



**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

**November 24, 2020
9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

MINUTES

TASC Members

Dr. Jerome Pier
Dr. Tom Bottoms
Dr. Lisa Hunt
Dr. Suduan Gao
Dr. Ben Faber
DD Levine
Dr. Steve Petrie
Sebastian Saa
Daniel Rodrigues
Jan Hopmans

David McEuen

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Dr. Martin Burger
Mark Cady
Natalie Jacuzzi
Dr. Emad Jahanzad
Jennifer Harmon

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jerome Pier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM and welcomed the subcommittee. Dr. Ben Faber joined at 9:18am. New members, Jan Hopmans, Daniel Rodrigues and Sebastian Saa introduced themselves. A quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Pier requested the subcommittee review the minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting.

MOTION: DD Levine moved to approve the July 16, 2020 minutes; Dr. Suduan Gao seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 11 to 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba began by welcoming new members Jan Hopmans, Sebastian Saa and Daniel Rodrigues. Dr. Ba explained that Dr. Jerome Pier's appointment has been renewed for chair because of his expertise and experience (*elaborate here*).

Dr. Ba discussed the FFLDRS office adapting to the Covid environment, reducing office footprint. Staffing for FMIP supervisor to replace Dr. Dale (*elaborate*). Jennifer Harmon moved from livestock drug program to FREP.

FREP Conference held for the first time virtually. Remotely managed by Rally Point. Dr. Jerome Pier moderated the conference.

Reducing budget by 5% over all state departments, FREP budget will be affected. \$24 million in reductions must be done department wide. Food safety issues, incidents involving romaine lettuce have moved program to (leafy green action plan) improve food safety issues by bridging the knowledge gap. FREP will be engaging with program in a fertilizer capacity. Outreach and education (*elaborate*).

Jan Hopmans asked about cutting the budget that comes from industry. Amadou answered that it doesn't matter if it is industry or general fund. Discussed furlough days. Could get exemption later on. Possible for federal funding. General fund is taxpayer money, Governor can control those funds. Industry funds can be managed by departments.

Impact on research project already in progress. (asked by Jerome and answered by Amadou)

Questioned about FREP being under the state when a question of funding. Amadou answered with laws and regulations. (*elaborate*) CDFA 100 years old (*elaborate on answer here*).

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

12/04/2020

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

Date