



RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024
Time: 12pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:03pm by Committee Chairman Dawson Lewis.
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below. A **quorum** was established.

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

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Stuart Spencer.

Guests present: Cameron Heitz (Kautz Farms), Cameron Crouch (Trinchero), Stanton Lange (Demo Vineyard Manager) and Andrew Watts (Lodi Grower).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/den Hartog made a motion to approve the May 8, 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. Larry Whitted reported two new weeds: water primrose and a red growth that looks like algae on water surfaces called Azola or mosquito fern.
- Roundtable review of recent meetings, including the June (bees and fava beans) and July (Tree of Heaven and Spotted Lanternfly) IPM meetings, and the July 10 Rootstock Focus Group meeting where Committee member Dr. Keith Striegler presented decades of rootstock trial research. Thanks to Keith for speaking and Mike for hosting.

- **Ideas for future initiatives**

- Committee members were invited to the Commission's July 10 Rootstock Focus Group meeting where Committee member Dr. Keith Striegler will present decades of rootstock trial research.
- Ideas for future meetings: "A Journey Into Vine Health" (2024 series), 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 lodi growers.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 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 Commission is working with an accounting firm to finalize a Return on Investment worksheet for 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.
- Dr. Justin Tanner is working with E. & J. Gallo and the Commission on a 0.6-acre ant bait trial in a commercial vineyard.
- 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 will host Lodi Virus Testing Days.
- We learned by asking that the CDFA is testing only 0.03% of the certified nursery increase block vines for leafroll 3 virus, as shown below. That amount of testing is grossly inadequate. Also from the CDFA: "The testing protocol was developed by UCD, we test 348 vines per Increase or Secondary Increase Block, regardless of the size of the block." Dr. Stephanie Bolton will lead a proposal project with Marc Fuchs, growers, nurseries, labs, FPS, and others to develop a better strategy for our industry.

Vines Tested	Total Vines	% Tested
3,068	10,324,963	0.0297

8. Weather Network services. No updates.

9. The **FY2023-2024 Budget** and **Draft FY2024-2025 Budget Request** were reviewed. Committee member Larry Whitted made a motion to approve the Draft FY2024-2025 Budget Request as presented. Scott Armolea seconded the motion. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No "no" votes. No abstentions.

10. Reports from other Committees.

- Stuart Spencer updated the Committee on marketing activities, the export market, and a winery-focused Instagram outreach meeting.

11. **Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit):** It was reported that the Oakville UCCE Specialist in Viticulture position was not chosen for funding in the last round of ANR appointments.
12. **Items for future agendas:** none.
13. The **next meeting is scheduled for September 25 and will be a special harvest lunch at Stephanie's home.**
14. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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