

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

Best Western Plus Beach Resort
2600 Sand Dunes Drive
Monterey, CA 93940

July 3, 2013
8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Minutes

TASC MEMBERS

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

CDFA STAFF

Edward Hard
Maria Tenorio Hicks

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. Mr. Jack Wackerman, Chair, welcomed the subcommittee. Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established. Mr. Michael Cahn arrived at 9:05 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Wackerman requested the committee review the minutes of the March 5, 2013 meeting. Mr. David McEuen moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Dr. Holly Little seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR TASC VACANCIES

Mr. Wackerman led a discussion on the composition of the TASC, informing the subcommittee how FREP was established. Mr. Edward Hard stated the goal of FREP is practical research designed to address on-the-farm growers' performance, in order to not negatively impact ground water. Discussion ensued regarding FREP field days to display projects. TASC discussed the desire to request to the FIAB that only members who are active in California industry be on the TASC.

Mr. Wackerman stated the subcommittee should consider having a process implemented for when members miss three consecutive meetings and do not submit reviews of the proposals.

MOTION: Dr. Rob Mikkelsen moved that future TASC members be contained to individuals that are active in California agriculture; Dr. Jerome Pier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Three members' terms will be expiring in September. In addition to current members, 13 individuals have applied to serve on the TASC. The TASC Chair facilitated the discussion of the qualifications of the applicants.

MOTION: Dr. Pier moved to appoint Mr. Tom Gerecke, Mr. David McEuen, and Dr. Rob Mikkelsen to the TASC. Dr. Little seconded. The recommendations will be presented at the July 18th Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding adding a fertilizer dealer/management representative position to the board.

MOTION: Mr. Gerecke moved to add Mr. Charles J. Hornung to the TASC due to his particular set of qualifications, including being a general manager of an independent fertilizer dealership, owning multiple stores, and being a farmer. Dr. Mikkelsen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

A break was taken from 9:50 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

SELECTION OF 2012 FULL PROPOSALS

Mr. Wackerman led discussion in reviewing the 2013 full project proposals. FREP received 10 full project proposals. Discussion ensued by TASC on each project proposal. The following 5 proposals were recommended for approval for funding in priority order:

1. *Evaluation of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices to Improve Wheat Yield, Protein Content and N-Use Efficiency in California Wheat.*
Robert Hutmacher, Steve Orloff, & Steve Wright
2. *The Role of Nitrogen Scavenging by Broccoli in Cool Season Vegetable Production Systems.*
Richard Smith, Michael Cahn, & Tim K. Hartz
3. *Walnut Nutrient Budget Development and Optimization of Walnut Fertilizer Management.*
Theodore M. DeJong, Katherine S. Pope, Patrick H. Brown, & Jan Hopmans

4. *Nitrogen Plus Compost, Phosphorus, and Boron Fertilizer Impacts on Sweetpotato Production and Long-Term Storage.*
C. Scott Stoddard

5. *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

A break was taken from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The subcommittee agreed that 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.

Discussion ensued regarding FREP funds being spent on special initiatives and other needs, aside from FREP projects. The FREP TASC expressed their concern that funding for research and education projects could continue to be decreased yearly as a result of these special initiatives. Discussion ensued regarding the process of who is responsible for approving funding for special projects through FREP.

MOTION: Dr. Michael Cahn moved the FREP TASC be involved in any expenditure for annual RFP, special RFP, or any other allocation of FREP funds. Mr. Gerecke seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Hard informed the subcommittee of the Nitrogen Tracking and Reporting Task Force currently being formed by CDFA per recommendations from the State Water Board. The Nitrogen Tracking and Reporting Task Force will be comprised of 28 members from various stakeholder organizations.

Mr. Hard updated the TASC on the status of the CDFA Nitrogen Management Training Program, a cooperative effort between CDFA, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the California CCA Program to create a nitrogen management curriculum specifically for California CCAs. The curriculum for the program is currently being developed.

Additionally, Mr. Hard informed the TASC that there is an MOU between CDFA and the State Water Board to pair up regulatory drivers with producers/growers and researchers.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

No additional items were discussed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to set research priorities for the 2014 request for proposals is tentatively scheduled for March 2014; the location is to be determined.

Mr. Wackerman called the meeting to an end at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Lewis, Research Analyst
Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Date