

MINUTES
STONE FRUIT RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE
February 11, 2010
Parlier, California

Chairman Bill Chandler called the meeting of the Stone Fruit Research Subcommittee to order on February 11, 2010, at 9:10 a.m. in the Walnut Room at the Kearney Agricultural Center in Parlier, California. The Chairman indicated a quorum was not present, but several were expected to arrive in the next few minutes.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Christeen Abbott	Rod Milton	Michael Reimer
Bill Chandler	Ty Parkinson	Wayne Stogbauer
		Bill Tos

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Maria Barbis (A)	Alan Butterfield	Eric Gaarde (A)
Joe Bezerra	Ryan Metzler	Rod Riffel
		Eric Wuhl

Government Representatives Present:

None

Others Present:

Dr. Scott Johnson
Gary Van Sickle

The Chairman noted the approval of the January 26, 2010, meeting minutes would be delayed, and the group would move immediately into the proposal review.

Proposal Review

The Chairman explained that Dr. Byrne, who is in Texas, was available to answer questions about his project via a teleconference/audio link. Dr. Scott Johnson asked Dr. Byrne to give a brief description of his project.

Byrne – RosBreed Supplement: Development of Cultivars with Higher Soluble Solids - Dr. Byrne indicated this is a four-year project that is part of the specialty crop research initiative (SCRI) funding that was being provided for some of the various breeding projects around the country. He noted this project was a collaboration with Dr. Ramming, regarding his high-sugar varieties crossed with Dr. Byrne's low chilling varieties from Texas. He explained these varieties would ripen from mid-May through late-June, and stated the project primarily involves breeding methodology and trying to find markers for the high soluble solids content. He said these would be evaluated in plots that are established in California and in Texas. He clarified his request is for the California plots and breeding support. He informed the plots were planted at the Burchell Nursery in Fowler and involve 400 seedlings. He also informed Mr. Eric Gaarde would be compiling quality criteria data from the fruit in this project.

In response to a question from Mr. Bill Tos regarding the cost of the project, Dr. Byrne informed that the current year's request was approximately \$9,500, but he expects it to go up to \$15,000 by years three and four. Chairman Bill Chandler asked if he had any outside funding, to which Dr. Byrne responded he was receiving approximately \$30,000 from a SCRI funding award. In regards to a question from Dr. Scott Johnson asking what Dr. Crisosto's role is, Dr. Byrne replied that Dr. Crisosto would be evaluating the fruit's post-harvest traits. In response to a question from Mr. Rod Milton asking about potential benefits to the industry, Dr. Byrne indicated this project will lead to current varieties being replaced with higher soluble solid content varieties, and clarified he is trying to develop methods that would screen more quickly and more efficiently so these particular traits/characteristics could be targeted in the breeding process. He said this would lead to less guesswork and provide more knowledge for a breeder. Dr. Byrne again stated the outcome would be to develop markers that will be available for breeders to use,

which will help them segregate those varieties that have good taste and other beneficial qualities/traits. In response to a question from Mr. Rod Milton asking how the breeder would use this, Dr. Byrne indicated it might be proprietary and would work in such a way that leaf samples would be sent for testing. He said this would then lead to more specific selection for parents. Again, the primary focus will be selecting markers for high-sugar in the fruit.

Mr. Michael Reimer clarified this would not be a varietal development program, such as CTFA has funded in the past, but would be used to develop markers for breeding high quality varieties. Dr. Byrne indicated he is working with 7-8 populations and will be doing phenotyping for three years, and in the fourth year, he will come out with various markers for testing. He said they currently need to isolate markers for specific traits, and there is also software associated with this breeding work. When asked how much longer it would take before breeders could be using the markers, Dr. Byrne responded most breeders should be able to use the new markers within three years of the end point for the project. In response to a question from Mr. Bill Tos asking about other traits that will be checked, Dr. Byrne responded other traits include size, firmness, color, high soluble solids content, acidity, phytochemical reviews, bacterial spot, brown rot resistance, internal browning, fruit shapes and possibly yield. He was open to any other traits the industry might want to test. In response to a question from Chairman Bill Chandler asking if this was limited to just peaches and nectarines, Dr. Byrne responded affirmatively. The Chairman indicated there were no further questions for Dr. Byrne, and thanked him for participating in the video teleconference.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Michael Reimer, seconded by Mr. Ty Parkinson, to approve the meeting minutes of January 26, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal Review (continued)

The Chairman said the Byrne project seemed more valuable after having the explanations provided by Dr. Byrne than it did when the group first reviewed the project.

