

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)  
Minutes**

of the Meeting /Video Conferencing  
of the Seed Advisory Board (SAB)  
Held on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
3294 Meadowview Road, Conference Room A  
Sacramento, CA 95832

**SEED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Members Present:** Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, John McShane, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

**Members Absent:** Justin Davis

**OTHER ATTENDEES\***

Riad Baalbaki, Cheryl Blomquist, Jill Hagenston, Umesh Kodira, Emi Kuroiwa, Brenda Lanini, Alex Lysak, Erica Moore, Robert Price, Kevin Stoffel, Allen Van Deynze, Connie Weiner, Hana Yokoyama-Hatch

\*As self-reported in the Zoom application or sign-in sheet

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Greg Cassel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Cassel welcomed everyone and reviewed topics of discussion.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

Cassel directed the board to review the past three meeting minutes, dated November 4, 2021, November 10, 2021, and May 24, 2022. A copy of the draft minutes had been distributed to the Board members and posted on the Department's website prior to the meeting. Cassel opened the floor for any changes or corrections, and none were suggested.

**Board Motion**

The Board approved the minutes from the November 4, 2021, November 10, 2021, and May 24, 2022, meetings.

Motion: Kraig Kuykendall

Second: Greg Orsetti

### Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, John McShane, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Justin Davis

### **CDFA SEED LABORATORY ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

Dr. Riad Baalbaki presented the CDFA Seed Laboratory report for fiscal year (FY) 2021/2022. He provided a brief overview of the different laboratory functions and announced staffing changes.

The Board expressed dissatisfaction with the turnaround time presented in the seed laboratory report, and discussed potential solutions to reduce the sample turnaround time. The Board received a public comment from Chris Zanobini, who asked the board to compare the turnaround time to commercial laboratories and to re-evaluate the seed laboratory funding.

### Board Motion

The Board approved the CDFA Seed Laboratory Report for FY 2021/2022.

Motion: John McShane  
Second: Bill White

### Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, John McShane, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, and Bill White  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Justin Davis

### **UC DAVIS SEED BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT**

Dr. Allen Van Deynze presented the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center (SBC) report and introduced the new SBC Research Director, Imtiyaz Khanday. He provided an overview of past and upcoming domestic and international plant breeding academy courses and other academic programs.

### Board Motion

The Board approved the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center report.

Motion: Bill White  
Second: Kraig Kuykendall

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, John McShane, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Justin Davis

**UC DAVIS SEED INDUSTRY STUDY UPDATE**

Brenda Lanini shared a brief update from Bill Matthews, who was not in attendance at the meeting. Matthews was working with a member of the California Seed Association to develop a survey to capture the impact of the seed industry in California. The survey would be sent out soon.

There was no Board discussion or public comments related to this agenda item.

**SEED SERVICES FUND CONDITION UPDATE**

Lanini updated the Board on the condition of the CDFA Seed Services fund. Research expenditures slightly increased in FY 2021/2022 due to the seed industry study. Based on the projected fund condition, the program would not have enough reserves to fund the program by FY 2024/2025 at the current assessment rate.

**PROPOSED BUDGET**

Brenda Lanini presented a proposed FY 2023/2024 budget. The Board asked about the increases in current and projected costs in the Seed Services and Seed Laboratory budgets.

The Board received public comments from Chris Zanobini expressing concern about the level of indirect costs and dissatisfaction with the current Seed Laboratory funding level of 72% of total expenditures.

The Board discussed the current Seed Laboratory funding and potential alternatives to increasing the assessment rate. The Board expressed that the people of California should share the cost of funding the State Seed Laboratory.

**Board Motion**

The Board recommended reduction of support from Seed Services to the Seed Laboratory from no more than 72% of total costs to 50% of total costs, and recommended an amended proposed spending plan for FY 2023/2024 of \$2,111,997.

Motion: Bill White

Second: Kraig Kuykendall

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, John McShane, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Justin Davis

### **ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed a possible increase in assessment fees. Lanini expressed concern about the absence of fee assessment payments for multiple firms. The program has discussed obvious fee discrepancies with applicants. Assessment fees are self-reported by the applicant. The Board discussed the use of audits to improve the reporting of seed sales in California.

#### **Board Motion**

The Board recommended maintaining the current assessment rate.

Motion: John McShane  
Second: Bill White

#### **Details of Board Vote**

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, John McShane, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Justin Davis

### **DISCUSSION ON FUNDING OF THE UC DAVIS BRADFORD ENDOWED CHAIR**

Dr. Van Denzye provided a brief overview of the funding of UC Davis Bradford Endowed Chair. Dr. Van Denzye discussed his previous request for funding from the California Seed Association.

The Board discussed the potential allocation of program funds for the endowment.

Mike Campbell moved for the board to fund the UC Davis Bradford Endowed Chair \$150,000 dollars over 5 years. White seconded. The Board discussed the motion. McShane suggested the motion should be held until the proposed budget is finalized. The Board expressed concern that funding the endowment may result in an increase in assessment rates in future, and discussed the impact of a higher assessment rate on the seed industry. Campbell withdrew the motion.

Cassel planned to discuss the proposal to fund the UC Davis Bradford Endowed Chair, and its impact on the CDFA Seed Services assessment rates with the California Seed Association and report back.

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS**

The next board meeting was set for Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 10:00 am, as an in-person meeting, and if allowed a call-in option may be provided. Agenda items will be:

- Updates from the CDFA Seed Services program, including assessment collections and the Seed Laboratory
- Updates from the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center
- Discuss funding of the CDFA Seed Laboratory
- Report and discussion on funding of the UC Davis Bradford Endowed Chair
- Set a nominating committee meeting to discuss expiring board member terms

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

DRAFT