subcommittee review the minutes of the February 26, 2020 meeting.

MOTION: DD Levine moved to approve the February 26, 2020 minutes; Dr. Steve Petrie seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 9 to 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba began with an update of a recent personnel change at FREP. Brooke Elliott accepted a promotion in the Department of Public Health, which left FREP with a vacancy. Dr. Ba continued with an update on CDFA's COVID-19 response and explained that CDFA has been working with California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) with rapid responses to obtain and fund personal protective equipment (PPE) for the staff. Recently, CDFA has been asked to engage in COVID-19 related outreach and education activities by distributing flyers to the industry to help prevent further spread of the virus.

Dr. Ba reported that the 2019-20 fiscal year FREP reserve was about \$5.1 million and revenues were \$1.8 million as of June 2020. Expenditures were \$929,000 and encumbrances were \$1.1 million. The current net balance of \$4.8 million allows funding of up about 10 research proposals in the 2020 solicitation.

FREP has been working with the Executive Office to discuss growers' issues regarding nitrate contamination of groundwater and whether FREP can be involved more with growers' nitrogen management trainings and address regulation compliance. Further updates will be given to TASC after future meetings with the Executive Office.

TASC VACANCIES AND APPLICANTS

Cady explained that four TASC member positions would become vacant upon the September 17, 2020 expiration of the terms of Rex Dufour, Eric Ellison, Marja Koivunen, and Jerome Pier.

Ten people submitted applications for the four TASC vacancies. FREP staff evaluated the applications and scored them based on their curriculum vitae and credentials. The five top applicants were recommended to TASC and four were selected to fill the member vacancies, Jerome Pier, Jan Hopmans, Daniel M Rodrigues, and Sebastian Saa. These individuals will be presented to the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board at the next Board meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Tom Bottoms moved to approve the recommended applicants for TASC vacancies. Dr. Lisa Hunt seconded. The motion passed by present subcommittee members with a vote of 9 to 0.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF 2020 FULL PROPOSALS

Dr. Pier led a discussion to review and vote on the 15 2020 full proposals received. TASC voted a majority "yes" for 11 proposals:

- Certification and Distance Learning for Fertigation
Burt, C. and Gaudi, F.

- Enhancing Nitrogen and Water Use Efficiency in California Carrot Production through Management Tools and Practices
Montazar, A., et al.
- Development of site-specific nitrogen fertilization recommendations for annual crops
Geisseler, D., et al.
- Nitrogen Response of Industrial Hemp Cultivars Grown for CBD, Essential Oils
Hutmacher, R., and Putnam, D.
- Optimizing fertilizer application rates for almond trees following whole orchard recycling using multi-nutrient analyses
Gao, S., et al.
- University of California Nursery and Floriculture Alliance Workshops on Fertilizer and Plant Nutrition for Greenhouse and Nursery Growers
Oki, L., et al.
- Techniques to minimize nitrate loss from the root zone during managed aquifer recharge
O'Geen, A., and Dahlke, H.
- Ventura County Nitrogen Management Training Program
Switzer, J., et al.
- “Crop Nutrient Minute” Video Series
Klassen, P., et al.
- Assessment of harvested and Sequestered Nitrogen Content to Improve Nitrogen Management in Perennial Crops, Phase 2
Gallock, C., et al.
- Outreach and revenue generation for sustaining CropManage irrigation and nutrient management decision support tool
Cahn, M., et al.

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

- Optimizing nitrogen fertilizer concentration in vegetable transplant production
Oki, L., and Pitton, B.
- Providing Nitrogen Management recommendations for agricultural managed aquifer recharge
Dahlke, H., et al.

- Establishing Nitrogen and Potassium Crop Removal Rates and Potassium Critical Leaf Tissue Values for California Figs
Gordon, P., et al.
- Reassessing fertilizer N recommendations in walnut orchards by characterizing N movement and distribution in the system as affected by leguminous cover crops
Zhu-Barker, X. and Horwath, W.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were given.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will include information items and discussion about priorities and knowledge gaps to include in the 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP), which will be released in December 2020.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held after the FREP conference (October 27-29, 2020) in late 2020 or early 2021. Meeting will be scheduled via Doodle poll.

ADJOURN

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

Dr. Pier adjourned the meeting at 2:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by Mark Cady

7/23/2020

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

Date