



RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, November 4, 2024
Time: 12pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:08pm by Committee Chairman Dawson Lewis.
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	
Joe	Larranaga	
Dawson	Lewis	X
Keith	Striegler	
Justin	Tanner	X
Joe	Valente	X
Larry	Whitted	X

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Stuart Spencer.

Guests present: Cameron Heinitz (Kautz Farms) and Dr. Margaret Smither-Kopperl (Lockeford Plant Materials Center).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** den Hartog/Brown made a motion to approve the July 24, 2024 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 growing season. Many acres remain unpicked. The effects of the 2022 frost on the 2024 vintage varied, with some vineyards having double the yield of 2023 and some vineyards having a much lower yield – half to a third – than 2023.
- Roundtable review of recent meetings, including:
 - October 1 (canine detection for vine mealybugs and leafroll 3 virus presented by Dr. Stephanie Bolton) IPM meeting with the Ag Commissioner’s office doing a show and tell with one of their detection canines
 - October 16 Vineyard ROI Calculation Workshop
 - October 17-18 Old Vine Conference (Stuart presented a talk online about the next generation of vineyards in Lodi)
 - October 23 Lodi Virus Testing Day with Wonderful Laboratories, the Tree Assistance Program and Foundation Plant Services

- **Ideas for future outreach initiatives**

- Committee members were invited to:
 - November 5 IPM meeting (interactive Trunk Disease workshop with Dr. Akif Eskalen – please bring diseased vines)
 - November 5 Vineyard Removal Webinar sponsored by CAWG, the Lodi Winegrape Commission, LDGGA and Allied Grape Growers (Dr. Stephanie Bolton is speaking about the financial incentive programs, diseased vineyard removal best practices, tips and testing)
 - November 6 Great Valley Museum Private Tour at Modesto Junior College
 - November 6 Modesto Junior College Science Colloquium (Dr. Stephanie Bolton speaking on sustainable winegrowing)
 - November 7 Lodi Virus Testing Day with Agri-Analysis and Canine Detection Services (meet and greet with the canines from our DPR grant project and their handlers)
 - November 8 Lodi Wine Visitor Center Happy Hour with Peltier Winery
 - November 11-13 Sustainable Ag Expo (Lodi Grower bonfire networking event hosted by the Lodi Winegrape Commission and presentation on canine detection by Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Lisa Finke, with a canine meet and greet – discount code for Expo shared)
 - November 20 Lodi Virus Testing Day with AL&L Crop Solutions
 - November 21 Wild Farm Alliance Biodiversity Field Day (Dr. Stephanie Bolton speaking on sustainable winegrowing)
 - November 21 CAWG 50th Anniversary Dinner (Stuart Spencer and Dr. Stephanie Bolton pouring Lodi wines)
 - November 22 Private discussion with Dr. Julie Urban (Penn State) on spotted lanternfly and the Tree of Heaven
 - November 22 Lodi Wine Visitor Center Happy Hour with Acquiesce, Lorenza and Lucas Winery
 - December 3 IPM meeting (vineyard removal considerations with Dr. Stephanie Bolton)
 - December 5 Ag Commissioner’s grower meeting in Stockton (Larry Whitted is speaking on biocontrol)
 - December 11 Lodi Wine Collective Technical Tasting with LWC Board Member Todd Maley
 - December 17 Ag Commissioner’s grower meeting in Lodi
 - January 28 Unified Symposium session on Whole Farm Profitability moderated by Dr. Stephanie Bolton
- Ideas for future meetings: profitability, alternative crops, “A Journey Into Vine Health”, crop rotation and herbicides/plant back restrictions, 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), a microscope series, robotics, and permanent/full ground cover.

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.
- The cut-off date for USDA NRCS funds is November 15. Growers are encouraged to apply for the IPM practices code.

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 grant project goes until December 31, 2024.

- The Rootstock Research Focus Group typically 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.
- There is a need for a simple way to determine a “goldilocks deficit irrigation” amount of water to apply, especially before/during heat waves.
- The Commission conducted a blind virus ring test for the five commercial virus testing laboratories and found three of the five labs to be sufficiently accurate. This fall, we are hosting Lodi Virus Testing Days with those labs.

8. **Weather Network services.** Some of the weather stations received their needed calibrations.

9. The **FY2024-2025 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 6.**

14. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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