



RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Time: 12:00pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 W Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:11pm by Committee Chairman Dawson Lewis.
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below.

First Name	Last Name	Attended
Scott	Armolea	
Amy	Blagg	X
Kyle	Brown	
Kevin	den Hartog	X
Mike	Klouda	X
Joe	Larranaga	X
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), Katrina Swift and family (Nuffield Scholar from Australia), Emma Canepa (Starr & Storm Crop Solutions).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** den Hartog/Klouda made a motion to approve the May 5, 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. Members mentioned mites, budgets, abandoned vineyards, mildew, market conditions, and harvest timing predictions.
 - Roundtable review of recent meetings and events.
 - May 6 CD11 LODI IPM Network Breakfast Meeting: biocontrol of trunk disease, weeds, barn owls
 - May 9 Baby Barn Owl/Scientist Meet & Greet in Demo Vineyard
 - May 10 Historic Vineyard Society Tasting in SFO
 - May 12 Anita Oberholster Celebration of Life in Davis
 - May 13 Irrigation Meeting in Stockton
 - May 21 Gopher Trapping Workshop
 - June 3 CD11 LODI IPM Network Breakfast Meeting: tree of heaven, extreme weather events
 - ASEV Conference

- **Future outreach initiatives**

- Committee members were invited to:
 - July 17 Harvest Safety Seminar co-hosted with LDGGA (thanks Amy!)
 - August 5 CD11 LODI IPM Network Breakfast Meeting: abandoned vineyards
 - November 5 NGRA Grapevine Improvement Workshop
- Ideas for future meetings: profitability, alternative crops, "A Journey Into Vine Health", crop rotation and herbicides/plant back restrictions, rootstocks and drought tolerance, vineyard establishment workshop, beneficial insects, Axel Borg (UC V&E Librarian), grower/winemaker relationships, the grape market, field-in technology, 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 lodi growers.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.
- Stephanie Bolton is providing extensive consultation to farming families regarding vineyard removals to help them through the process emotionally, logistically, and financially.

7. Winegrape research in Crush District 11. Research projects and focus group updates:

- The Commission continues to develop close working relationships with skilled scientists, who collaborate with us on research projects in the areas of soil, water, sustainability, pests and diseases, rodent control, climate change, and more.
- 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.
- Lauren Jackson needs help identifying fields for her barn owl research.
- Maria Zumkeller has created an Arc GIS dashboard which works with the free iNaturalist app to track our local Tree of Heaven populations so we can monitor their presence, scout them for the spotted lanternfly, and monitor their destruction post-scouting.

8. Weather Network services. No updates to report.

9. The FY2025-26 Budget was reviewed.

10. Reports from other Committees.

- Stuart Spencer updated the Committee on marketing activities, the Business Improvement District project and the Land IQ acreage mapping project.

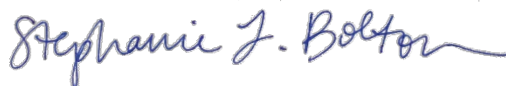
11. Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit): The Australian crew discussed ag tech with the Committee.

12. Items for future agendas: none.

13. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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