



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington

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**WSU Research and Extension Center
Mt. Vernon, WA**

October 19, 2009

Chair Bryan Sakuma presiding.

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

Commissioners present were Matt Maberry, Margaret Tucker, Bryan Sakuma, Steve Bybee, B.C. Jackson

Staff present was Alan Schreiber and Jessica Welch.

Guests present were Dorothy Anderson, Bo Slack, and Brian Edwards

-Approval of Minutes

Steve Bybee made a motion to approve minutes. Matt Maberry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financials

-Treasurer's Report

Alan Schreiber stated that we allocated \$18,000 for promotion which they came back with \$18,170.50 which is \$170.50 over our budget. Alan Schreiber said he reviewed the expenses that Delauney had asked for. Alan Schreiber felt they were legitimate for what was being asked of them. Alan Schreiber stated we have spent \$20,325 dollars of the \$28,000 of 2008 research funding. Alan Schreiber said we have spent \$35,500 of \$58,479 for 2009 funding. Alan Schreiber said we expect those numbers to go to zero by the end of the year. Peerbolt

management \$1,250 of \$1,250 allocated there. We have spent 2/3 of the supply budget. We have only spent 40% of Administrative travel and will spend most of that money, but not all of it. We are over budget on Northwest Small Fruit Meeting. The reason we are over is because we sent Rod Cook over to the small fruit research Center. Alan Schreiber suspects we will be pretty close to budget and not go over travel. We spent \$370 on conference calls out of \$1,000. We have not spent any money on Attorney General's fee. Alan Schreiber stated that we are going to be incurring legal fees and will be more than \$500 and he does not expect that bill to come due this year. Alan Schreiber stated when we do budget next year we will ramp up the amount needed for the attorney general next year. The state auditor we went over \$357.30 Alan Schreiber budgeted for 3 year budget and they wanted to audit for 5 years. That is why it caused us to go over that money. Ag in the Classroom we have received \$150 of bills for that and have paid that. Alan Schreiber stated that in the contingency fund we have \$2,807 and have \$1,632.04 spent. Alan Schreiber has projected that we will come out at least \$2,000 carry over by the end of the year.

Steve Bybee moved to approve Treasurer's report. Matt Maberry seconded it. Motion approved unanimously.

-Assessment Collection Efforts

Alan Schreiber stated that most people will wait to the last date to make a payment. Alan Schreiber stated that as of last Thursday we have assessments for 3.3 million pounds and are estimating to receive 35 million pounds. We have \$13,415 received this far. Bryan Sakuma states that we are projecting the 35 million pounds. Alan Schreiber stated we had 35 million last year that is why we are projecting 35 million pounds this year. Alan Schreiber said we just sent another letter out reminding everyone of their requirements to pay them. During the collection process sending letters out, talking with growers that we have one individual that is not paying assessments. Alan Schreiber states that there is more than one person that is not paying their assessments. Alan Schreiber stated that he has teamed up with Henry Beerlink in going after the individual that is not paying assessments. Alan Schreiber suspended this section until Henry Beerlink can join in the meeting later this afternoon. Alan Schreiber stated he needed a vote by the board to go after this grower and work with the attorney general. Alan Schreiber stated that he is going to try to meet with these individuals on November 5, 2009. Alan Schreiber stated that he has been working with Beerlink with the Washington Red Raspberry Commission to go after the individual that is not paying assessments. Henry Beerlink mentioned that they are working with the Attorney General. Henry Beerlink also stated that they will have a protocol for next year that will hopefully prevent this issue. Henry Beerlink said we need to talk to the suppliers and see if we can find anything that he bought to identify he is growing blueberries and raspberries. Henry Beerlink said we need to determine how much he has grown and have enough evidence to show him growing. Alan Schreiber said he is hoping that the Red Raspberry Commission will handle this through their Attorney General. Bryan Sakuma asked if there will be a cost. Alan Schreiber said that the administrative dues have already been paid, but if Alan Schreiber talks with the Attorney General there will be fees for that.

Steve Bybee motion to authorize motion to pursue collections on people that have overdue payments and to work with the Red Raspberry Commission. Matt Maberry seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business

-2009 Promotional Activities

Alan Schreiber stated that Delauney Communications is generating media. We gave them \$6,000 to do a farmer's market promotion. They have contacted newspapers, radio, as well as TV stations. They have sent out copies of the articles that they have submitted. Alan Schreiber stated that we have 125 growing organizations that paid assessments last year and they got requests for 60 people for the publicity kits. The information only went out to the people that paid assessments. Alan Schreiber stated we have the Superblues.org website. Alan Schreiber stated that Delauney always seems to do a good job. Margaret asked doing anything to deliver the amount of satisfaction for the material they are receiving. Alan Schreiber mentioned we can call Delauney and find out the people they went out to. Alan Schreiber mentioned what we should do is put together a survey and send it out to the folks that did receive PR packages.

