



RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026
Time: 8:00am
Place: 21280 N Kennefick Rd, Acampo CA 95220

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 8:10am by Committee Chairman Dawson Lewis.
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below.

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

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton.

Guests present: Marnie Martinez, Elizabeth Cardoa, Russ Smithyman and Jackie Harris (Gallo), Dr. Karen Block and Dr. Luis Diaz-Garcia (UC Davis), Lisa Meline (LWC Volunteer), Stanton Lange (Lodi Grower), Brandon Emery (Herrick Grapevines), Cameron Heinitz (Kautz Farms).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** den Hartog/Brown made a motion to approve the May 12, 2026 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**

- **REC Member Projects**

- **Keith Striegler:** Committee members observed Keith's REC member project, a showcase of rootstock trials at and near the Lodi Liberty block, where the performance of 18 commercially available rootstock selections are being tested with both Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay scions across different irrigation regimes. Keith began with an overview of the history of the Lodi Liberty block. We also observed a fanleaf tolerance/resistance trial, a Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard establishment trial, and a Cabernet Sauvignon plant material and timing project.
 - **Kyle Brown:** Tree of Heaven removal field day scheduled for October 6, with another joint REC Committee Meeting to make attendance easy for everyone.

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). Stephanie Bolton manages our monthly 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 meets on demand as they process five years of research. Growers can contact Dr. Stephanie Bolton to participate in on-farm small rootstock trials.
- Three grant projects submitted to PD/GWSS work in partnership with Lodi Winegrape Commission and growers.

8. Weather Network services. No updates.

9. The FY2025-26 Budget was reviewed.

10. Reports from other Committees: none.

11. Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit): Dr. Karen Block shared updates on the UCCE Enologist and UC Oakville viticulture positions.

12. Items for future agendas: none.

13. The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2026 at 8am at a TBD location.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38am.

Respectfully submitted,



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