



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

Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Time: 12pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:04pm 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	X
Amy	Blagg	
Kyle	Brown	X
Kevin	den Hartog	X
Mike	Klouda	X
Joe	Larranaga	X
Norm	Peters	
Art	Prudhel	
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), Dr. Justin Tanner (UC Farm Advisor), Dr. Karen Block (UC Davis V&E), Cameron Heitz (Kautz Farms), Andres Coniberti (Uruguayan researcher).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/Streigler made a motion to approve the May 30, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No “no” votes. No abstentions.

4. **Public comment:** Karen Block explained the current status of the UCCE State Viticulture Extension Specialist – Winegrapes position at UC Oakville. Andres Coniberti described how he gets industry feedback on research priorities, his small-scale on-farm research trials, and the CREA grower-to-grower plus a neutral agronomist groups having great success in Uruguay.

5. **Grower education programs.**

- **Review of recent initiatives and growing season**
 - The 2023 vintage is running about 2-3 weeks late. Committee members discussed various pests and diseases and how they were looking this vintage.
 - Recent meetings discussed were: ASEV national conference, ASEV Climate Change Symposium, a Delta College viticulture program brainstorming session, and GiESCO.
 - 6/20 – The Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance invited Dr. Bolton to Paso Robles to moderate a Vit Tech seminar on viruses.

- **Ideas for future initiatives**

- 7/27 – LDGGA and LWC will host a Winegrape Harvest Safety Day in English and Spanish.
- 8/1 – no CD11 Lodi IPM Network Breakfast Meeting.
- 8/4 – LDGGA and CAWG are hosting a harvest readiness meeting in Lodi.
- 9/12 – The Commission is hosting a large Ag Burning Outreach Meeting, with support from the County Ag Commissioner’s office, LDGGA, and CAWG. The Committee reviewed a draft meeting outline.
- 8/8 – Parlier Grape Day.
- 11/16 – UC Davis Grape Day.
- 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.
- Stephanie Bolton is working on a DIY instruction sheet for how to sample grapes before a smoke exposure event, close to harvest. This sample would be stored in a freezer as a back-up risk protection if needed.
- Stephanie Bolton is working with CAWG on an open-air ag burning newsletter article.

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) awarded \$428,111 to the Lodi Winegrape Commission, for a project titled “Canine detection of invasive vine mealybugs and leafroll virus in California vineyards.” Stephanie 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). The team is currently waiting for the paperwork to go through the DPR to establish the grant so work may begin.
 - Mike Klouda shared that he is working with a University of Pacific scientist on a soil bacteria project.
 - Justin Tanner shared that his group was not awarded funding for a large-scale rootstock research project, but that they will revise the plan and try again. He also shared that he is continuing to study the trial at Kautz Farms.
 - The Rootstock Research Focus Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Velvet Grill. They had a great tour of the UC Oakville Experiment Station rootstock trials during ASEV with Justin Tanner, Maria Zumkeller, Karl Lund and Luis Diaz-Garcia.
 - An accounting firm is working on a Return on Investment worksheet for growers.
 - There is a need for a simple way to determine a “goldilocks deficit irrigation” amount of water to apply, especially before/during heat waves.
 - Stephanie Bolton shared ideas on how the Commission could best engage with scientists who want to study a viticulture-related topic.

8. **Weather Network services.** Dawson Lewis shared a growing degree date chart.

9. The **FY2022-2023 Budget** was reviewed.

10. **Reports from other Committees.**

- Stuart Spencer announced that we have two new LWC Board members, Pieter A. den Hartog and Hadyn Schatz. Pieter A. den Hartog will be switching to the LODI RULES Committee to gain more exposure to the Commission, with Kevin den Hartog joining the REC Committee. Stuart also gave a

general update on LWC marketing activities and the BID initiative. Keith Striegler mentioned that other states have had luck with redirecting a state excise tax.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie L. Bolton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

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