



**RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2023
Time: 12pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:05pm by Committee Chairman Larry Whitted. The Commission’s mission statement was shared.

2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below. A **quorum** was established.

First Name	Last Name	Attended
Scott	Armolea	
Amy	Blagg	x
Kyle	Brown	x
Pieter	den Hartog	
Mike	Kluda	
Joe	Larranaga	x
Norm	Peters	
Art	Prudhel	x
Keith	Striegler	x
Joe	Valente	x
Larry	Whitted	x

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Stuart Spencer.

Guests present: Dawson Lewis (Starr & Storm Crop Solutions), Stanton Lange, Lisa Meline, Dr. Neil McRoberts, and Cameron Gurley (Trincherro).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/Prudhel made a motion to approve the April 11, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No “no” votes. No abstentions.

4. **Public comment:** none.

5. **Grower education programs.**

- **Review of recent initiatives and growing season**
- **Ideas for future initiatives**
 - 6/6 – CD11 Lodi IPM Network Breakfast Meeting. Talk about IPM in a wet year.
 - 6/20 – The Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance has invited Dr. Bolton to Paso Robles to moderate a Vit Tech seminar on viruses.
 - Fall 2023 – Ag Burning Outreach Meeting. The Committee reviewed a draft outline. LDGGA will help.
 - ASEV is June 26-29 in Napa.
 - LDGGA will host a Harvest Safety Seminar on July 27 (co-hosted by LWC).
 - Ideas for future meetings: climate change, rootstocks and drought tolerance, vineyard establishment workshop, beneficial insects, Axel Borg (UC V&E Librarian), grower/winemaker relationships, the grape market, field-in technology, ground squirrels (PERC), and a microscope series.

6. Grower communications.

- Grower e-Newsletter emails are sent up to a few times per month as needed, with an extensive calendar at the bottom.
- The lodigrowers.com website is updated frequently with educational events (under the Education heading, Local Opportunities page) and viticulture blogs are posted every Monday morning.
- Folks have been assembled to work on a Return on Investment worksheet for growers to help them think about a new vineyard planting. We are waiting on an estimate from an accounting firm.

7. Winegrape research in Crush District 11.

- **Research projects and focus group updates**
 - Scientists continue to contact the Lodi Winegrape Commission to collaborate on research projects in the areas of soil, water, sustainability, pests and diseases, rodent control, climate change, and more.
 - The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) recently awarded \$3.15 million in research grants, including \$428,111 to the Lodi Winegrape Commission, for a project titled “Canine detection of invasive vine mealybugs and leafroll virus in California vineyards.” Dr. Bolton serves as the principal investigator. The project team includes Dr. Neil McRoberts (University of California Davis), Lisa Finke (Canine Detection Services), and Dr. Maher Al Rwahnih (Foundation Plant Services). Dr. McRoberts, who initiated the idea, explained the concept behind the project and answered questions from the Committee.
 - The Rootstock Research Focus Group typically meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Velvet Grill. They will get a tour of the UC Oakville Experiment Station rootstock trials during ASEV with Dr. Tanner and Dr. Luis Diaz-Garcia.

8. Weather Network services. No updates.

9. The **FY2022-2023 Budget** and **Draft FY2023-2024 Budget Request** were reviewed. Committee member Joe Valente made a motion to approve the Draft FY2023-2024 Budget Request with an amendment (totaling \$182,200). Kyle Brown seconded the motion. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No “no” votes. No abstentions.

10. Reports from other Committees.

- Stuart Spencer announced that ballots were going in the mail today for the election of the Lodi Winegrape Commission Board of Commissioners.

11. **Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit):** none.

12. **Items for future agendas:** none.

13. The **next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2023 at noon.**

14. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie L. Bolton, PhD
Research & Education Director
Lodi Winegrape Commission