



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

Date: Wednesday, December 21, 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.
2. Those in **attendance** are indicated below. A **quorum** was established.

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

Staff present: Dr. Stephanie Bolton, Stuart Spencer, and Will Kerner.
Guests present: Lisa Meline (Viticulture Student Volunteer), Stanton Lange, Dawson Lewis (Starr & Storm Crop Solutions), Donnell Brown (National Grape Research Alliance President), and Mark McLoughlin (CDFA). Kevin den Hartog attended on behalf of Pieter.

3. **Consideration of previous minutes.** Valente/Peters made a motion to approve the October 19, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No “no” votes. No abstentions.
4. **Public comment:** none.

5. **Grower education programs.**
 - **Review of recent initiatives**
 - 11/1 – IPM Network Breakfast Meeting with Dr. Justin Tanner, who spoke about canopy management.
 - 11/3 – LDGGA Water Forum.
 - 11/7 – Roger Boulton Seminar at UC Davis.
 - 11/11-13 – Sustainable Ag Expo hosted by The Vineyard Team. Dr. Bolton spoke about mealybugs and viruses and assembled a panel of Lodi growers for the event. The Commission also hosted a networking event on Tuesday night of the conference.
 - 11/18 – Dr. Bolton virtually spoke to about 200 growers about sustainable viticulture at a Grupo Penaflo event in Argentina.
 - 11/30 – FoamStream demo with CAFF at Alicia Lewis-Rikkonen’s vineyard.

- 12/1 – “30 Years of Rootstock Research: Liberty Vineyard” event co-hosted by the Lodi Winegrape Commission and E. & J. Gallo, plus dinner the night before with some of the speakers.
- 12/8 – CAWG and Wine Institute’s Healthy Soils Tour at Bogle Vineyards with legislators.
- 12/16 – LDGGA Employment Law.

- **Ideas for future initiatives**

- 1/3 – Monthly IPM Network Breakfast Meeting: Tia Russell, Duarte Nursery, will speak about Clean Plant Material.
- 1/14 – Joe Valente needs volunteer judges for the Tokay FFA pruning contest at Kautz Farms.
- 1/17 – LODI RULES Year-End Recap Event, in-person.
- 1/18 – Lodi Winegrape Commission Annual Meeting at Hutchins Street Square.
- 1/19 – LODI RULES Year-End Recap Event, virtual.
- 1/24-26 – Unified Wine & Grape Symposium. The Commission will be at Booth #615.
- 1/26-28 – ZAP in San Francisco.
- 2/3-4 – Lodi Wine & Chocolate.
- 2/7 – Lodi Grape Day.
- 2/23 – Weed Management Field Day with Gallo. We need a vineyard host. Scott Armolea mentioned the importance of treating marestail and fleabane differently even though they are the same species.
- 3/7 – Lodi Farm Safety Day.
- 3/9 – Dr. Karen Block is planning a UC Davis On the Road event in Lodi. Potential speakers include: Drs. Beth Forrestel, Megan Bartlett, Mason Earles, Luis Diaz Garcia, and Anita Oberholster.
- April 2023 – The Vineyard Team has invited us to Paso Robles for a Mealybug & Virus Tailgate Talk.
- 5/19-20 – A new version of ZinFest.
- The Committee continues a mechanization series hosted with Dr. Keith Striegler as equipment is available.
- Potential IPM Meeting speaker/topic: Hanna Kahl (Community Alliance of Family Farmers, CAFF) and spider mites.
- Ideas for future meetings: climate change, rootstocks and drought tolerance, vineyard establishment workshop, beneficial insects, Axel Borg (UC V&E Librarian), grower/winemaker relationships, the grape market, Vitidoor, field-in technology, ag burning alternatives, ground squirrels (PERC), and a microscope series.

6. Grower communications.

- Grower e-Newsletter emails are sent up to 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.
- Folks have been assembled to work on a Return on Investment worksheet for growers to help them think about a new vineyard planting.
- Stan Grant’s proposal to produce a soil analysis in vineyards publication was accepted by the Committee.
 - Valente/Brown made a motion to approve Stan’s proposal to produce a soil analysis for vineyards guide. The motion was carried on a vote of Committee members present. No “no” votes. No abstentions.
- We are going to upload a PDF of the red virus book and the second edition of the Lodi Winegrower’s Workbook on lodigrowers.com.

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.
 - Drs. Cristina Lazcano and Noely Gonzales – soil health project
 - Letters of support
 - The Rootstock Research Focus Group met in late November and will continue meeting on the second Thursday of the month at Avenue Grill. The next meeting is on January 12 at 7:30am.

- Stuart Spencer shared that Dr. Bolton was selected as a 2023 Nuffield International Agriculture Scholar. She will conduct a research project called “Establishment of an international sustainable viticulture learning network, headquartered in Lodi, California.”
- UC Northern San Joaquin Viticulture Farm Advisor
 - Dr. Justin Tanner was hired and will begin on January 3, 2023. He has already begun engagement with our growers and preparing for Lodi Grape Day.

8. Weather Network services.

9. The **FY2022-2023 Budget** was reviewed.

10. Reports from other Committees.

- Stuart Spencer discussed marketing activities.
- The Fourth Edition LODI RULES Standards will be released soon and available at the annual Year-End Recap Events in January.
- Stuart and Dr. Bolton continue to partner with education groups to connect students with careers in our industry by creating pathways.

11. Public comment on items not appearing on the agenda (2 min limit).

- The California Spotted Lanternfly prevention strategy was explained by Mark McLoughlin, who also agreed to have someone from the CDFA speak on this topic for Lodi Grape Day.
- Lisa Meline thanked the Commission and Stanton Lange for the donation of winegrapes from the Demo Vineyard, which the winemaking class made into wine and bottled on December 12. The Commission thanked Lisa for using the grapes.
- Stanton Lange put up a new barn owl box for us in the Demo Vineyard.

12. **Items for future agendas:** none.

13. The **next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2023 at noon.**

14. The **meeting was adjourned** at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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