It was moved by Mr. Bill Tos, to recommend the project for funding.

Mr. Reimer pointed out it's possible to get various varieties tested through leaf testing, and that it is not too expensive, but noted, unfortunately, current practices require someone to be a guinea pig when these are first introduced to the industry. He commented that picking the wrong variety eventually costs a grower approximately \$350 per tree in a loss.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Reimer.

Mr. Rod Milton expressed concern that some growers might not have access to some of the breeders who will be using the markers or the proprietary varieties might need to, or there might be proprietary varieties that get the benefit. He indicated it might be necessary, in the future, for the Subcommittee to reconsider funding a public breeding program. Mr. Michael Reimer pointed out that in the past it took too long to release varieties, and these new techniques might speed up the process. Mr. Bill Tos commented it provides growers a tool to avoid specific non-beneficial traits in new varieties.

The Chairman asked for the question.

The motion passed unanimously.

Crisosto - Testing a Fall Ethrel Application for Flower Removal: A New Thinning Approach – Ms. Christeen Abbott informed the group the Bayer Company would not support the label change needed for the use of ethephon. She indicated that Makhteshim has expressed a willingness to support the label change. Mr. Van Sickle informed the label change fee is \$5,000.

It was moved by Mr. Rod Milton, seconded by Mr. Bill Tos, to recommend the project for funding. The motion passed unanimously.

Crisosto – Establishing a Tree Fruit Trained Panel Evaluation Sensory Tool to Evaluate Pre and Post Harvest Technology on Consumer Acceptance – Mr. Michael Reimer indicated there was concern regarding the potential value of this project for growers. He reported he had a conversation with Mr. Steve Gerst, with Delta Associates, who is involved with category management training. Mr. Reimer shared that Mr. Gerst thought the \$27,000 price tag for this type of work was a bargain, and that sensory work is usually in the six figure range. In response to a question from Ms. Christeen Abbott asking how long the trained panel would be available, Dr. Johnson indicated staff at KAC, who serve on these panels, are available. In response to a question from Mr. Bill Tos asking how the panel might relate to the project, Mr. Reimer explained it would be possible for the panel to do taste testing on fruit that was treated with MCP or some of the other post harvest practices that Dr. Crisosto will be testing, such as the modified atmosphere packaging (MAP). He stated the usefulness is based on gaining an understanding of the impact of what the grower or packer is doing with these various techniques.

Mr. Rod Milton observed the trial with the MCP at higher temperatures is intriguing, but he expressed concern for industry interests in using the results from this type of a project. Mr. Reimer responded there is value when the marketer can go to a retailer and point out that using certain products or technology can positively affect the retailer's bottom line. He indicated this could provide a great deal of power to a marketer. Again, he explained it becomes very powerful if the marketer can relate an economic value that occurs at store level. He stated there is a need to make the commodity more valuable to a retailer than other commodities that are available.

It was moved by Mr. Ty Parkinson, seconded by Mr. Bill Tos, to recommend the project for funding. The motion passed unanimously.

Sexton – Quantifying the Economic Impact of Tree Fruit Quality and Post-Harvest Innovation – Mr. Wayne Stogbauer asked if this was going to be a long-term project, and if the industry is willing to use the results. Mr. Rod Milton pointed out that in the budget there were additional funds for the principal investigator's salary during the summer.

It was moved by Mr. Rod Milton, seconded by Mr. Ty Parkinson, to not recommend this project for funding. The motion passed with one nay (Mr. Bill Tos).

Hanson – Evaluation of the Steam Auger for Tree Site Disinfestation in Stone Fruit Orchard Replant Situations – Mr. Van Sickle explained that he and Chairman Bill Chandler met with Dr. Brad Hanson and Dr. Greg Browne at U.C. Davis on Tuesday afternoon to review the project. He indicated they were concerned about deviating from their proposal plans in regards to trying to scale up the project to meet the thoughts of the Subcommittee. He reported they were concerned with plot size, and felt it needs to be remembered their treatment is currently designed for organic growers and for buffer zones that cannot be treated with current fumigants. Dr. Scott Johnson added they had concern regarding plot sizes, and they were not ready to work on larger sites at this time. He also pointed out this particular treatment must be done on a non-nematode site.

