



**RESEARCH, EDUCATION, & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2020**

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Time: 1pm
Location: Online

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm by Committee Chairman Larry Whitted. The Commission’s mission statement was shared.
2. Those in attendance are indicated below. A quorum was established.

First Name	Last Name	Attended
Scott	Armolea	x
Amy	Blagg	
Kyle	Brown	x
Ben	Duesterhaus	x
Brad	Goehring	x
Keith	Striegler	x
Mike	Klouda	x
Joe	Valente	x
Ed	Van Diemen	
Larry	Whitted	x
Pieter	den Hartog	x
Chris	Storm	x

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Stuart Spencer.

Guests present: Dr. Karen Block (UC Davis V&E), Stanton Lange (Grower and Demo Vineyard Manager), and Garret Schaefer (LWC Board & Marketing Committee).

3. Consideration of Previous Minutes. Storm/Armolea made a motion to approve the April 28, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No “no” votes. No abstentions.
4. No public comment.
5. Viticulture Research Specialist position. The Committee continued a discussion of the possibility of a new Lodi Winegrape Commission staff member to help plan, conduct, analyze, and communicate the results of on-farm vineyard trials around topics of importance to Lodi growers (such as rootstock selection).
 - Committee members reviewed a draft job description for the potential position, which included the goals of the position and a vision for expanding the Commission’s viticulture research program.
 - The potential position was thoroughly discussed. The comments are summarized below:
 - The funding would come from a combination of program management and REC

- With the Commission's infrastructure and our region's acreage, willing farmers, viticultural expertise and diversity, a good deal of statistically significant, relevant knowledge could be gained and quickly transferred to growers
- This position could provide a lot of value to Lodi growers – it's a good initiative for the Commission to take
- Rootstock research may be the best subject to begin with, since the new hire would have the support of the new Rootstock Focus Group, and rootstock trials are relatively easy to get going – plus they could provide a lot of universally relevant information over time
- There is some concern that hiring this position could risk the possibility of the state funding a UC Viticulture Farm Advisor for Lodi
- The logistics and salary of such a position were reviewed
- The timing of adding the position may be a concern with grape market prices being low and the Commission referendum coming up in FY2020-21 – waiting one year may be better
- It may be best to reopen this discussion in January 2021 when we have a clearer idea of funding for the year
- Strong viticulture research programs (like the mealybugs and viruses) help market Lodi grapes, so this position could also bolster our reputation in the industry
- The cost of such a position is much cheaper than hiring out research to scientists at universities with substantial overhead (as proven in the past)
- The Lodi growers have a real need for help creating statistically significant vineyard research trials
- The emphasis on viticulture research will help show the value of the Commission
- This position could help the REC Committee/growers get more value out of our small research budget
- Chairman Larry Whitted summarized the sentiments of absent LWC Board Member Bruce Fry, who shared his thoughts via email
- Storm/Klouda made a motion to ask the full LWC Board to fund a Viticulture Research position as drafted in the job description document. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee Members present. 8 "yes" votes. 2 "no" votes. No abstentions.

6. Public comment on items not appearing on the Agenda (2 min limit): none.

7. Items for future Agendas: none – back to typical Agenda for next meeting.

8. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23rd.

17. Valente/Striegler made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie L. Bolton, PhD
 Research, Education, & Communications Director
 Lodi Winegrape Commission