



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington

WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Agriculture Development Group, Inc.

April 21st, 2010

Chair Bryan Sakuma presiding. X_____

Chair Sakuma called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Commissioners present: Margaret Tucker, Bryan Sakuma, Steve Bybee, B.C. Jackson, Andy Enfield

Administrative Staff present was Alan Schreiber and Aria Brookshire.

Guests present were Gary Aldrich, Billy Townsend, Mike Klackle, and Jane Bybee

Approval of January 2010 Minutes

BC Jackson stated that he felt that some things said that were attributed to him that he did not remember saying and asked for corrections stating that the bottom of page three should be discussions made by Matt Mayberry not BC Jackson

Steve Bybee made a motion to approve minutes with the changes. BC Jackson seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion – Review of Terms

Alan Schreiber explained that we have two terms that will expire. Positions 3 & 4 (Andy Enfield and Steve Bybee). Steve Bybee has elected not to run for another term. He has been in this position since the mid 1980's. Everyone thanked Steve for his many years of service his knowledge and insight will be missed.

Alan Schreiber explained the phone in procedures for the new term positions. Andy Enfield and Rob Dhaliwal have been nominated, Rob Dhaliwal will be appointed, as there were no other

requests for this position. There was a write in nomination for Darrell Ehlers and WSDA has asked that the commission confirm that the growers nominating Darrell Ehlers are legitimate growers. A list was passed around to the commissioners and it was confirmed that the growers who nominated Darrell Ehlers were legitimate growers. Aria Brookshire will be responsible for notifying the WSDA with this information.

Financials

Treasurer's Report

Alan Schreiber stated that we are not a quarter of the way through the year. We have encumbered research expenses for 2008, 2009, and 2010. We have paid \$1500 to the Small Fruit Research Center. This bill was supposed to be on the 2009 budget but for some reason the WBC did not get the bill until March 2010. The bill was recently paid but is was for the 2009 budget. There will be another bill for the same amount coming to us in November, 2010, which we will need to pay.

Alan went over the financials line by line for each category. Travel has been minimal; we have not received the majority of the bills for the March conference to Arizona. Those should be coming in later this month and will be applied appropriately. Administration costs are normal and there are no bank charges. We have had some conference calls, especially for the Food Safety project. Alan believes that the WBC finances should come in under budget. The Attorney General Fees are on track but we may need more. There are still some outstanding bills on their way and we haven't spent our industry outreach or our Food Safety funds yet.

Bryan Sakuma asked if we needed a motion for the Small Fruit bill –to pay the 2009 bill out of the 2010 budget. Steve Bybee motioned to accept, BC Jackson seconds the motion. –Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report continued: Alan stated that our Food Safety outreach funds have not been spent. There is \$6,000 set aside for meetings. \$4000 is being proposed to be spent on food safety; we need an approval from the chair that Alan is able to spend these funds for that purpose.

Margaret Tucker asked why check number 2186 says “WSU”. Alan Schreiber stated that this is not supposed to state WSU; this must be an auto fill on the Quicken system. He will speak with the bookkeeper and get this corrected.

Bryan Sakuma: Do we have a motion to accept the Financials? BC Jackson moved to accept the financials and Andy Enfield second the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Assessment Collection Efforts:

Following up on last meetings motion to peruse unpaid collections. Alan Schreiber described our current efforts to collect on unpaid assessments. Under the advice of counsel we have a grower that has failed to pay assessment fees for several years. There is a process that needs to be

adhered to in order to properly and legally collect these past assessment fees and fines. This effort is in conjunction with the Red Raspberry Commission who is also perusing collections from this same grower. We have the letter drafted by the Red Raspberry Commission and we will be using the same format. The letter will be sent first in an effort to reach out to the grower and get them into compliance. If this doesn't receive a favorable response then we will take the next step which is to get the Attorney General's office involved.

To put this in perspective we are looking at approximately \$18,000 in unpaid collections. It should not cost us a lot to peruse collection. We need the board to approve drafting a letter for collection similar to the letter being sent by the Red Raspberry Commission.

Bryan Sakuma: Do we have a motion to have a collection letter drafted? Andy Enfield moved to draft the letter, Steve Bybee seconds the motion. –Motion passed unanimously.

Alan Schreiber will have the letter drafted and sent according to the Attorney General office.

Old Business

Promotional activities:

Both Townsend Farms and Sakuma Brothers will each contribute 500 pounds of blueberries in small clamshells (approximately 4.5 oz). Delaunay Communications will provide the material for the labels that includes the Seafair logo in association with the Washington Blueberry Commission. The label should also contain language that says, "Wash before eating". Bryan Sakuma volunteered to be the promotional spokesperson.

