

PEACH AND NECTARINE RESEARCH PROGRAM BOARD MEETING
Minutes of the February 3, 2021 Skype Board Meeting

Public notice of the February 3, 2021 Pennsylvania Peach and Nectarine Research Program Board Meeting was given as stipulated by the Sunshine Law.

CALL TO ORDER

Sheila Gantz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Board members in attendance included Norman Schultz, Vice Chair; Mike Kurek, Tad E. Kuntz, Wayne Hollabaugh; Dean Spencer; Jeremy Zeager; Tyler Fetters; and Henry Frecon.

Attending were Patrick Andrews, Chief of Market Development; Lindsay Young, Senior Manager, McKonly and Asbury, Sherri Voxakis, Holly Zarefoss; Char Riley, Department of Agriculture Liaison PDA and ACMA; and Laura England, Director, Bureau of Market Development.

Dr. James Schupp, PSU, was also in attendance.

John Howard, Esquire, Chief Counsel, was not present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2021.01 -APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Presented by: Henry Frecon

Seconded by: Norm Schultz

Passed: Unanimously.

To approve the July 8, 2020 meeting minutes.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Sheila Gantz announced this would be her last meeting.

RESOLUTION 2021.02 -APPROVAL OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Presented by: Henry Frecon

Seconded by:

Passed: Unanimously.

To nominate Norm Schultz for Chair and Tad E. Kuntz for Vice Chair.

Norm Schultz assumed the Chair. He thanked Sheila Gantz for serving as Chair. Ms. Gantz stated she would be retiring but remaining active in her business.

REVIEW FINANCIALS

Lindsay Young, Senior Manager, McKonly and Asbury, referred Board members to the P&N Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020, and the Profit and Loss as of July 2020 through December of 2020 for further discussion. Ms. Young will correct a typo with regard to the 2020 total assessments portion of the Profit and Loss statement.

RESOLUTION 2021.03 -APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented by: Henry Frecon

Seconded by: Tad E. Kuntz

Passed: Unanimously.

To approve the Financial Report with corrections noted.

ASSESSMENTS

Ms. Young referred to the P&N Assessment Report as of December 31, 2020, for further review of collections and audit payments for 2018 through 2020. She indicated the correct amount of assessments from 7/1 through 12/31/2020 was \$14,235.

Ms. Zarefoss noted two of the three delinquents for the 2020 marketing season have recently been paid, one for \$160 and the other \$704.

Mr. Frecon asked that his extra payment be applied toward next year. It was noted his check had already been voided before his email was received concerning the matter.

RESOLUTION 2021.04 -APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENTS REPORT

Presented by: Jeremy Zeager

Seconded by: Mike Kurek

Passed: Unanimously.

To approve the Assessments Report.

AUDIT - AGREED UPON PROCEDURES APPROVED

Ms. Riley noted that the Agreed Upon Procedures from Garcia, Garman and Shea needs to be approved by the Board.

RESOLUTION 2021.05 -APPROVAL OF AGREED UPON PROCEDURES

Presented by: Henry Frecon

Seconded by: Tad E. Kuntz

Passed: Unanimously.

To approve the Agreed Upon Procedures/Audit.

EFFECT OF TREE SPACING ON YIELD, GROWTH AND MINERAL NUTRITION OF A HIGH-DENSITY PEDESTRIAN PEACH ORCHARD

James Schupp, Ph.D., Professor of Pomology, Penn State University, presented before the Board for discussion of his proposal to seek funding to continue a project on a high-density pedestrian peach orchard, which analyzes the effect that tree spacing in the row has on the growth and performance of the trees. He stated, if the Board agrees to fund and support this project, he would withdraw his request for support from the SHAP Research Committee. Dr. Schupp answered questions from Board members.

Dr. Schupp discussed the Quad-V system, a high density system used for peaches starting in 2007, which he noted to be the most productive of systems producing more fruiting laterals per acre. He stated the Hex-V, which has six scaffolds, was equal or slightly better in terms of productivity, but it would be difficult to get six uniform scaffolds consistently across all trees that led to the Quad-V.

Dr. Schupp stated the new system he was seeking funding for was a Perpendicular-V that has a very simple tree support system, training limbs to be in a uniform plane across the row so that mechanical hedging and blossom thinning practices could be employed. Board members had questions.

Chair Schultz commented that the "pick your own" system had been thriving as people are interested in things to do during the pandemic. He suggested others give it a try.

Chair Schultz thanked Dr. Schupp for his presentation and noted the Board would have further discussion regarding the request. He asked to be notified in a timely manner of the Board's decision.

There was discussion regarding utilizing some unused research funds.

RESOLUTION 2021.06 -APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT REGARDING THE EFFECT OF TREE SPACING ON YIELD, GROWTH AND MINERAL NUTRITION OF A HIGH-DENSITY PEDESTRIAN PEACH ORCHARD

Presented by: Mike Kurek

Seconded by: Tad E. Kuntz

Passed: Unanimously.

To approve funding in the approximate amount of \$7,800 for Dr. James Schupp with regard to the above project.

REACHING OUT TO RESEARCHERS

Mr. Andrews asked the Board to consider and provide feedback regarding the use of orchard surveys to provide additional information on the Pennsylvania peach product. He also stated an RFP could be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for more researchers and was open to other suggestions to help draw more interest. There was further discussion regarding peach marketing trends, the Board's powers and duties relative to research programs, and funding opportunities.

Mr. Andrews was asked to reach out to Reese Hollabaugh, Chairman for the SHAP Research Committee, regarding project funding. Additional funding research possibilities were discussed. Mr. Andrews reminded Board members that Mr. Howard would need to provide definitive answers as there were some parameters defined in ACMA.

NEW BUSINESS

Members provided feedback regarding the use of orchard surveys. Mr. Kurek stated, he "doesn't have any more surveys on his desk." Mr. Zeager agreed with Mike and stated the numbers given on the surveys were "arbitrary." Depending on how surveys are worded and what information was requested would determine "how valuable the survey is." Mr. Andrews noted that industry surveys "would consist of as few questions as possible to get to the heart of the matter." A simplified survey was suggested. The matter would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Tyler Fetters noted he would be seeking reappointment to the Board. Ms. Gantz would needed to be replaced. Members were asked to reach out to other growers for appointments to the Board.

It was noted that as of January of 2019 the Board still had \$33,542 outstanding in invoices that had not been submitted by Rutgers, PSU. There was discussion with regard to granting an extension to Dr. Norman Lalancette, Rutgers University.

RESOLUTION 2021.07 - APPROVAL OF AN EXTENSION FOR DR. NORMAN LALANCETTE, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Presented by: Henry Frecon

Seconded by: Tad E. Kuntz

Passed: Unanimously.

To approve an extension for Dr. Lalancette regarding bacterial spot research.

ADJOURN

RESOLUTION 2021.08-ADJOURNMENT

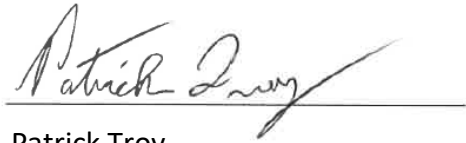
Presented by: Mike Kurek

Seconded by: Jeremy Zeager

Passed: Unanimously.

To adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick Troy", is written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Troy

February 3, 2021

