

## California Walnut Board

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## GRADES & STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**March 21, 2014**

The California Walnut Board Grades & Standards Committee met on Friday, March 21, 2014, via teleconference. Committee Chairperson Bill Carriere called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Dana Hull called the roll and established a quorum. The following Committee members were present via telephone:

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

Committee member Don Barton was absent. Others on the call were Jeremiah Szabo and Tom Jones of DFA; Andrea Ricci of USDA/AMS; and CWB staff members Carl Eidsath and Dana Hull.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the March 4, 2014, Grades & Standards meeting. Mr. Lindsay made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Guerra seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chairperson Carriere asked Mr. Eidsath to present the next agenda item, Review CWC draft letter to FDA's request for public comments on "Designation of High-Risk Food for Tracing: Request of Comments and for Scientific Data and Information." Mr. Eidsath stated that he had emailed the draft copy of the letter that he would like the Committee to review. He just heard that FDA has extended the deadline for comments to May 22nd. Mr. Eidsath wanted to stress two things in the letter – the lack of foodborne illness outbreaks in our industry and the prevalence work that we have conducted for four years which indicates a very low *Salmonella* prevalence rate (average .1% over the four years). FDA has verbalized their comfort level with the natural prevalence of *Salmonella* below .2%. However, Mr. Eidsath is not sure what FDA will do with that comfort level threshold.

Mr. Eidsath asked for the Committee's comments on the letter. Mr. Keiper asked that his quote on the final page under item 4 be removed. He thinks the data speaks for itself and his statement is not necessary. Mr. Eidsath asked Mr. Jones if DFA has any data on aflatoxin that can be used. Mr. Jones stated that they have some actual numbers data that he can

provide. Mr. Lindsay pointed out some paragraph formatting issues on page 3; Mr. Eidsath stated that he would clean up the formatting before the letter is finalized. Mr. Poindexter asked if we should include a statement that our prevalence level is half the FDA threshold. Mr. Eidsath stated that is something he could probably include.

The Committee agreed they are satisfied with the information included in the letter with the few changes mentioned today. Mr. Eidsath will send them a copy of the letter before the submission date of May 22<sup>nd</sup> for their final review.

The time and place of the next meeting will be determined by the Chairperson at a later date. There was no need for an Executive Session. Hearing no further business, Chairperson Carriere adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.