



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

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024
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 Dawson Lewis. The Committee gratefully acknowledged the wonderful contributions made by outgoing Chairman Larry Whitted, who remains as a Committee Member.
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below. A **quorum** was established.

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

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Stuart Spencer.
Guests present: Cameron Heitz (Kautz Farms) and Tony Hoare (Australia).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Striegler/Valente made a motion to approve the November 28, 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.
 - Roundtable review of recent meetings, including the Viticulture X Games Extreme Weather Winegrowing session at Unified hosted by the Commission.
- **Ideas for future initiatives**
 - The agenda for the 72nd Annual Lodi Grape Day (February 6) was shared.
 - Committee members were invited to the Lodi Winegrape Commission Annual Meeting on February 7 and an Agriculture Industry & Education Mixer at Acquiesce Winery on February 21.

- 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.

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 was 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.

8. **Weather Network services.** Frost forecasts will begin in March.

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

10. **Reports from other Committees.**

- Stuart Spencer updated the Committee on marketing activities and the Business Improvement District project.

11. **Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit):** Tony Hoare, visiting from Australia, led a discussion on irrigation. Cameron Heitz informed the Committee about the Clean Truck Program.

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

13. The **next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2024 at noon.**

14. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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