

PEACH AND NECTARINE RESEARCH PROGRAM BOARD MEETING

Minutes of January 31, 2024

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

Cocoa Board Room

325 University Drive

Hershey, Pa 17033

Public notice of the January 31, 2024 Pennsylvania Peach and Nectarine Research Program Board Meeting was given as stipulated by the Sunshine Law.

CALL TO ORDER

Norman Schultz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:46 a.m. Board members in attendance included Tad E. Kuntz, Vice Chair; Tyler Fetters; Jeremy Zeager; Wayne Hollabaugh; Ed Weaver; and Dear R. Spencer.

Henry Frecon and Mike Kurek were absent.

Also attending were Patrick Andrews, Secretary of Agriculture Designee; Lindsay Young, Senior Manager, McKonly and Asbury; Holly Zarefoss, Administrative Assistant for Commodities; Dr. Shanthanu Krishna Kumar, Penn State University; and Jenny Groff, Clerical Assistant (via telephone).

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2024.01-APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Presented by: Tad E. Kuntz

Seconded by: Jeremy Zeager

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the July 10, 2023 meeting minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lindsay Young, McKonly and Asbury, referred Board members to information regarding the A/P Aging Summary and Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023, Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, and Profit and Loss July through December 2023.

Ms. Young indicated that assessment collections received in January 2024 were not included in her financial information.

RESOLUTION 2024.02-APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented by: Tyler Fetters

Seconded by: Ed Weaver

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Financial Report as presented.

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Holly Zarefoss, Administrative Assistant for Commodities, presented assessment reports noting \$15,363 collected for the 2023 marketing season thus far with 66 paid producers. Chair Schultz suggested that a list of growers and their acreage be provided. Ms. Zarefoss noted being locked out of delinquent accounts on her computer and waited for instructions from IT. She will send letters for the 2023 delinquents.

It was reported that for 2022 there were 82 paid producers, 4 delinquents, for a total of 86 producers. This year, there were 66 paid producers with 6 delinquents, for a total of 72. Ms. Groff clarified by telephone that the remainder were either out of business or not eligible to pay. A list of those producers would be provided, but she also indicated where that information could be accessed. Mr. Andrews noted those producers permanently out of business. There was discussion with regard to promoting possible legislation that requires auction houses to update their recordkeeping and funding.

RESOLUTION 2024.03-APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT REPORT

Presented by: Jeremy Zeager

Seconded by: Tyler Fetters

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Assessment Report as presented.

(Patrick Andrews exited the meeting at 8:23 a.m. and re-entered at 8:27 a.m.)

REVIEW AUDIT REPORT

Lindsay Young, McKonly and Asbury, verified that per the P&N Assessment Report as of June 30, 2023, \$16,029.20 was collected for the 2022 marketing season with 82 paid producers.

She referred members to Garcia, Garman and Shea's Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for further discussion. Ms. Young reported that checks, deposits, bank

reconciliations, approvals on invoices, cash disbursement procedures, and cash receipts were reviewed. There were no recommendations or adjustments needed to the Board's bank reconciliation process. A review of Internal Controls resulted in a recommendation for ways to endorse checks to reduce the time between receipt of checks and depositing at the bank.

RESOLUTION 2024.04-APPROVAL OF REVIEW OF AUDIT REPORT

Presented by: Tad E. Kuntz

Seconded by: Wayne Hollabaugh

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Review of the Audit Report as presented.

REVIEW 2023 RESEARCH PROJECT PROGRESS

Members were referred to the Rutgers University Project Report, which included evaluations of new peach and nectarine cultivars, advanced selections, and standard peach varieties.

(Lindsay Young exited the meeting at 8:32 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF 2024 RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

Dr. Shanthanu Krishna Kumar presented before the Board for discussion of his proposals. His first proposal related to the establishment of a medium-density peach orchard at State College for research and teaching purposes. He noted the red haven variety was being considered, but the use of other varieties was discussed.

Dr. Kumar noted his second proposal was regarding frost prevention in peaches using cellulose nanocrystal sprays. He provided additional information regarding the project's purpose and objective, and discussed the effectiveness of the spray. He has had no recent contact with Washington State University, who potentially would not be able to move forward with the project until next year.

(Dr. Kumar exited the meeting at 8:52 a.m.)

The third proposal anticipated a continuation the Rutgers University Project in the amount of \$8,718 for a total request in the amount of \$32,552. Mr. Andrews indicated the Board could approve the requests, and it could also set conditions. As an example, he suggested approval of

Dr. Kumar's proposal contingent upon obtaining a better deal on the trees followed by a resubmission of a new proposal with a new price for consideration.

RESOLUTION 2024.05-APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Presented by: Jeremy Zeager

Seconded by: Wayne Hollabaugh

Passed: Unanimously

To fund Dr. Kumar's pedestrian peach orchard proposal minus the trees, to fund the frost prevention proposal contingent upon Dr. Kumar acquiring materials, and to fund Dr. Gohil's proposal, but requiring within the established travel budget that he come to Hershey next year and present.

NEXT MEETING DATE


The next meeting is scheduled virtually for July 8, 2024, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Chair Schultz had discussion about moving funds into a CD account.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Cowfer

January 31, 2024