



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington

WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Hampton Inn, Burlington

Feb. 10th, 2015

Chair Bryan Sakuma presiding.

Chair Sakuma called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Commissioners present: Rob Dhaliwal, Bryan Sakuma, Matt Maberry, Andy Enfield, and Leif Olsen, Brenton Roy, Margaret Tucker.

Administrative staff present: Alan Schreiber and Heather Stieglmeyer

Guests present: Eric Rosenberg, Matt Lance and Eric w/ NWF Credit Services.
Bo Slack Nathan Sakuma, Leighton Overson, Steve Midboe and Brad Felger

Approval of October 2014 Minutes

Bryan asked for approval of the meeting minutes.

Margaret Tucker made a motion to approve previous minutes. Rob Dhaliwal second it. Motion passed.

Financials

Treasurer's Report

Alan reviewed the quarterly financials explaining each line item and the expenses associated with each. Alan asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. Alan then explained the check number gap. This was due to checks being ordered starting from the incorrect number. Alan then went on to review the travel and meeting costs. Will be holding off paying everything else until this meeting and adoption of budget. Chairman Sakuma asked for a motion to approve the financials.

Alan explained the industry outreach funds increase from \$4,000 to \$8,000. This increase is needed due to the increased number of people in the industry.

Brenton Roy made the motion to approve the treasure's report. Leif Olson seconded it. Motion passed.

Assessment Collection

Alan discussed the assessment collections. He pointed out that there were two growers who have not paid 2014 assessments.

Alan then went over the Proposed 2015 and Historical Budget. Margaret Tucker asked how grant dollars are shown, should they be included somewhere to show other money coming into the WBC Chairman Sakuma- requested that we show where the SCB grant money exists.

New Business

Guest Matt Lance-Trade Policy- there was a meeting in Hobart Australia in December- a request to open Australia up to blueberries was submitted The West Coast may gain access before the East Coast.

Brenton Roy provided a brief overview of the China trip- 5 days and 19+ meetings with processors, users, dry goods markets and import markets.

A trip to India is slated for this fall or winter.

There is a unanimous consensus that more money and time should be put in to updating and maintaining the WBC website.

Margaret requested that meeting minutes be sent out in advance from the meetings. Chairman Sakuma- they should be sent out within 30 days of the last meeting.

2015 WBC Research Proposals- Alan/Leighton- went over all 27 proposals and their rankings. The rankings are based 10 voting members of the Research Committee

Rob Dhaliwal made a motion to approve Leighton Overson's research funding proposal as listed in the 2015 WBC Proposal sheet. (See work sheet.) Matt Maberry seconded. Motion passed.

Alan went over the 2015 WBC Budget Version 6.

Margaret- approval of money for Commission website updates. From \$700 to \$1700. Alan made the changes to the budget.

Chairman Sakuma asked for a motion to adopt 2015 Budget Version 7. Brenton Roy motioned and Rob Dhaliwal second. Motion passed.

A meeting was held on the subject of labor in Lynden recently. Rob Dhaliwal reported that labor interest groups are challenging the ruling on piece breaks in court. He would like to give \$1500 out of the contingency fund to support this effort.

The motion to give \$1,500 support to the effort to defend the current method of compensating piece rate pay was made by Brenton Roy. Matt Maberry second. Motion passed.

Other Business

Alan Schreiber wants to initiate a Berry Grower Association separate from the Commission so that the industry has a greater voice and can engage in activities that the Commission should not or chooses to not be involved with. This association would be independent of the Commission.

Adjournment

Chairman Sakuma asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjourned at 1:48 PM