

California Walnut Board

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CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2013
CWB Office / Teleconference
Folsom, CA

A teleconference meeting of the California Walnut Board was called to order by Board Chairperson Dr. Jerome Siebert at 1:02 p.m. on Monday, December 23, 2013. The roll was called by Ms. Dana Hull. Ms. Hull advised Chairperson Siebert that a quorum was present. The following members and alternates were on the call:

CWB Members:

Jerome Siebert
William Carriere
David Keyawa
Robert Driver
Jerry Moore
Donald Norene
Steve Zaffarano

Frank Guerra

CWB Alternates:

Lynn Morgan

Lisa Warner
William Tos
John Kuster
Steve Lindsay
Kevin Wagner
Bruce Beard

CWB members Jack Mariani and Mike Poindexter were absent, as were CWB alternates Matthew Conant, Michael Petz and Pete Turner. Also on the call were Andrea Ricci, USDA/AMS and staff members Dennis Balint, Anne McConico and Dana Hull.

Chairperson Siebert called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2013, California Walnut Board meeting (held jointly with the California Walnut Commission). Mr. Carriere made a motion to approve the minutes as mailed. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chairperson Siebert asked Mr. Balint to present the next agenda item, new acreage forecast system (to assist CASS) – Land I.Q. Mr. Balint stated that all members and alternates should have received a copy of the proposal from Land I.Q. He indicated that Land I.Q. is using remote sensing to measure and map acreage in the Central Valley. They can map not only bearing acreage but can identify younger non-bearing trees as well. Land I.Q. has applied for a block grant from the state of California; the Production Research Committee, at their last meeting, indicated their support the proposal, knowing that the Board would have to find a way to fund it.

Mr. Balint stated that the almond industry has committed about \$150,000 to the project, the pistachio industry will be offering around \$50,000 and the walnut industry is being asked to fund \$75,000. Mr. Balint believes that Land I.Q. can provide better acreage numbers, which could give us a better idea of yield per acre.

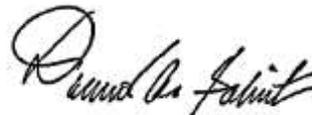
Mr. Balint stated that if the Board approves this proposal, the budget will increase by \$75,000, from \$10,166,860 to \$10,241,860 for 2013/2014. Mr. Driver commented that he was at the Research Committee meeting where Land I.Q. gave their presentation. He was impressed with Land I.Q.'s use of remote sensing to map individual orchards and strongly supports the project. Mr. Wagner asked if this would replace the report from CASS; Mr. Balint stated that Land I.Q.'s project is for acreage only, CASS will still conduct the annual objective forecast. Until we know how we will use the information that comes from the Land I.Q. survey, we will still have CASS conduct the acreage survey every two years.

The Board then discussed if the proposal amount should come from a committee budget or have its own line item on the CWB budget. The Board agreed that the Land I.Q. survey should have its own line item on the budget. Mr. Carriere made a motion to accept the \$75,000 proposal from Land I.Q. contingent upon the block grant and to have the item on a separate line on the a revised budget to be submitted to AMS; the new total budget will be \$10,241,860. Mr. Driver seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Balint reported on the next agenda item, brief update of grower outreach. He indicated that the CWB faces a continuation referendum in the spring; staff has been more active in grower outreach focusing on the "industry working together" through grower meetings, handler meetings, farm shows, and advertising and inserts in magazines.

There was no Executive/Closed Session necessary. Chairperson Siebert stated that the time and the place of the next meeting of the Board and Commission will be on February 21, 2014, at Silverado Resort in Napa, CA. Hearing no further business, Chairperson Siebert adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above is a full, true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on December 23, 2013 in Folsom, California, by the Board of the California Walnut Board.



2/7/14

Date

Dennis A. Balint, Executive Director