



CALIFORNIA WALNUT COMMISSION

101 Parkshore Drive, Suite 250

Folsom, CA 95630-4726

(916) 932-7070

Fax: (916) 932-7071

info@walnuts.org

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Issues Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 14, 2013

The California Walnut Commission Issues Management Committee met on Thursday, February 14, 2013, at the Silverado Resort in Napa, California. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jack Gilbert at 4:07 p.m. Ms. Steindorf called the roll and informed the Chair that a quorum was present. Committee members were present:

Jack Gilbert, Chairperson
Jack Mariani, Vice-Chairperson
Bob Lea

Committee members Bill Carriere and Jerry Siebert were absent. Also present were Commission Chairperson Norene; California Walnut Board Research Director, David Ramos; and CWC staff members Dennis Balint and Dana Steindorf.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the previous Issues Management Committee meeting held on June 11, 2010. Mr. Mariani made a motion to approve the minutes as mailed, Mr. Lea seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next order of business was the Annual Trip to Washington, D.C. Mr. Balint stated that the annual trip is scheduled for April 8-11, 2013. Ms. Steindorf has booked the four Committee members attending, Jack Gilbert, Jack Mariani, Bill Carriere and Bob Lea at the Georgetown Inn for the duration of the trip. Mr. Balint will provide the attendees with issues on the table and briefing documents as the dates get closer.

The next item on the agenda was Extension Service – How to Assure Continuity. Mr. Balint asked Dr. Ramos to discuss the on-going issue of loss of extension service personnel. Dr. Ramos began by stating that the Department of Ag & Natural Resources that oversees the Extension Service and the Farm Advisors has a new Vice President, Barbara Allen Diaz. He also commented that decisions at U.C. are being driven by money and that Dr. Allen Diaz has set up priorities that allow for industries to have a say in the process. Of the 230 open positions in the Extension Service, 59 positions have been given high priority; 19 of the positions will be filled immediately. Dr. Ramos stated that his number one priority was the position being vacated by Dr. Mike McKenry in Parlier; that position will be filled, however, others remain open including the one vacated by Carolyn Pickel and other key personnel. The most important positions that Dr. Ramos would like to see filled are the Bill Krueger seat in Butte/Tehama/Glenn and the one being vacated by Bob Beede in June. Also of a concern are the anticipated retirements of Rick Buchner and Joe Connell within two to three years.

Dr. Ramos stated that funding would get the replacements for Bob Beede and Joe Connell moved up to higher priority. The Almond Board is working on filling the Bill Krueger position; Dr. Allen Diaz would like to merge the Krueger and Olson positions. Dr. Ramos explained that the Almond Board will be approaching the CWB about a partnership to provide funds in order to get some positions filled. The cost for a Farm Advisor is \$140,000 for six years; \$70,000 for six years if we partner with the Almond Board. Year seven would be tenured and Ag & Natural Resources would then pick up the salary. The Committee discussed the feasibility of providing funding for a farm advisor position; they suggested that the CWB Production Research Committee make a recommendation to the Budget & Personnel Committee.

There being no other business, Chairperson Gilbert stated that the time and place of the next meeting will be left to the discretion of the chair. There was no need for a closed session. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.