

**MINUTES
CALIFORNIA PEAR ADVISORY BOARD**

April 17, 2006
Williams, CA

The meeting of the California Pear Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman David Weiss at 9:30 am.

I. Roll Call – There was a quorum.

Members in attendance:

Russell van Loben Sels
Phil Scully
Larry Thornton
David Weiss

Broc Zoller
Matthew Hemly
Patrick Archibeque
Randy Ruddick

Members absent:

Tom Thomas
John Callis
Chris Frieders

Duncan Smith
Chiles Wilson

Other attendees:

Doug Hemly, Greene & Hemly
Paul Collins, CDFA
Rick Jensen, CDFA
Jerry Cordy, PCP
Michael Davis, CDFA –SPI
David Thiessen, Scully Packing
Mike Richards, Carter Thomas
John Miles, UCD
Jerry Cordy, PCP
Michael Davis, CDFA –SPI
Aaron Smith, Del Monte

Pat Scully, Scully Packing
Janyce Wong, CDFA
Rachel Elkins, UCCD, Lake Co
Lisa Pang, BCI
Bob McClain, CPAB

II. Approval of December 12, 2006 meeting minutes

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to approve the minutes, with corrections, of the December 12, 2006 meeting as presented. {06-12}

III. Major Amendment/Referendum

The results of the major amendment/referendum were presented. The amendment passed with 88.5% of those voting, voting in favor of the amendment representing 79.6% of the tons voting. In order to be official 40% of the ballots needed to be returned, for this vote 48.1% of the ballots were returned.

IV. Board Nominations and Elections

Chris Zanobini indicated that there are 2 seats open for the early district and 2 seats open in the late district. He informed the Board that nomination forms for board elections were sent out on April 4 and to date the following nominations have been received.

District 1 – Richard Elliot, Chiles Wilson, Chuck Baker, Daniel Wilson, Fred Wheeler, Duncan Smith and Jeff McCormack.

District 2 – Randy Ruddick, David Weiss, Diane Henderson, David Thiessen, Mike Hildreth, Tom Thomas and Shirley Campbell.

Mr. Zanobini indicated that all nominees would be contacted to determine their interest in running and that elections would be held in May. A motion to approve the list of nominees was requested.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the list of nominations. {06-13}

V. Research and Field Directors Report

Bob McClain reported on the recent activities of the research committee. The committee had a meeting on February 1, 2007 to review and recommend projects for funding in the 2007-08 year. There were many valuable projects presented to the committee for review and the committee recommended funding nine projects and a research budget of \$143,339.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to approve a research budget of \$143,339. {06-14}

Mr. McClain reported that the committee discussed the pomology specialist position, vacated by Steve Southwick two years ago. The committee had recommended to the board to jointly fund that position with support from other commodities. Pears commitment is \$30,000 over two years. There had been an agreement with UC Davis to fill this position, with industry support, but recently the Dean withdrew the agreement and the opportunity no longer is viable.

Mr. McClain reported on the situation with the Light Brown Apple Moth and the possible impact on exports to Mexico, the protocol for quarantines, and how a quarantine on pears would be handled. He stated that CPAB and BCI were following the issue closely and would report on the topic at the next meeting.

Mr. McClain reviewed and updated the board on current growing tools and recent activities in relation to Guthion. He also gave an update on the California Speciality Crops Coalition and their ongoing activities on our behalf.

The floor was turned over to Ms. Rachel Elkins, UCCE, Lake County, Ms Elkins presented a research proposal entitled, Use of Platforms for Orchard Operations Normally Performed from Ladders. This proposal will provide additional input and output information on the use of platforms for orchard activities. Given the timeliness of this

proposal in relation to current labor issues the board agreed that it should be funded this year.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to fund Rachel Elkins proposal, Use of Platforms for Orchard Operations Normally Performed from Ladders, for a total \$13,000. {06-15}

VI. Grade and Inspection

Mr. Zanobini started the discussion by asking SPI to give an update on their current situation in relation to reducing costs and the impact of tree fruit no longer having mandatory inspection and the impact of the Leafy Greens validations audits on the inspection service.

Mr. Jensen, SPI, indicated that they were successful in obtaining joint powers authority thus allowing them to reduce costs by 10 to 15% in the future which would result in significant cost savings in the future. This would not be in place for this year's season. He also indicated that since the tree fruit industry went to voluntary inspection that only 35% of the industry has requested their services. In addition the new leafy greens validation audits have impacted SPI and that there would be several changes in staff assignments in order to meet everyone's needs.

Mr. Davis, SPI, provide the board with a breakdown and projection of this season's current hourly inspection rate. This handout is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.

VII. Executive Director's Report

WAPA: Minutes from February meeting in Germany were provided in the board book. Mr. Zanobini reviewed the highlights of the meeting: discussion on international promotional efforts, Southern Hemisphere crop outlook and the impact of environmental regulations on future production.

Current activities in relation to food safety were presented and Mr. Zanobini indicated that a meeting of the Tree Fruit Food Safety Task Force would be held at the end of the month in Palm Springs. Bob McClain will be in attendance at the meeting.

Updated Budget: Mr. Zanobini outlined the budget 2006-07 as of Feb 28, 2006. As of February 28th, income was \$1,856,938 and expenses were \$1,512,957 with carryover \$599,055. He reported that the 2006 estimated income at \$2,248,643, estimated expenses at \$2,018,000, with a carryover of \$230,643.

VIII. Discussion on Labor Issues

Mr. Zanobini reported on the current status of immigration reform and activities by members of the industry on this effort.

He stressed the importance of grower participation on the March on the Capital on March 15 to make the labor and immigration situation a top issue with Congress. He indicated that Mr. Hemly was participating and that there is still time for additional growers to participate.

Mr. Bedwell also provided an update on HR 4437 which has to do with border security, and an update on Senator Feinstein's support for an Ag Jobs bill along with immigration reform. He stressed that the time is now for the Ag Industry to get together and push hard for a solution that Ag can work with. This requires letters, visits and calls to your members of congress.

Chairman Weiss thanked Mr. Bedwell for attending and presenting at the meeting and for the great work that California Grape and Tree Fruit League is doing on behalf of pears and other tree fruits.

IX. Domestic and Export Promotion

Mr. Zanobini reported on the results of the fresh promotion and trade committee meeting held on January 30, 2007 in Napa. The fresh domestic and export programs were presented and discussed in detail at that meeting. The committee unanimously recommended to the board to approve the Domestic Promotion program and budget of \$950,000 and the Export Promotion program and budget of \$325,000 with \$250,000 coming from the MAP program and the balance from industry funds.

It was moved by, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the recommendations of the promotion and trade committee. {06-16}

X. Other Business

NW Report – Prices and movement have been steady – It was noted that updated import reports were included in the board book and are available on the CPAB website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

I, Chris Zanobini do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the California Advisory Board meeting held on April 17, 2007.

Chris A Zanobini