



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington

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Teleconference

June 29, 2015

Chair Bryan Sakuma presiding.

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

Commissioners present: Bryan Sakuma, Matt Maberry, Andy Enfield, and Leif Olsen, Brenton Roy, Rebecca Weber, Margaret Tucker

Administrative staff present: Alan Schreiber and Heather Stiegelmeyer

Guests- Matt Lantz

Approval of previous minutes

Bryan asked for approval of the meeting minutes.

Andy Enfield moved to approve previous minutes. Leif Olson seconded. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Financials

Treasures 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 went on to review the travel and meeting costs. Chairman Sakuma asked for a motion to approve the financials.

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

Administrators Report

Matt Lantz discussed export expansion. Figuring out a way to get the Chinese government to move on the issues of pest risk assessment.

Alan Schreiber stated he is trying to get 20 growers to join the USHBC. We will be sending out the membership to encourage more participation.

Alan will be sending out the WSU Blueberry Enterprise Budget . We have not had a lot of people to review it, I will be sending it out to the board for their review.

Communication with the Press

Chairman Sakuma is concerned with the tone of the message being used to describe the 2015 crop. The phrase the biggest crop ever is being used.

Alan would like to hear feedback from the board. We do not want to put the wrong message out there.

Andy Enfield stated he is concerned with the use of record crop or best year ever in the media. Alan stated we will be careful about how we describe the 2016 crop.

New Business

Rebecca Weber discussed the plans for a trip to India that is slated for the last week of October . We will be visiting two cities, New Delhi and Mumbai. Alan Schreiber stated that the goal of this trip will be to meet with food processors to get them to work with the government to then work with us.

Brenton Roy asked if there is any likelihood of reducing the tariff. Alan Schreiber stated when we come back we will know more.

Other Business

Production Prediction

Alan asked the board if they are comfortable with 110,000,000 pounds.

Leif Olsen said it will be down 10% from predicted.

Brenton Roy stated it is too early, but Leif's assessment is accurate, that we will be down 10%.

Chairman Sakuma said fruit looks smaller, yields down from prediction but still too early to tell.

Any Enfield said it is still too early but the fruit looks smaller.

Alan asked if we should leave it at 110 million pounds or drop is 105 million pounds?

Brenton Roy said drop it to 105 million pounds.

Alan agreed to drop it 105,000,000 million pounds.

Open Board Position

Matt Maberry's position is still open. We are still looking for a replacement, geographically from anywhere.

Chairman Sakuma stated he would like to defer this topic until next meeting.

Brenton Roy suggested someone from Rainier Fruit.

Adjournment

Chairman Sakuma asked for a motion to adjourn.

Andy Enfield made the motion. Leif Olson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM. Motion passed unanimously.