Mossyrock is having a Blueberry Day on August 7. There was discussion about helping with small town events with a booth; however, this event is in the middle of the Washington Blueberry Commission Seafair promotion. We have marketing material that can be provided but with the conflict in time, there is no one available to assist in any other way.

North by North West wants to promote specialty corps. Disney is now getting into promotional activities on radio Disney – wanting to get healthy eating promo info.

Alan: told them that our course is set for this year. However, maybe next year we will entertain. More info.

Research Committee

Alan went to meeting last week on the Spotted Wing Drosophila. Lynell will have the recommendations done by May 1st that we will have out to the growers

Steve Bybee noted that there are many meetings going on regarding the spotted winged drosophila.

Bryan Sakuma stated that we should continue working with Oregon in our blueberry research. Looking forward to our continued efforts. Alan will be going to their next commission meeting and report back to the commission.

Food Safety Committee and food safety programming activities

Food Safety Grant proposal: We are working with Laurie Wishkowski on the current food safety grant proposal. There are several people including BC Jackson will be involved in this as well as Henry Bierlink from the Red Raspberry Commission. This has turned into a very large proposal. The Strawberry Commission is unable to do food safety only research. We also have Kim Patten with the Cranberry industry, Karen Killenger from WSU, and Colleen Burrows from Whatcom County onboard. Laurie will do most of the work. We have submitted the proposal requesting over two-hundred thousand in funds, and we will have several food safety meetings throughout the State in several areas and language including Punjabi to show that we are trying to reach out to all growers and handlers.

The proposal includes travel, production, and Money to reimburse growers for inspections and GAP certification. Targeting first time growers. We also pledged matching money from the 2011 budget for food safety.

Report of NABS & USHBC meeting held in Phoenix, AZ

Alan Schreiber will be heading off to Phoenix for the next meeting. Based on the federal notice comment period. They denied the request for an assessment increase. They are not going to go forward with the increase. This is the first time the government has denied an increase when it had been submitted. The feedback from growers was not positive.

New Business

Rod Cook has been the member of the USHBC Committee, and Bryan Sakuma has been the alternate. Rod will no longer be able to be able to serve on the USHBC committee.

Rob Dhaliwal will now be alternate, but we need two more people. We think it might be Jim Lott, and BC Jackson can be the alternate but there needs to be more discussion on this when everyone is present.

WBC newsletter

The next newsletter will be a fold over instead of using envelope. We encourage suggestions and article submissions for our newsletter, which will be produced on a quarterly basis. Alan Schreiber went over the issues in the current newsletter. In the future, we will add food safety, research, and industry information in the newsletter as well.

Exports efforts

In our promotions committee we wanted to develop promotions for the export of blueberries. Alan Schreiber's experience has been that this type of thing takes a lot of time and money to achieve. We decided to wait until next year but the grant money for this will not be available for 2012. We would have to seek external money (grants) to promote the export of Washington Blueberries. Discussion was opened to exporting of Washington Blueberries. The coconscious is that we should look into it.

Other Business:

MRL Export Business:

Alan Schreiber stated that he brought this up at USHB. If we are going to be exporting and we are going to be spraying later because of spotted wing drosophilas, we will have some challenges with residue. Alan has a list on all the MRL's. We can spray malathyon but Japan will not let you use malathyon. Bryan Sakuma stated that most export will not allow Malathyon.

Bryan Sakuma asked, "Should we take the lead on US regulations on MRLS?" as Bryan has just returned from Japan and states that there are half a dozen chemicals that have changed since last year. Alan Schreiber wanted to know what percentage of fresh frozen exported goes to Japan? Bryan Sakuma stated that the number is between 70-80% and the North West and British Columbia have 90% market now in Japan.

Alan Schreiber continued the discussion about MRL levels for exporting (chemical margins) these are what is called trade irritants. Bryan Sakuma stated that newer chemicals could be the ones that could cause problems. If we are allowed a .8 and Japan allows a .5, we cannot export.

Alan Schreiber stated that if someone is exporting to Japan they should have access to this info. This info is avail on a US website. Nathan Sakuma has this information and we need to get that website information and put it in the newsletter and on the Washington Blueberry Website.

Bryan Sakuma feels that the Japanese know before we do on the change of the MRL's. We will need to discuss further how to get this information to the growers in a timely manner.

The Discussion turned to Steve Bybee's last term. Steve has been with the Commission since the early 1980. We all acknowledge and appreciate his service to the Washington Blueberry Commission. He has been a sound contributor and his wisdom and knowledge will be missed. The Commission wishes him luck in his new endeavors.

Andy Enfield Moved to adjourn the meeting. BC Jackson seconds the motion Motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 1:30 pm.
