



**Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)**
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
WEB CONFERENCE MEETING
(916) 900-5022

**November 12, 2021
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

TASC Members Present

Dr. Ben Faber
Daniel Rodrigues
David McEuen
Dr. Jan Hopmans
Dr. Lisa Hunt
Dr. Sebastian Saa
Dr. Tom Bottoms

Members Absent

Jerome Pier
Suduan Gao
DD Levine

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Dr. Emad Jahanzad
Jennifer Harmon
Maria Tenorio Alfred
Mark Cady
Dr. Martin Burger
Nicole Nunes

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Tom Bottoms, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Bottoms requested the subcommittee review the minutes of the July 22, 2021, meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Sebastian Saa moved to approve the July 22, 2021 minutes as written; Dr. Lisa Hunt seconded. The motion passed by present subcommittee members with a vote of 7 - 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba began Division updates by addressing staff changes. Natalie Jacuzzi, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) with FREP, has accepted a supervisory position with the Industrial Hemp Program within CDFA's Plant Health Division. CDFA has appointed a new Undersecretary, Christine Birdsong, who previously worked in private industry. Dr. Ba discussed the supply chain issues that have caused fertilizer prices to increase dramatically.

Secretary Karen Ross has assembled a working group that will develop proposals for the handling of excess manure from dairies, including developing and building markets for manure-based products.

The Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) discussed the FREP grant proposal that evaluated the agronomic and soil health effects of ammonia extract products from organic sources. Board members questioned the funding recommendation because the standards for these products are being reviewed by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), and there is a possibility that these products will be disallowed for organic uses. FIAB decided to delay approval of this project until more information is available from NOSB and until the Board meets again in February 2022.

Mark Cady began Program updates by reviewing the grant proposals approved in 2021:

- Nitrogen fertilizer and irrigation best management practices for the low desert sudangrass production systems (Oli Bachie)
- Nutrient management and irrigation efficiency outreach and education for Latino and Southeast Asian farmers (Carmen Carrasco and Tom Stein)
- Quantify and model overlooked pathways of nitrogen loss from organic inputs across contrasting soil types (Timothy Bowles, Bhavna Arora, Eric Brennan, and Hannah Waterhouse)
- Optimizing nitrogen fertilizer concentrations in vegetable transplant production (Lorence R. Oki)
- Evaluating the effects of liquid ammonia products from organic sources on crop growth, soil organic matter stability, and N mineralization (Xia Zhu-Barker and William R. Horwath)
- Distributed water and fertilizer delivery for minimizing nitrogen losses by leaching and volatilization (Teamrat A. Ghezzehei, Khaled M. Bali, and Tapan Pathak)

New TASC members, Dr. Jairo Diaz, Edgar Flores and Dr. Rob Mikkelsen and reappointed member Dr. Tom Bottoms, will start their new terms beginning January 1, 2022.

Cady discussed the 29th Annual FREP/Western Plant Health (WPH) Nutrient Management Conference that took place in San Luis Obispo, October 26-28, 2021. This year's conference hosted a lower number of attendees compared to the previous year due to lingering COVID-19 concerns. Renee Pinel, President, and Chief Executive Officer of WPH is looking for a venue in Visalia for next year's conference.

Certified Crop Adviser Program and grower training has continued to evolve with the introduction of the California Nitrogen Management Specialty certification. FREP staff, Nicole Nunes, has formed an Ad Hoc committee to address a redesign for the grower training program. FREP is seeking out learning management software to administer on-demand online training that is consistent with CDFA's security requirements.

Previously the TASC, FIAB and Secretary Ross had approved four new appointments to increase the TASC members to 12; however, with Steve Petrie's resignation, the TASC will continue with the current number of 11 members.

2022 GRANT PRIORITIES

Cady elaborated on what the 2021 Priority Funding Areas document entails for upcoming FREP funded research projects. Cady asked the group to make suggestions on each section of the document to be more specific about the type of research project proposals FREP would like to receive for the 2022 grant cycle. Cady added agreed-upon wording to each section of the document.

The Request for Proposals will be posted on the CDFA FREP website in December 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No items were discussed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled by doodle poll.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Jan Hopmans moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Lisa Hunt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by Mark Cady

Mark Cady

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)

Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Date: 12/09/2021