



RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, March 18, 2025  
**Time:** 12:00pm  
**Place:** Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 W Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:02pm by Committee Chairman Dawson Lewis. The Committee was reminded to send RSVPs to [info@lodiwine.com](mailto:info@lodiwine.com) (rather than replying to the meeting email).
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below.

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

*Staff present:* Stephanie Bolton, Stuart Spencer and Katie Machado.  
*Guests present:* Cameron Heinitz (Kautz Farms), Karen Block (UC Davis V&E), Alejandra Navarrete Stevens (Constellation Brands), Katie Farnsworth (Cal Ag Science), Summaira Riaz (USDA), Ying Zhai (USDA), Hao Peng (USDA) and Lauren Jackson (Cal Poly Humboldt).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/Striegler made a motion to approve the January 16, 2025 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 and events, including:
      - Delta College Wine Course started on January 16 with Fred Swan in the Lodi Wine Visitor Center
      - January 22 LODI RULES Annual Meeting and Vision Workshop
      - January 28 Unified Symposium session on Whole Farm Profitability moderated by Stephanie Bolton
      - February 4 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lodi Grape Day
      - February 12 Lodi Winegrape Commission Annual Meeting
      - February 14-16 Lodi Wine & Chocolate
      - March 4 Lodi Farm Safety Day

- Other Non-Commission meetings attended by Committee Members:
  - January 17 Orchard & Vineyard Removal Considerations Meeting, Stockton
  - February 12 LDGGA Annual Meeting
  - February 28 Spray Safe Meeting
  - Water Forum
  - BEV NY
  - Clarksburg Grape Day
- **Ideas for future outreach initiatives**
  - Committee members were invited to:
    - April 1 CD11 LODI IPM Network Breakfast Meeting on top-grafting over a vineyard
    - April 16 UC No/Low Alcohol Wines Workshop
    - April 30 LDGGA Lodi Economic Forum
    - 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](http://lodigrowers.com) website is updated frequently with educational events (under the Education heading, Local Opportunities page). Stephanie Bolton manages our weekly viticulture blogs, which are often picked up by industry news outlets.

#### 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 canine detection grant project is getting a lot of publicity, including an article by Chris Cardoso of Wine Spectator magazine.
- 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. The Rootstock Group is collecting case studies of side by side fallowing differences.
- There is a need for a simple way to determine a “goldilocks deficit irrigation” amount of water to apply, especially before/during heat waves.
- Stephanie Bolton is part of the CDFA PD/GWSS Research Screening Committee, which will meet on April 8. The PD/GWSS referendum is coming in April as well.
- Lauren Jackson updated the Committee about her local barn owl research, which includes monitoring 160 boxes of which over 85% are occupied – a very high occupancy rate!
- USDA ARS Parlier scientists Summaira Riaz, Ying Zhai and Hao Peng learned about the REC Committee and shared their research updates. Dawson Lewis and Keith Striegler will take them on a viticulture tour of Lodi following today’s meeting.
- A USDA NRCS CSP deadline is coming up on April 1.

8. **Weather Network services.** Mike Klouda reported that the Hood Station is back online and the Spring frost forecasting has begun.

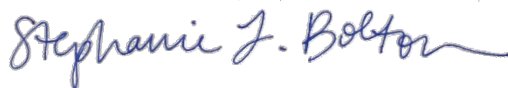
9. The **FY2024-2025 Budget** was reviewed.

#### 10. **Reports from other Committees.**

- Stuart Spencer updated the Committee on marketing activities and the Business Improvement District project.
- If growers want to apply for LODI RULES sustainable winegrowing certification, the time is now.

11. **Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit):** Karen Block shared updates on new positions at UC for a wine chemist, a sensory scientist (Hildegaard) and a research (80)/extension (20) role at Oakville in Applied Viticulture. Karen also shared that a new Viticulture & Enology minor was approved.
12. **Items for future agendas:** none.
13. The **next meeting is scheduled for May 5.** We may be able to meet at a groundwater recharge site - TBD.
14. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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