



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

Date: Tuesday, September 19, 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.
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below. A **quorum** was established. The Committee thanks exiting member Norm Peters for his great contributions and welcomes Dr. Justin Tanner as a new member.

First Name	Last Name	Attended
Scott	Armolea	X
Amy	Blagg	X
Kyle	Brown	
Kevin	den Hartog	
Mike	Kluda	
Joe	Larranaga	
Art	Prudhel	
Keith	Striegler	X
Justin	Tanner	X
Joe	Valente	X
Larry	Whitted	X

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton.

Guests present: Dawson Lewis (Starr & Storm Crop Solutions) and Cameron Heitz (Kautz Farms).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Striegler/Valente made a motion to approve the July 25, 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**
 - The 2023 vintage is running about 2-3 weeks late. Committee members discussed various pests and diseases and how they were looking this vintage, including summer rot.
 - Recent meetings discussed were: LDGGA/LWC Harvest Safety Seminar (7/27), LDGGA/CAWG Harvest Readiness Seminar (8/4), LWC Value-Added Winegrape Products brainstorming session with Liberty Ranch High School teachers (8/17), LWC Ag Burning Outreach Meeting (9/12), and curtain burner demos.
 - 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**
 - 10/3 – CD11 Lodi IPM Network Breakfast Meeting: Dr. Justin Tanner, rot management and Tegan Turner, Private Applicator review session.
 - 9/22 – Duarte Clonal Field Day, Georgetown.
 - 10/12 – Dr. Nathan Mercer (UC) is hosting a mealybug and ant field day in Lodi.

- 11/14-15 – Sustainable Ag Expo with Lodi grower networking social, San Luis Obispo. Use code LODI 23 for \$50 off.
- Ideas for future meetings: “A Journey Into Vine Health” (2024 series), crop rotation, 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.
- Dr. Stephanie Bolton completed a peer-reviewed 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.
- The extensive open-air ag burning handout from the recent meeting, along with additional resources, is available online under lodigrowers.com – Videos, Presentations & Handouts.

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). After waiting several months to begin due to DPR delays, the project officially kicked off on September 5 and we have five canines ready to be trained.
 - The Rootstock Research Focus Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Velvet Grill. Growers can contact Dr. Stephanie Bolton to participate in on-farm small rootstock trials.
 - 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.

8. **Weather Network services.** The frost forecasts will begin mid-October.

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

10. Reports from other Committees.

- The current list of Board Commissioners and Alternates, along with the Lodi Winegrape Commission Committees, was shared.

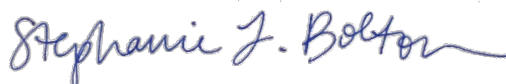
11. **Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit):** none.

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

13. The **next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2023 at noon.**

14. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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