-Food Safety

Alan Schreiber stated that we are struggling with what we should do about Food Safety. Alan Schreiber stated that he will get together with Darryl Ehlers and the California Strawberry Commission. Alan Schreiber stated that we will hopefully have a conference call with Oregon Blueberry Commission and California Strawberry Commission to come up with something for Food Safety. This would be Food Safety for fields as well as in the sheds.

-Research Committee

Alan Schreiber stated that there was a research committee meeting about the ranking of the RFP priorities. Alan Schreiber said that the research priorities didn't change that much. There was a couple of wording changes and changing the font. Alan Schreiber stated that we have a total of 20 priorities and had the research committee rank them. Alan Schreiber stated that in the next week or to the RFP will be going out. Alan Schreiber projects the requests will be for quite a bit of money most likely double the money we have. Alan Schreiber stated that the deadline will be mid December or first of January. The proposals will go out to the Research Committee to rank them and then the Commissioners will get a copy of proposals and then the Commission decided when it will be funded and how much.

New Business

-Report of NABC & USHBC meeting held in Portland OR Oct 14-18

Alan Schreiber passed out a crop estimate for estimate of fresh and processed blueberries packets to everyone. Alan Schreiber stated that there are twice as many blueberries that come in from Chile then from Canada. Alan Schreiber stated that the total fresh had a 28% increase. Bryan Sakuma stated that the USHBC covered market updates, new nominees for this next year, and some of the activities they are doing. Bryan Sakuma stated that the production is on the increase and everyone is getting ready for it. One of the talks is the Chelan that donated this year will be increasing for the winter media bliss. Bryan Sakuma stated that they are dealing with a budget of 3 million. Alan Schreiber said he has copies of everything if anyone would like copies of it. Bryan Sakuma stated that is was a very informative meeting.

-Set meeting dates for 2010

January 21 - Puyallup

April 21 - Tri Cities

June 30 - Teleconference

October 28 - Mt. Vernon

-All Industry Blueberry meeting

Alan Schreiber stated that he has been working with Tom Walters on having a Blueberry Meeting. Tom Walters stated that there is a date set and a place set. Tom Walters stated that he has a preliminary agenda that he passed out to everyone in the room. Tom Walters stated that he has gathered up some great speakers for market outlook. Tom Walters asked if Bryan Sakuma could have Steve come in and speak. Alan Schreiber stated that we will split cost with small fruit workshop to get Mark Vallata up here. Tom Walters stated that he is putting in for a mini grant request through WSU. Alan Schreiber said that the budget will be \$875 for travel for mark and john Johnston, room was \$200, drinks and meal \$2,800, and other \$125. That would cost \$4,000 dollars. Alan Schreiber said that we will charge \$20 per person at the door. The speaker will not be charged for this. Alan Schreiber would like the board to authorize Alan Schreiber to spend \$2,000 to spend towards this meeting. Alan Schreiber stated that there will be \$2,000 of unspent money without putting overall budget into the red. Tom Walters mentioned making a video and putting it on the website. Alan Schreiber stated most of the people that it would benefit are the people that we compete against. Alan Schreiber mentioned if we want to make it publicly available and how we should go about it. Alan Schreiber also mentioned that we should vote on funding of \$2,000 for meeting. Tom Walters asked if they put making a video of the meeting, if he should put that into the grant. Tom Walters asked if 20 minutes would be enough. Alan Schreiber stated that

it would be enough time. Alan Schreiber mentioned maybe starting at 8:00 to give more time for a question and answer period. Alan Schreiber asked if there would be any interest on holding a blueberry pruning workshop. Alan Schreiber will be looking into this.

Steve Bybee made a motion to fund \$2,000 to the Blueberry meeting. Matt Maberry seconded it. Motion approve unanimously.

-Adoption of Research RFP

Bryan Sakuma asked if everyone received the RFP and the priorities. Bryan Sakuma asked to make a motion to accept the RFP and priorities.

Matt Maberry made a motion to accept the RFP. Steve Bybee seconded it. Motion accepted unanimously.

-NW Small Fruit 2009 meeting

Alan Schreiber stated that dates for this are the same dates as the Commission on Pesticide Registration so Alan Schreiber cannot go, but Brian Cieslar will be at that meeting. Alan Schreiber stated that once they adopt the RFP then Brian Cieslar will be teaming up with Derek Peacock from Oregon on research priorities to take to the meeting.

-Spotted Wing Drosophila

Alan Schreiber described that Spotted Wing Drosophila is a native of Asia. Alan Schreiber said that they found it to mid to late season in Oregon. He said one farm lost 20% of its production. Alan Schreiber stated that it is all over Oregon and it's all over the west side. Alan Schreiber said he knows it's in Skagit County. Alan Schreiber said it goes after ripe fruit, but nothing with bad spots on it. Alan Schreiber stated that he went ahead and wrote a letter regarding the Spotted Wing Drosophila. He said we do not know quite how to control it, but there are a lot of RFP's that will come in trying to contain it. Alan Schreiber stated that we have made it our number one priority in our research.

Adjournment at 2:13p.m.

Matt Maberry moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Bybee seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

