



**RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Time: 12pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:03pm by Committee Chairman Larry Whitted. The Commission’s mission statement was shared along with a thank you to exiting member Brad Goehring for his service to the Committee.

2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below. A **quorum** was established.

First Name	Last Name	Attended
Scott	Armolea	x
Amy	Blagg	x
Kyle	Brown	
Pieter	den Hartog	
Ben	Duesterhaus	
Mike	Kluda	
Joe	Larranaga	x
Keith	Striegler	x
Joe	Valente	x
Larry	Whitted	x

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton and Stuart Spencer.

Guests present: Lisa Meline (Viticulture Student Volunteer), Stanton Lange, and Dr. Karen Block (UC Davis V&E).

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Armolea/Valente made a motion to approve the April 19, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No “no” votes. No abstentions (Exhibit A).

4. **Public comment:** none.

5. **Grower education programs.**

- **Review of recent initiatives**

- 4/22 – Frost event meeting in Thornton
- 4/23 – Tokay High School Science Festival Table (thanks Lisa!)
- 4/27 – mini GUSS demo (thanks Keith!)
- 4/30 – National Plant Diagnostician Conference tour
- 5/3 – IPM Network meeting with Dr. Mary Wildermuth (RNA interference)
- 5/11 – Bringing the Vineyard into the Tasting Room educational happy hour
- 5/17 – Winegrape Quality from the Vineyard to the Bottle
- 5/19 – Farmer’s Market Ag Night (thanks Joe and Amy!)
- 6/7 – IPM Network meeting with Suterra (vine mealybug monitoring)
- 6/9 – Fresno State Virus Symposium

- **Ideas for future initiatives**

- This year's Lodi Grape Harvest Safety Seminar co-hosted with LDGGA is scheduled for July 19 at the Grape Festival Grounds.
- The next monthly IPM Network Breakfast Meeting will be on August 2 with Dr. Matt Johnson of Cal Poly Humboldt speaking about barn owls, birds and bats.
- The Committee will continue a mechanization series hosted with Committee Member Dr. Keith Striegler (Gallo) in 2022, which should include a curtain burner, mechanical suckering, a New Holland optical sorter, TED, robots, a Pellenc harvester with a sorter, and more.
- Ideas for future meetings: climate change, rootstocks and drought tolerance, mites, Axel Borg (UC V&E Librarian), grower/winemaker relationships, the grape market, Vitidoor, field-in technology, microscope series, weed management.

6. Grower communications.

- Grower e-Newsletter emails are sent a few times per month as needed, with an extensive calendar at the bottom.
- The lodigrowers.com website is updated frequently with educational events (under the Education heading, Local Opportunities page) and viticulture blogs are posted every Monday morning.

7. Winegrape research in Crush District 11.

- **Research projects and focus group updates**
 - Scientists continue to contact the Lodi Winegrape Commission to collaborate on research projects in the areas of soil, water, sustainability, pests and diseases, rodent control, climate change, and more. Several AVF-funded projects have a connection to Lodi viticulture this funding cycle.
- **Viticulture Research Specialist**
 - The search continues.

8. Weather Network services. We need to check the accuracy of the powdery mildew model – Dr. Bolton will follow up with Scott Armolea and Western Weather.

9. Demo Vineyard. We are grateful that Stanton Lange continues to manage the vineyard.

10. University of California.

- UC released funding for the Northern San Joaquin Co. Viticulture Farm Advisor Position in mid-October. Dr. Bolton is serving on the search committee. The first round of interviews did not result in a job offer. A second search was opened with applications due July 1.
- Dr. Andy Walker's replacement at UC Davis is Dr. Luis Diaz-Garcia.

11. The FY2021-2022 Budget was reviewed along with a **draft FY2022-2023 Budget Request.**

Striegler/Valente made a motion to approve the draft budget request as presented with the correction of an Excel addition error caught by Kevin den Hartog. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No "no" votes. No abstentions.

12. Reports from other Committees.

- Stuart Spencer discussed marketing activities, which included several tours and visits from and with trade this Spring. The Commission plans to expand wine export market activities.
- The proposed Fourth Edition LODI RULES Standards were released this morning for review by the winegrowing community through August 15, 2022.

13. Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit): Dr. Karen Block shared that UC will have a list of smoke testing labs available and that she received funding from the American Vineyard Foundation for an outreach program in Lodi next year. Amy Blagg invited Committee members to sign up for the blood drive in memory of Kris Guitierrez.

14. **Items for future agendas:** none.
15. The **next meeting is scheduled for August 3.**
16. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie L. Bolton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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



RESEARCH, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022
Time: 12pm
Place: Lodi Winegrape Commission, 2545 West Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242

1. The **meeting was called to order** at 12:05pm 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	x
Kyle	Brown	x
Pieter	den Hartog	x
Ben	Duesterhaus	x
Brad	Goehring	
Mike	Klouda	x
Joe	Larranaga	x
Keith	Striegler	
Joe	Valente	x
Larry	Whitted	x

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton.

Guests present: Lisa Meline (Viticulture Student Volunteer), Stanton Lange, Dave Langone (Nestor), Dr. Karen Block (UC Davis V&E), and Craig and Josh Thompson.

