

POTATO RESEARCH PROGRAM BOARD MEETING
Minutes of the January 30, 2020 Board Meeting
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
Cocoa Suite 6
Hershey, PA

Public notice of the January 30, 2020 Pennsylvania Potato Research Program Board Meeting was given on January 21, 2020, as stipulated by the Sunshine Law.

CALL TO ORDER

Mark Troyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Board members in attendance (in addition to Mr. Troyer) included Nolan Masser -Vice Chairman; Jonathan Blass, Bryan Bender, Clair King, and Valery Robbins. Absent were Mark Farabaugh, Joseph Farabaugh, and Bryan Beck.

Also attending were Patrick Andrews, Board Liaison to the Department of Agriculture; Char Riley, Administrative Assistant, Commodities and Marketing; Lindsay Young, Accountant; Dr. Xinshun Qu and Michael Peck, Penn State; Bob Leiby and Nathan Tallman, Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers; Luis Duque, Dr. Fang (Rose) Zhu, Penn State; and Emily Weaver, Field Watch.

Keith Masser was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

Chair Troyer requested introductions from those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF JULY 11, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2020.01-APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Presented by: Jonathan Blass

Seconded by: Nolan Masser

Passed: Unanimously

To approve Minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lindsay Young, Senior Manager, McKonly and Asbury Accountants, referred Board members to the Potato Assessment Report through January 16, 2020, and the Balance Sheet through December 31, 2019, for further discussion. A Profit and Loss Statement from July through December of 2019 was compared to the prior year. It was noted the Budget had not yet been prepared.

RESOLUTION 2020.02-APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented by: Nolan Masser

Seconded by: Jonathan Blass

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Financial Report as presented.

ASSESSMENT COLLECTIONS/AUDIT REPORT

Lindsay Young included discussion of the Potato Assessment Report with the Financial Report.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Members were requested to have information for mileage reimbursement signed by Jonathan before submission for payment. It was noted the mileage rate for 2020 is 57 and 1/2 cents.

FARM VITALITY

Char Riley, on behalf of Morgan Sheffield, Grants Manager, stated Farm Vitality related to a new grant program and referred Board members to Ms. Sheffield with any questions regarding the matter. Ms. Sheffield's business card was provided. Mr. Andrews noted the RFP for the Farm Vitality Grant covers planning and further noted the application was available on the DCED single application for grants website.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

There was discussion with regard to three project proposals. There were approximately 192 potato varieties in different programs across the country, of which 23 varieties were red and purple skins and 27 were russets. Lehigh County had 36 varieties. Erie County had 40. It was noted that it would be difficult to provide chip data, and the labor situation (not enough people) would make it difficult to obtain that data. Members were asked to contact Mike Peck with any requests regarding the different varieties.

Dr. Fang (Rose) Zhu discussed her program's long-term goals including development of innovative techniques and strategies for pest management and species conservation. She outlined her research of the Colorado potato beetle.

Keith Masser entered the meeting via telephone at 7:53 a.m.

Dr. Zhu answered questions from Board members.

Dr. Luis Duque, Penn State, noted his past work experience included research with regard to sweet potato breeding and genetics at North Carolina State. He stated Dr. Qu and his crew were involved in a project which examined root growth and interaction with low phosphorous soil. Dr. Duque discussed his research goals, including more efficient root systems using less

phosphorous and nitrogen. Board members had questions and comments. Chair Troyer read into the record a list of suggested topics provided by potato growers as a result of a potato research survey.

Chair Troyer noted the Budget would be addressed at the July 2020 meeting. The Board discussed the proposals and the amount of grant money available for the research projects.

Emily Weaver, research technician, Penn State University, entered the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

RESOLUTION 2020.03-APPROVAL OF GRANT MONEY

Presented by: Bryan Bender

Seconded by: Clair King

Passed: Unanimously

To award \$40,000 in grant money to Mike Peck and Dr. Xinshun Qu, Penn State University, to fund their PA Regional Germplasm Evaluation Program.

There was discussion regarding the addition or deletion of names of growers on the list. Mr. Andrews noted that Board members would be sent the list of growers to review and comment on.

FIELD WATCH

Emily Weaver, Penn State Extension Education Program, in charge of implementing the Field Watch in Pennsylvania stated the the goal of Field Watch was to develop an online accurate and secure online mapping tool to promote awareness between producers of specialty crops, beekeepers, pesticide applicators, and drift issues. She distributed additional information regarding the website.

Bob Leiby exited the meeting at 8:46 a.m.

BOARD MEMBER TERM EXPIRATIONS

Clair King noted plans to retire. Gerald King and Ernie Mass were suggested as replacements.

Jonathan Blass, Nolan Masser, and Mark Troyer noted their interest in another term.

PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

Mr. Andrews referred Board members to information regarding Program Procedures for Auditing Services for discussion. He explained that grant proposals are received by publishing an RFP (Request for Proposals) or RFA (Request for Applications). Being an ACMA Board means this Board is not subject to procurement rules or laws but is required to develop its own procurement procedures. Mr. Andrews noted additional information regarding the matter would be sent to Board members and the matter voted on at the July 2020 meeting.

Mr. Andrews explained the Procurement Procedure for Auditing Services related to the yearly audit as required by ACMA and suggested contracting the same people to conduct the audit in the amount of \$1000.

RESOLUTION 2020.04-APPROVAL OF PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE FOR AUDITING SERVICES

Presented by: Nolan Masser

Seconded by: Clair King

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Procurement Procedure for Auditing Services at a cost of \$1,000.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 9, 2020.

FOR THE BOARD'S INFORMATION

In addition to the grower survey, Mr. Andrews suggested the Board come to a consensus regarding the specific priorities to be considered by the Board. Mr. Andrews commented that Dr. Qu may qualify for the part of the Farm Bill regarding the Pennsylvania Specialty Crop block grant. There was further discussion regarding the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION 2020.05- ADJOURNMENT

Presented by: Jonathan Blass

Seconded by: Valery Robbins

Passed: Unanimously

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Hyun Soo Lee

January 30, 2020