



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

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025
Time: 12:00pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 W Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:05pm by Committee Chairman Dawson Lewis. The Committee was reminded to send RSVPs to info@lodiwine.com (rather than replying to the meeting email).
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below. The Committee enjoyed **perfect Member attendance** and a **quorum** was established. Chairman Dawson Lewis was recognized by Stephanie Bolton for his outstanding contributions to the Lodi Virus Testing Days.

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
Keith	Striegler	X
Justin	Tanner	X
Joe	Valente	X

Staff present: Stephanie Bolton, Stuart Spencer and Katie Machado.
Guests present: Cameron Heintz (Kautz Farms), Karen Block (UC Davis V&E), and Alejandra Navarrete Stevens (Constellation Brands).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/den Hartog made a motion to approve the November 4, 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 are slated for removal or in limbo.
 - Roundtable review of recent meetings, including:
 - November 5 IPM meeting (interactive Trunk Disease workshop with Dr. Akif Eskalen). To be repeated annually.
 - November 5 Vineyard Removal Webinar sponsored by CAWG, the Lodi Winegrape Commission, LDGGA and Allied Grape Growers (Dr. Stephanie Bolton spoke 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 spoke on sustainable winegrowing)
 - November 7 Lodi Virus Testing Day with Agri-Analysis and Canine Detection Services (also a meet and greet with the canines from our DPR grant project and their handlers)
 - 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)
 - November 17-18 LWC Board Retreat to the Santa Cruz Mountains
 - November 20 Lodi Virus Testing Day with AL&L Crop Solutions
 - November 21 Wild Farm Alliance Biodiversity Field Day (Dr. Stephanie Bolton spoke on sustainable winegrowing)
 - November 21 CAWG 50th Anniversary Dinner (Stuart Spencer and Dr. Stephanie Bolton poured Lodi wines)
 - November 22 Small group discussion with Dr. Julie Urban (Penn State) on spotted lanternfly and the Tree of Heaven
 - December 3 IPM meeting (vineyard removal considerations)
 - December 5 Ag Commissioner's grower meeting in Stockton (Larry Whitted spoke on biocontrol)
 - January IPM Meeting on ChatGPT
 - Other Non-Commission meetings attended by Committee Members:
 - CAPCA Meeting at Modesto Junior College
 - Vitis Gen 3 Meeting
 - CAWG Meeting on FSMA
 - Drift Meeting
- **Ideas for future outreach initiatives**
 - Committee members were invited to:
 - Delta College Wine Course beginning January 16 with Fred Swan in the Lodi Wine Visitor Center
 - January 17 Orchard & Vineyard Removal Considerations Meeting, Stockton (Justin Tanner volunteered to bring LWC ag burning handouts for us)
 - January 22 LODI RULES Annual Meeting and Vision Workshop
 - January 28 Unified Symposium session on Whole Farm Profitability moderated by Dr. Stephanie Bolton
 - February 4 73rd Annual Lodi Grape Day (Justin Tanner selecting morning speakers and Stuart Spencer/Natalie Collins as the lunch keynote speakers)
 - February 12 LDGGA Annual Meeting (morning)
 - February 12 Lodi Winegrape Commission Annual Meeting (evening)
 - February 14-16 Lodi Wine & Chocolate
 - February 19 UC Vine Health Meeting in Davis
 - February 20 LDGGA Annual Dinner
 - February 28 Spray Safe Meeting
 - March 4 Lodi Farm Safety Day
 - March 5 UC Davis V&E On the Road in Stockton
 - April 16 UC No/Low Alcohol Wines Workshop
 - May 12 Anita Oberholster Celebration of Life in Davis
 - May 13 Irrigation Meeting in Stockton
 - 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.

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 officially ended on December 31 and we are working on the final reports and invoices now.
- 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.
- Justin Tanner updated the Committee on his mealybug insecticide trials with Bayer.
- Keith Striegler suggested we invite the new USDA scientists in Parlier working on grapes to Lodi.

8. Weather Network services. Mike Klouda shared that Hood Station is down.

9. The **FY2024-2025 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): Karen Block shared information on new positions at UC for a wine chemist, a sensory scientist (Hildegard) and a research (80)/extension (20) role at Oakville in Applied Viticulture.

12. Items for future agendas: none.

13. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 2:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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