It was moved by Mr. Rod Milton, seconded by Mr. Bill Tos, to not recommend the project for funding. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Assignments

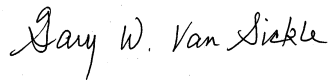
The group reviewed the liaison assignments and made several adjustments. The new liaison assignments are attached.

Issues to Discuss at Future Meetings

The Chairman asked if there were any issues to discuss at future meetings. Mr. Van Sickle reminded the Subcommittee of the CTFA Educational Symposium being held on February 23, 2010.

The Chairman asked if there was a need for a closed session. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary W. Van Sickle
Research and Regulatory Compliance

GVS/ss

Attachment

2010 California Tree Fruit Agreement Research Proposals for Funding

Researcher	Project Title	Dollar Amount to Be Funded		Subcommittee Member Liaison
Adaskaveg	Epidemiology and Management of Pre- and Postharvest Diseases of Peach, Plum, & Nectarine	\$44,000	(cont.)	Mike Reimer Alan Butterfield
Cisneros (Byrne)	Promoting stone fruits for Protection against the Metabolic Syndrome	\$49,708	(cont.)	Eric Gaarde Joe Bezerra Mike Reimer
Byrne	RosBreed Supplement: Development of Cultivars with Higher Soluble Solids	\$9,528	(new)	Mike Reimer Christeen Abbott
Crisosto	Updating Peach, Nectarine and Plum Inking and/or Skin Discoloration Development Information	\$88,820	(cont.)	Rod Riffel, Rod Milton, Bill Tos, Wayne Stogbauer, Steve Frauenheim
Crisosto	Development of Predictive Tools for Brown and Sour Rot Resistance in Peaches and Nectarines	\$27,703	(cont.)	Rod Riffel Bill Tos
Crisosto	Testing a Fall Ethrel Application for Flower Removal: A New Thinning Approach	\$7,646	(cont.)	Rod Riffel Bill Tos
Crisosto	Establishing a Tree Fruit trained panel evaluation sensory tool to evaluate pre and postharvest technology on consumer acceptance.	\$27,013	(cont.)	Ty Parkinson Ryan Metzler Eric Gaarde Mike Reimer
Day	Development and Testing of Pedestrian Orchard Concepts	\$16,975	(cont.)	Bill Tos Rod Milton Bill Chandler
DeJong	Using a 3-D Computer Simulation Model of Peach Tree Architectural Growth and Dry Matter Partitioning to Evaluate the Production Potential of Peach Trees on Size-controlling Rootstocks	\$16,873	(cont.)	Mike Reimer Ryan Metzler
DeJong	Improved Rootstock of Peach and Nectarine	\$37,692	(cont.)	Bill Chandler Mike Reimer
Johnson, M.	Better Understanding and Management of Tenlined June Beetle	\$0	(cont.)	Wayne Stogbauer Rod Milton Alan Butterfield
Johnson, S.	Mechanical Blossom Thinning Using a Darwin String Thinner	\$28,355	(cont.)	Christeen Abbott Joe Bezerra Rod Riffel
Johnson, S.	Improving the Efficiency of Foliar Zinc Sprays in Peach Orchards	\$12,103	(new)	Mike Reimer Rod Riffel Rod Milton
McKerry	Field Confirmation of the Value of a New Approach to Replanting Stone Fruits	\$25,000	(cont.)	Bill Chandler Mike Reimer Alan Butterfield
Michailides	Sources of Inoculum, Biology, Epidemiology and Management of Sour Rot in Stone Fruit Orchards	\$14,750	(cont.)	Christeen Abbott Wayne Stogbauer
Suslow	Microbial Food Safety and Postharvest Fruit Disinfection	\$58,000	(cont.)	Ty Parkinson Blake Carlson Mike Reimer
Walse	The Treatment of Stone Fruit to Australia with Methyl Bromide or Phosphine to Eliminate the Possible Introduction of Peach Twig Borer	\$2,000	(cont.)	Mike Reimer Gordon Smith
Primus	Primus Residue Study	\$20,000	(cont.)	Mike Reimer
	Emergency Research Project (s), original budget was \$10,000	\$10,000		
Total		\$496,166		