

POTATO RESEARCH PROGRAM BOARD MEETING
Minutes of the January 31, 2019 Board Meeting
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
325 University Drive
Tower Suite 2
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Public notice of the January 31, 2019 Pennsylvania Potato Research Program Board Meeting was given on January 24, 2019, as stipulated by the Sunshine Law.

CALL TO ORDER

Mark Troyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Board members in attendance (in addition to Mr. Troyer) included Nolan Masser, Vice Chairman; Keith Masser; Bryan Bender; Jonathan Blass; Clair King; and Alfred Munro.

Absent were Mark Farabaugh, Joseph Farabaugh, and Bryan Beck.

Attending were Patrick Andrews, Board Liaison to the Department of Agriculture; Laura England, PA Department of Agriculture Designee; Char Riley, Administrative Assistant, Commodities and Marketing; Morgan Sheffield, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; Dr. Xinchun Qu; Michael Peck; Francesco DiGioia; Beth Gugino; Fang (Rose) Zhu, Penn State University; Bob Leiby; and Nathan Tallman, Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers.

APPROVAL OF February 1, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2019.01-APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Presented by: Keith Masser

Seconded by: Alfred Munro

Passed: Unanimously

To approve Minutes of the February 1, 2018 meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Patrick Andrews will provide a report later in the meeting.

ASSESSMENT COLLECTIONS/AUDIT REPORT/FUTURE RFPs

Chair Troyer noted an assessment figure of \$21,340. He stated 58 forms were sent out, 35 were returned, and 23 were missing. Mr. Andrews referred to a spreadsheet for further discussion of the matter.

2019 RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

PSU Proposal Regarding the PA Regional Potato Germplasm Evaluation Program

Xinshun Qu, Principal Investigator, Department of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology, Pennsylvania State University and Michael Peck, Department of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology, Pennsylvania State University, presented before the Board to discuss the Pennsylvania Regional Potato Germplasm Evaluation Program.

Dr. Qu noted Erie, Lehigh, and Centre Counties as three locations for plot designs for new potato varieties and discussed the types of varieties that would be planted at each location. Dr. Peck commented that additional varieties would be coming out of North Carolina State University that were more adaptable to Pennsylvania's conditions. He also noted that other germplasms would be studied.

It was noted that historically Penn State did try to run its own breeding program that was very expensive and very labor intensive. Other breeding programs were being considered to be brought into Pennsylvania for evaluation. Board members had questions. The grant amount requested was \$30,000 for salaries/wages, fringe benefits, and materials and supplies.

Roger Springer, Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, entered the meeting at 7:44 a.m.

PSU Proposal Regarding Agronomic, Physiological and Quality Responses of Representative Chipping and Tablestock Pennsylvania Potato Crops to Nitrogen Input

Francesco DiGioia, Assistant Professor of Vegetable Crop Science, Pennsylvania State University, presented before the Board to discuss objectives, methods, procedures, locations, and techniques of the project. Dr. DiGioia stated a project report as well as updates on status and progress would be provided to the Pennsylvania Potato Research Program Board. Board members had questions. The grant amount requested was \$15,000 for wages, supplies, travel, and other miscellaneous expenses.

PSU Proposal Regarding Identification of Bacterial Pathogens Associated with Potato Blackleg and Soft Rot in Pennsylvania

Beth Gugino, Associate Professor and Extension Vegetable Pathologist, Pennsylvania State University, presented before the Board to discuss outbreaks of potato blackleg and soft rot. Dr. Gugino stated the objective of the program was to identify these pathogens and to use molecular methods to identify bacterial pathogens associated with blackleg and soft rot of potatoes. She noted a report would be provided to the Board within a year. Board members had questions. The grant amount requested was \$8,367 for wages, benefits, supplies, and travel expenses.

PSU Proposal Regarding Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Compatible Tactics for Precision Potato Pest Control

Fang (Rose) Zhu, Assistant Professor in Toxicology, Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University, presented before the Board to discuss compatible tactics for precision potato pest control. Dr. Zhu provided a history of her educational and professional background. She noted the objective of the program was to use bioinformatics tools for selection of target genes and a bacteria synthesis evaluation in the greenhouse to more effectively control the pest. She discussed procedures to be utilized in the experiments. She stated the results would be provided to the Pennsylvania Potato Research Program Board as well as published in appropriate scientific journals and bulletins. Board members had questions. The grant amount requested was \$28,126 for salaries, benefits, materials, and publication costs.

Xinshun Qu, Michael Peck, Francesco DiGioia, Beth Gugino and Fang (Rose) Zhu exited the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT CONTINUED

Patrick Andrews referred to the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for further discussion. He stated the PSU grant awarded to Dr. Qu last year in the amount of \$30,000 had \$9,003.43 outstanding. The current cash balance of \$30,632.46 was available for Board expenses and grants. Additional income from two producers would also be forthcoming. Mr. Andrews stated the 2017 audit was near completion, and the 2018 audit would shortly commence.

RESOLUTION 2019.02 - APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented by: Jonathan Blass

Seconded by: Keith Masser

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Financial Report as written.

2018 RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

There was discussion regarding the potato research programs currently requesting approval.

RESOLUTION 2019.03 - APPROVAL OF RESEARCH FUNDING

Presented by: Keith Masser

Seconded by: Clair King

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the amount of \$25,000 to Dr. Xinshun Qu for the Pennsylvania Regional Potato Germplasm Evaluation Program.

Board members discussed obtaining a list of the 2018 growers for review by the Board. Mr. Andrews noted there were 70 growers.

Bryan Bender exited the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBER TERM EXPIRATIONS 06/30/2019

Alfred Munro noted his term was up and that this would be his last meeting. Keith Masser requested to be reappointed. Joseph Farabaugh would be contacted regarding the appointment. Mr. Andrews requested Board members submit names for nomination in a timely fashion. It was noted that Valerie Robbins, daughter of Jerry Barnett, desired to be considered for an appointment on the Board. There was discussion regarding the appointment of Curtis Frederick to the Board should Joseph Farabaugh not be interested in reappointment.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

Board members discussed possible dates for the next meeting and agreed to the date of Thursday, July 11, 2019, at a location to be determined.

Robert Leiby exited the meeting at 8:46 a.m.

Mr. Andrews introduced Char Riley as the new Administrative Assistant for Marketing and Commodities.

BOARD EXPENSE VOUCHERS

Mr. Andrews was given expense vouchers for review.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION 2019.04- ADJOURNMENT

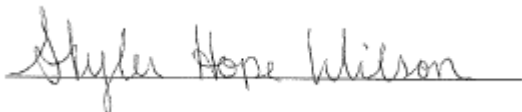
Presented by: Nolan Masser

Seconded by: Jonathan Blass

Passed: Unanimously

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



January 31, 2019