

California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Broomrape Board

Meeting Minutes
from June 25, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Toshi Aoki*

Daniel Bays*

Rick Blankenship*

Frank Coelho Jr.*

* Participated via Zoom

Ron Dalforno*

David Kiehn*

Micheal Newton*

Scott Schmidt*

Scott Spitzer*,

Tony Turkovich*

David Vigue

Committee Members Absent:

Derek Azevedo

CDFA staff:

Jonathan Babineau

Nick Condos

Michelle Dennis

Victoria Hornbaker

Erin Lovig

Lexi Wilson

Guests:

Zach Bagley

Daryl Bettencourt*

* Participated via Zoom

Humberto Izquierdo*

Neil McRoberts*

Gene Miyao*

Opening Comments

Ron Dalforno called the Broomrape Board (Board) meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called and there was a quorum for the meeting.

Bagley-Keene

The meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Approval of Minutes

The written minutes from the May 21, 2024 meeting were not available. A verbal summary of motions and action items from the May 21 meeting was provided.

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Strategic Plan Options

Options and associated timeframes for developing a strategic plan were discussed, including the options for contracting through California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), having the California Tomato Research Institute (CTRI) use its funds to obtain a contractor, or utilizing an existing CDFA contract that has strategic contract facilitation in the Scope of Work and available budget. The discussion also focused on how CTRI funds could be donated to the Broomrape Account to pay for a facilitator. The Board requested that staff investigate the existing CDFA contract option and report back at the next meeting on potential costs and timeframe.

Behavioral Survey

The process of developing and distributing a survey were discussed. The Board requested that a working group composed of Michelle Dennis, Humberto Izquierdo, Mike Montna, Zach Bagley, Neil McRoberts, Mike Newton, and Nick Condos investigate and report back to the Board at the next meeting. The goal is for the survey to go out mid-August.

Best Management Practices (BMP) and Existing Protocols

The discussion centered on the need to reevaluate the content of the documents to ensure that they are accurately communicating the current thoughts of the Board. Mike Montna and Zach Bagley agreed to create new versions. A future CDFA Broomrape Board webpage will link to those versions.

Public Member

A discussion about the statutory requirements and qualifications of a public member ensued. Gene Miyao, retired UC crop advisor from Yolo, Solano, and Sacramento counties was identified as a good candidate.

Motion: David Viguié recommended appointing Gene Miyao as the Public Member. Tony Turkovich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Annual Assessment

A discussion about the annual budget and assessment commenced. It was noted that a motion about the annual assessment passed at the last meeting but was not yet approved by the Secretary. The rule making process and timelines were discussed.

Program Budget

Discussion about the annual budget centered on the research budget. It was clarified by Zach Bagley that the CTRI has already funded research for 2024 so it was not an urgent matter for the Board to address for the FY 2024/25 budget. The concept of initiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CDFA and CTRI was discussed. The scope of work for the Pierce's Disease Control Program's contract with a research coordinator was presented as an example. The Research Subcommittee Chair will use it as guidance for developing an MOU. The development of bylaws was

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discussed, and Mike Montna volunteered to initiate a draft set of bylaws for the Board to review at a future meeting.

Next Meeting and Agenda Items

The Board discussed priority action items for staff to focus on between meetings. The priorities are: 1) behavioral survey working group, 2) strategic plan facilitator contract, and 3) annual assessment rule making. Agenda items were discussed, and the date of the next meeting was set for June 25, 2024.

Ron Dalforno adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m.