



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

**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023  
**Time:** 12pm  
**Place:** Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:03pm by Dawson Lewis in the absence of Committee Chairman Larry Whitted.

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

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

*Staff present:* Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Stuart Spencer.

*Guests present:* Cameron Heitz (Kautz Farms), Stanton Lange (Lodi Grower) and Dr. Karen Block (UC Davis).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/Armolea made a motion to approve the September 19, 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**

- Committee members discussed the current grape/wine market and the new neonicotinoid restrictions to be implemented in California in 2024.
- Committee members reviewed the UC IPM Checklist for grapes that Dr. Tanner is working on with the UC Viticulture Working Group.
- The October and November monthly IPM meetings on rot and fruit flies were well-attended. 11/14-15 – Sustainable Ag Expo with Lodi grower networking social, San Luis Obispo.

- **Ideas for future initiatives**

- 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](http://lodigrowers.com) website is updated frequently with educational events (under the Education heading, Local Opportunities page) and viticulture blogs are posted every Monday morning.
- The extensive open-air ag burning handout from the recent meeting, along with additional resources, is available online under [lodigrowers.com](http://lodigrowers.com) – Videos, Presentations & Handouts.
- The Commission will draft a blog post on Dr. Justin Tanner's first year in Lodi as the Viticulture Farm Advisor.

**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), Dr. Maher Al Rwahnih (Foundation Plant Services) and five canines all named after grape varieties.
- 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 will be an in-person meeting about the worksheet on December 4 to test it out with individual 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.
- LDGGA is working with CAWG on a survey to determine how many acres of vineyards will be removed in the Lodi AVA.

**8. Weather Network services.** Mike Klouda reported that weather station calibrations were not fully completed this year due to staffing.

9. The **FY2023-2024 Budget** was reviewed.

**10. Reports from other Committees.**

- Stuart Spencer updated the Committee on marketing activities.


**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 January 30, 2024 at noon.**

**14. The meeting was adjourned** at 2:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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