

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Minutes

of the Meeting/Video Conferencing
of the Seed Advisory Board (SAB)
Held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023
3294 Meadowview Road
Sacramento, CA 95832

SEED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Members Present: Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Mike Campbell*, Justin Davis, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

Members Absent: Scott Emanuelli

* Not eligible to participate as a Board Member

OTHER ATTENDEES*

Riad Baalbaki, Cheryl Blomquist, Imtiyaz Khanday, Umesh Kodira, Emi Kuroiwa, William Matthews, Kevin Stoffel, Connie Weiner, Allen Van Deynze, Hana Yokoyama-Hatch, Chris Zanobini

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

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL/HOUSEKEEPING

Greg Cassel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06am and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board. Cassel welcomed everyone and reviewed the topics of discussion. The board took a moment to acknowledge John McShane's passing.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No meeting minutes were presented for approval at this meeting.

CDFA SEED LABORATORY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Dr. Riad Baalbaki presented the CDFA Seed Laboratory report for fiscal year (FY) 2022/2023. He provided a brief overview of laboratory functions and announced staffing changes.

Board Motion

The Board accepted the report from the CDFA Seed Laboratory.

Motion: Greg Cassel
Second: Justin Davis

Details of Board Vote

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

UC DAVIS SEED BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER UPDATE

Dr. Allen Van Denyze presented the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center update. The update covered ongoing research, a brief overview of past research projects, and updates on upcoming projects.

Board Motion

The Board accepted the report from the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center.

Motion: Tom Hearne
Second: Kraig Kuykendall

Details of Board Vote

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

UC DAVIS SEED INDUSTRY STUDY UPDATE

William Matthews provided a brief update on the UC Davis Seed Industry Study. Matthews noted that the purpose of the study was to report economic activities in California within the seed industry, however this data is not publicly available and had been difficult to collect.

Board Motion

The Board accepted the update from William Matthews on the UC Davis Seed Industry Study.

Motion: Justin Davis
Second: Greg Orsetti

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Justin Davis, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White
Against: None
Abstain: None

Absent: Scott Emanuelli

SEED SERVICES PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND FISCAL UPDATE

Brenda Lanini provided a brief update on the Seed Services Program activities and financial updates. Lanini gave a brief overview of registered firms, the Seed Subvention Program, the Seed Law Enhancement Program, and online seed law labeling training.

A new Mediation Statement was approved to be established in regulation (California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Section 3915.1) effective July 1, 2023, and must be used by seed firms. Companies with containers or bags already printed that have the old statement on the packaging would be allowed to use up their existing stock.

ASSESSMENT REVENUE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Lanini provided a brief update on revenue from the assessment. She mentioned the difficulty of maintaining contact with seed firms due to employee turnover and the loss of known contacts, which may have contributed to the delay of assessments paid by some companies.

TASKFORCE / COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the creation of a new Budget Committee, composed of 3 Board members and 1 member of the public, to review the Program's budget in depth and report back to the Board. There was a brief discussion on the history of the Board and past committees for the new members attending.

Board Motion

The Board established a Budget Committee and assigned Justin Davis, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Cassel, and Chris Zanobini.

Motion: Tom Hearne

Second: Emily Clay

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Greg Cassel, Emily Clay, Justin Davis, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Scott Emanuelli

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next Board meeting was set for November 2, 2023, beginning at 8:00am. It will be held in person and via Zoom video conferencing and will be held at the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology building. Agenda items included:

- UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center Update
- Report from the Seed Lab
- Update from William Matthews on the UC Davis Seed Industry Study
- Report from the Budget Committee
- The Board will discuss the vacancy created by the passing of John McShane.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02pm.

DRAFT