

**Fertilizer Research and Education Program
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)**

California Farm Bureau Federation
2300 River Plaza Drive
CAPCA Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95833

March 5, 2013
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Minutes

TASC MEMBERS

Jack Wackerman, Chair (not present)
Michael Cahn
Dennis Chessman (not present)
Eric H. Ellison
Tom Gerecke, Vice Chair
Marja Koivunen
Holly Little
David McEuen
Robert Mikkelsen
Jerome Pier
Doug West

CDFA STAFF

Edward Hard
Erika Lewis
Asif Maan

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Tom Gerecke, Vice Chair, welcomed the subcommittee. Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Gerecke requested the committee review the minutes of the September 19, 2012 meeting. Dr. Robert Mikkelsen moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. David McEuen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Edward Hard provided the TASC with an explanation of the current FREP budget, including encumbrances and available funding. Mr. Hard explained that due to the large number of ongoing projects as well as increased expenses for other initiatives, FREP may only be able to fund a limited number of projects this year. Dr. Asif Maan explained that the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) voted to raise the mil assessment to one full mil beginning January 1, 2013 which will increase the FREP research budget to 1.5 million beginning next fiscal year.

Dr. Maan updated the TASC on the status of FREP's Nitrogen Management Training Program (NMT) for California Certified Crop Advisors. This training program is currently being developed by CDFA in cooperation with University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) and the California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA). The NMT Steering Committee, including Dr. Jerome Pier from the TASC, has created a framework for the training program and outlined the modules to be covered, as well as identified experts to conduct the training sessions. Dr. Maan provided the TASC with a brief overview of the proposed modules. This effort is being funded through an allocation from FREP and will impact the amount of funding available for research projects.

Dr. Doug West is currently working with CDFA Science Advisor Dr. Amrith Gunasekara to pursue a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The proposed project is one million dollars total: \$500,000 grant funds from USDA, \$250,000 in kind and \$250,000 in cash from CDFA over three years, beginning in September of 2013. The project will focus on nitrate issues as well as wildlife management and preservation of native bee habitat. If selected for funding, this project will also impact the amount of FREP funding available for research projects.

SELECTION OF 2012 CONCEPT PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE TO FULL PROPOSALS

Mr. Gerecke led discussion in reviewing the 2013 concept proposals. FREP received 48 concept proposals. Project leaders for the following 9 concept proposals were invited to submit full proposals:

- *The Role of Nitrogen Scavenging by Broccoli in Cool Season Vegetable Production Systems.*
Richard Smith, Michael Cahn, & Tim K. Hartz
- *Evaluation of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices to Improve Wheat Yield, Protein Content and N-Use Efficiency in California Wheat.*
Robert Hutmacher, Steve Orloff, & Steve Wright
- *California's Grow Show.*
Judy Culbertson
- *Nitrogen Fertilizer Use Efficiency and Mineral Nutrient Requirements of Major and Newer Table Grape Cultivars in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.*
Franka Gabler, Larry E. Williams, & Matt W. Fidelibus
- *Walnut Nutrient Budget Development and Optimization of Walnut Fertilizer Management.*
Theodore M. DeJong, Katherine S. Pope, Patrick H. Brown, & Jan Hopmans

- *Distributed Sensor Network (DSN) Based Optimization of Agricultural Practices to Monitor Nutrient Dynamics and Reduce Nitrogen Losses.*
Diganta Adhikari, Patrick Barnes, & David F. Zoldoske
- *Nitrogen Plus Compost, Phosphorus, and Boron Fertilizer Impacts on Sweetpotato Production and Long-Term Storage.*
C. Scott Stoddard
- *Nitrogen Fertilizer Best Management Practices for the Low Desert Crop Production Systems.*
Oli Bachie, Khaled Bali, Vonny Barlow, & Jose Aguiar
- *Improving Irrigation and Nitrogen Management of Onion Production using a Web-Based Tool.*
Andre Biscaro & Michael Cahn

The TASC requested that the following two PIs work collaboratively to combine their four concept proposals into one comprehensive full proposal:

- *Evaluation of Nitrogen and Sediment Loss from Strawberry Fields Utilizing Low Stature Cover Crops and Polyacrylamide.*
Kevin Peterson
- *Reducing Nutrient and Sediment Loss from Tunnel-grown Raspberry Utilizing Low Stature Cover Crops and Mulch.*
Kevin Peterson
- *Nitrate Management Using Cover Crops in Strawberry Furrows.*
Jamie Whiteford
- *Nitrate Management in Ventura County Raspberry Macrotunnels.*
Jamie Whiteford

The subcommittee agreed that FREP staff will send a letter to each of the project leaders informing them whether their concept proposal was selected for advancement to the full proposal phase.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Ms. Erika Lewis presented the TASC with the newly revised Grant Procedures Manual (GPM), full proposal submittal requirements for 2013, and 2013 full proposal budget template. These items were revised to incorporate the feedback generated by the TASC reporting requirements subcommittee that met in November. Ms. Lewis asked the TASC to review the three revised documents and provide feedback and suggested changes

within the next few weeks. Mr. Gerecke requested that Ms. Lewis put together a set of pre-proposal guidelines (similar to the full proposal guidelines) for next year's applicants. This will give new applicants a more complete idea of the type of proposals TASC is interested in.

Moving on, Mr. Gerecke voiced a concern regarding the composition of the TASC. In order to ensure all perspectives of the fertilizer industry are represented, Mr. Gerecke suggested that an additional position be added to the subcommittee for an individual who owns or manages a fertilizer dealership. Mr. David McEuen suggested that there are some members on the FIAB that would qualify and TASC could consider asking them to participate in meetings. Dr. Holly Little inquired as to whether a position would need to be added to the TASC, or whether one of the current members would be replaced with the proposed industry member; Ms. Lewis responded that there is no maximum number of members, so it is at the discretion of the TASC and FIAB. Mr. Gerecke explained that adding a grower or fertilizer dealer will increase the diversity of the TASC; growers and dealers are affected first hand by the quality of research generated by FREP and should have input on the decision making process.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to review 2013 full project proposals is tentatively scheduled for early July in Monterey. Additional details to be determined.

MOTION: Mr. Gerecke moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. West seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Lewis, Research Analyst
Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Date