

California Walnut Board

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GRADES & STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 27, 2011

The California Walnut Board Grades & Standards Committee held a teleconference meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. Committee Chairperson Bill Carriere called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Ms. Dana Steindorf called the roll and established a quorum. The following Committee members participated via teleconference:

Bill Carriere, Chairperson
Steve Lindsay, Vice Chairperson
Frank Guerra
Sam Keiper (non-voting)
Gus Mariani
Pete Turner

Committee member Chuck Crain was absent. Also on the call were Duane Lindsay, CWC Technical Consultant, and CWB staff members Dana Steindorf and Carl Eidsath.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the last Grades & Standards Committee meeting held on September 8, 2011. Mr. Turner made motion to approve the minutes as mailed, Mr. Guerra seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chairperson Carriere asked Mr. Eidsath to present the next agenda item, proposed second PPO fumigation for FDA approval of PPO pasteurization. Mr. Eidsath explained that the FDA technical committee had some questions about the PPO fumigation and requested that we do a duplicate commercial fumigation. He stated that this request was not clear when we started the grant; the cost will be about \$16,000 to conduct the commercial fumigation of 27 samples of walnuts that have PT30, 27 samples of almonds with PT 30 and 27 surrogates each of walnuts and almonds for a total of 108 samples that Al Branch and Cliff Coles will need to grow for us. Prima Nocé Packing has agreed to allow us to use their PPO chamber to run the load of nine cases of samples. If everything goes as scheduled, the samples will be ready to transport to Prima Nocé in Linden on October 4th and will be fumigated on either that day or October 5th.

Mr. Eidsath stated that the duplicate testing should be the last one; if it follows the first testing with the 6+ log reduction and everything goes according to plan, we should be able to test the products after their five day out gassing. A revised report and request for validation of our PPO process for walnuts will be sent to FDA following the additional testing.

Mr. Guerra made a motion to approve the additional \$16,000 for the second PPO fumigation for FDA approval of PPO pasteurization. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chairperson Carriere moved on to the next agenda item, proposed addition of E. coli O157H:7 testing to second annual Salmonella State Wide Survey. Mr. Eidsath stated that this proposal would cost approximately \$37,500 in addition to what the Committee has already approved. It will be for a test of O157 on a duplicate sample that the Salmonella samples are being taken for; the testing for both cannot be conducted on the same sample. Mr. Eidsath explained that this is important based on what has been happening in the industry; it will show the regulators that we are pro-active.

Mr. Turner made a motion to approve \$37,500 to collect a second sample to test O157H:7 during the second annual Salmonella survey. Mr. Guerra seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chairperson Carriere moved on to the next agenda item, review and comment on Dr. Andrew Waterhouse's proposal to identify polyphenolic compounds in green and brown walnut hull material. Mr. Eidsath explained that Dr. Waterhouse is a chemist at U.C. Davis who wants to try to identify the mysterious compound in the green hulls of walnuts that Dr. Harris came across in their work with walnuts. The green hull extracts seem to be inhibitory and the brown hull helpful to the growth of pathogens. Mr. Eidsath stated that Dr. Waterhouse presented a proposal for \$11,964 to isolate the compounds in both green and brown walnut hulls and determine which could be inhibitory to pathogens.

After some discussion by the Committee, Mr. Steve Lindsay suggested that Dr. Waterhouse begin by looking at the Chandler variety first. Mr. Lindsay made a motion to approve Dr. Waterhouse's proposal in the amount of \$11,964 to identify polyphenolic compounds in green and brown walnut hull material in the Chandler variety. Mr. Mariani seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Under other business, Mr. Eidsath commented on the trials being conducted by Spencer Walse at USDA/ARS on propylene oxide/sulfuryl fluoride. This was originally envisioned to be a two-year project; Dr. Walse is anticipating that the second year will branch out into commercial application. Dr. Walse has not put in his proposal for the second year yet, so Mr. Eidsath has asked him to draw up a proposal for year two and present it to the Grades & Standards Committee at their next meeting for review. The cost is anticipated to be approximately \$32,000.

Also under other business, Mr. Lindsay brought up the blending and mixing of jumbo and large walnuts that has been discussed at previous meetings. He asked if a handler blends a certified lot of jumbo product with a certified lot of large product at a 51/49% ratio, would it be called Jumbo/Large and could it be labeled as such. Mr. Keiper stated that what the Board passed at their meeting on September 16, 2011, would require a 70% Jumbo in that mix. Mr. Lindsay thought that was just for the mixed lots – those that would be blended before certification. His question is about two lots that are certified prior to being blended together.

After much discussion about the issue, the Committee agreed that the blending of two certified lots should follow the same protocol as the lots that are certified after blending – meaning it would require at least 70% for the larger size in the mix.

The time and place of the next meeting will be determined by the Chairperson and staff. There was no need for Executive Session. Hearing no further business, Chairperson Carriere adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.