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/Brown made a motion to approve the February 8, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No "no" votes. No abstentions.
4. **Public comment:** Lisa Meline brought red and white wines produced by the Folsom Lake College group for everyone to try.
5. **Grower education programs.**
 - **Review of recent initiatives**
 - The Commission hosted a media training for the winegrowing community in March.
 - Lodi Farm Safety Day was on March 1 and attendance was notably down.
 - The Modern Farmer Series' Grower Sales Workshop with Dale Carnegie was on March 22.
 - The Grapevine Virus Influencer Dinner (4/6) and Mealybug & Virus Outreach Meeting (4/7) were a huge success, with over 200 people in attendance.
 - Dr. Bolton gave a presentation on "The importance of environmental stewardship, carbon sequestration, energy efficiency & the business benefits of sustainability" to the German version of ASEV on April 11.
 - ASEV/NGRA hosted a great precision ag demo day in Salinas on April 13.

- **Ideas for future initiatives**

- We're hosting a frost gathering in Thornton on Friday, April 22 in a field owned by Frank Olagary.
- There are two upcoming LODI RULES Sustainable Vision Workshops: 4/20 and 4/28.
- Dr. Bolton will have a booth on sustainable winegrowing at the local Science Festival at Tokay on Saturday, April 23.
- On Saturday, April 30, Dr. Bolton and Colton Machado are hosting a group of plant diagnosticians from across America to learn about the sudden vine collapse and canine detection with Dr. Neil McRoberts.
- The next monthly IPM Network Breakfast Meeting will be on May 3 with Dr. Mary Wildermuth of UC Berkeley speaking about RNA interference technology for powdery mildew prevention.
- On May 11, we'll host our second educational happy hour to connect tasting room staff/wineries and growers – "Bringing the vineyard into the tasting room."
- On June 7, the IPM meeting will have Suterra present and we will cover mealybug ID – growers can bring the free traps they got at the April 7th meeting in to see if there are any male vine mealybugs on them.
- On June 9, Dr. Bolton is speaking at the Fresno State Virus Symposium.
- Harvest Safety with LDGGA is scheduled for July 19.
- We plan to host an ag burning meeting (with equipment) once the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District provides more pertinent information needed for Lodi growers.
- The Committee will continue a mechanization series hosted with Committee Member Dr. Keith Striegler (Gallo) in 2022, which should include a curtain burner, mechanical suckering, a New Holland optical sorter, a mini GUSS (scheduled for 4/27), and more.
- Ideas for future meetings: climate change, rootstocks and drought tolerance, mites, Axel Borg (UC V&E Librarian), grower/winemaker relationships, inflation, the grape market, Vitidoor, field-in technology, microscope series.

6. **Grower communications.**

- Grower e-Newsletter emails are sent a few times per month as needed, with an extensive calendar at the bottom.
- The lodigrowers.com website is updated frequently with educational events (under the Education heading, Local Opportunities page) and viticulture blogs are posted every Monday morning.
- Dr. Bolton is working with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and Ag Commissioner Tim Pelican on a grower-friendly article with some answers and information about the upcoming ag burning changes and rules.
- The Committee saw a preview of the In the Vineyard: Sheep newsletter.

7. **Winegrape research in Crush District 11.**

- **Research projects and focus group updates**

- Dr. Kent Daane and collaborators are making progress on the BIFS grant with vine mealybug pheromone mating disruption application. He and Dr. Bolton were asked to create a pheromone mating disruption handbook to aid in NRCS EQIP approval/use of mating disruption as a conservation practice.
- The Grapevine Rootstock Research Focus Group continues to meet regularly with Committee Members Chris Storm, Kyle Brown, and Dr. Keith Striegler, Student Volunteer Lisa Meline, Stanton Lange, and Dr. Bolton present, among others. In February, focus group members went on a tour to observe rootstock blocks getting harvested at Duarte.
- Stanton Lange is planting Sauvignon blanc on GRN1 in his O39-16 block at the end of May.

- **Viticulture Research Specialist**

- The search continues.

8. **Weather Network services.** Mitchell Gander of Winters Farming expressed interest in a weather station cost-share.

9. **Demo Vineyard.** We are grateful that Stanton Lange continues to manage the vineyard sustainably and make improvements. Stanton, Lisa, and Kyle will prune the vineyard this week.

10. **University of California.**

- UC released funding for the Northern San Joaquin Co. Viticulture Farm Advisor Position in mid-October. The position was advertised in November and Dr. Bolton is serving on the search committee. The first round of applications were reviewed on January 28 and interviews are in progress.
- Revised 2021 UC vineyard cost studies prepared by Jeremy Murdock are posted to the UC site.
- There will be a retirement seminar for Andy Walker on May 19.

11. The **FY2020-2021 Budget** through December 2021 (Exhibit A) was reviewed.

12. **Reports from other Committees.**

- The Commission is hosting a group of eager Somms from across the country this week.
- Lodi rose is June 11-12.
- Board nominations are open.

13. **Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit):** Lisa Meline asked to use the Demo Vineyard in June for a class, which we are pleased to have her do.

14. **Items for future agendas:** FY2022-23 Budget.

15. The **next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June.**

16. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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