

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Minutes
of the Meeting
of the Seed Advisory Board (SAB)
Held on Thursday, November 2, 2023

SEED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Members Present: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Douglas Iten, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

Members Absent: Emily Clay

OTHER ATTENDEES*

Riad Baalbaki, Cheryl Bloomquist, Kelley Clark, Jovan Djordjevic, Jillian Hagenston, Phyllis Himmel, Adam Holmes, Nicole Hostert, Imtiyaz Khanday, Umesh Kodira, Emi Kuroiwa, Brenda Lanini, Alex Lysak, Jasmine Minhas, Erica Pearson, Marcie Skelton, Kevin Stoffel, Daniel Sumner, Allen VanDeynze, Connie Weiner, Chris Zanobini

*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 9:03am and Nicole Hostert conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Cassel welcomed Doug Iten to the Board and reviewed the topics of discussion. He noted that the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center Report and UC Davis Seed Industry Study Update agenda items would take place after the Discussion on Funding of the Bradford Endowed Chair, UC Davis.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2022 meeting were presented for approval.

Board Motion #1

The Board approved the November 9, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Greg Orsetti
Second: Tom Hearne

Details of Board Vote

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

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 the different laboratory functions and the estimated time allocated to different activities in the lab. In his report, Dr. Baalbaki discussed violations identified by the lab, as well as ways the State Seed Lab supports the Seed Industry.

Board Motion #2

The Board accepts the report from the CDFA Seed Laboratory.

Motion: Kraig Kuykendall

Second: Justin Davis

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Douglas Iten, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Emily Clay

SEED SERVICES PROPOSED BUDGET AND FUND CONDITION

Hostert provided a brief update on the Seed Services Program and fiscal updates. She reviewed a breakdown of the proposed budget and noted potential increases, such as wage increases due to ongoing union negotiations.

Cassel noted that a Budget Committee meeting was scheduled to be held on November 27, 2023.

Board Motion #3

The Board moved not to approve the proposed budget for FY 2024/25 for the Seed Services Program as presented. The Board recommended the fund reserve goal be set at 25% of annual expenditures, not 50% as presented. The Board also recommended reducing the Seed Laboratory funding to 50% of costs, in accordance with the Board's motion during the November 9, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Greg Cassel

Second: Greg Orsetti

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Douglas Iten, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

Against: None

Abstain: None
Absent: Emily Clay

ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION

Hostert discussed expected income based off the current assessment rate and a 50% reserve. She then discussed the possible increases in assessments and the implications on income both with the current reserve and the proposed increased reserve.

DISCUSSION ON FUNDING OF THE BRADFORD ENDOWED CHAIR, UC DAVIS

Dr. Allen Van Deynze gave a brief update on the Bradford Endowed Chair. The Seed Biotechnology Center requested \$150,000 to bring their endowment total to \$2 million.

UC DAVIS SEED BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT

Dr. Van Deynze and Dr. Jovan Djordjevic presented the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center report. Dr. Van Deynze discussed the retirement of Phyllis Himmel and the onboarding of her replacement, Kelley Clark. Both Dr. Van Deynze and Dr. Djordjevic reported on the recent Plant Breeders Academies, Seed Business 101, and a newly introduced leadership academy.

Board Motion #4

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

Motion: Tom Hearne
Second: Mike Campbell

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Tom Hearne, Douglas Iten, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Emily Clay

UC DAVIS SEED INDUSTRY STUDY UPDATE

There was no report presented to the Board.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marcie Skelton, Glenn County Ag Commissioner, introduced herself to the Board.

NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The Board proposed the following agenda items for the next board meeting:

- Report from the Budget Committee

A Budget Committee meeting was set for November 22, 2023, and the Board planned to meet in early December to discuss the Committee's report and the Program budget.

The next regularly scheduled Seed Advisory Board meeting was tentatively set for May 9, 2024 at 9:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am.

DRAFT