

California Walnut Board

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CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD

RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES September 12, 2011

The CWB Research Committee convened via teleconference on Monday, September 12, 2011. Jerry Moore called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Steindorf called the roll and a quorum was established. The following committee members were present via teleconference:

Jerry Moore, Chairperson
Bob Driver, Vice-Chairperson
David Keyawa
Bert Crane
Lynn Morgan
Bill Tos
Pete Turner

Also on the call were David Ramos, CWB Research Director; Steve Lindsay of Diamond Foods; and CWB staff members Dennis Balint and Dana Steindorf.

Mr. Balint explained that the reason for the meeting today is to revisit and approve the proposal and contracts that were approved for recommendation to the Board at the last Research Committee meeting on August 2, 2011. He stated that he received the okay from USDA/AMS for the Committee to go ahead and make the approvals for the spending in the upcoming crop year's budget (2011/2012).

Ms. Morgan asked why the consulting contracts the Committee is reviewing today are out of sync with the normal proposal review process. Mr. Balint stated that we are extending the contracts beyond the end of the last fiscal year which ended August 31, 2011. Dr. Ramos also commented that in the case of Bill Olson's contract, his services were terminated in March 2011, but because of the transition in the breeding program, Chuck Leslie asked if we could bring Bill Olson on board for two months (September and October 2011) to help with the sampling and data collection in the Chico area. Dr. Ramos explained that in the case of Wes Hackett, his consultancy was scheduled to be terminated as of the end of November 2011, but because of the transition of the clonal rootstock propagation work to John Preece, it has become necessary to extend his contract by four months (12/1/11 through 3/31/12).

Chairperson Moore stated that the first item for review and approval is the proposal from Dr. Abhaya Dandekar entitled "Crown gall resistant walnut rootstocks: analysis of the graft union for transmission of genetic biological materials." This proposal is for the contract period 10/1/11 through 9/30/12 with a total budget of \$60,404.

After some discussion about the merits of the project, Mr. Crane made a motion to approve Dr. Dandekar's project as presented. Mr. Driver seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Driver made a motion to approve Bill Olson's consultant contract for data collection for the breeding program during September and October 2011 in the amount of \$2,877.00 to come from the 2011/2012 budget. Mr. Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Ms. Morgan made a motion to approve Wes Hackett's consultant contract in clonal rootstock propagation for the period of 12/1/11 to 3/31/12 in the amount of \$5,000 to come from the 2011/2012 budget. Mr. Keyawa seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The time and place of the next meeting will be at the discretion of the Chairperson and staff. Dr. Ramos mentioned that the Walnut Research Conference in Bodega Bay will be held on January 25-27, 2012. An executive session was not necessary. Hearing no further business, Chairperson Moore adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.