



MINUTES

NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK – HOP TIER 2 BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2014

Hilton Downtown, Portland, Oregon

Attendees: Jason Perrault, Gayle Goschie, Ken Eastwell, Nate Jackson, Reggie Brulotte, Ed Atkins, Paul Matthews, David Gent, Tom Wessels, Mark Nelson, Ann George, Paul Cobet, Nanzino Pizza, Jeff Steinman, James Ottolini, Derick Stepanski, Alec Mull, Missy Raver, Michael Bannasch, John Henning, Jim Barbour, Jamie Cuggins, Ralph Judd, Harald Schwarz, Ron Brulotte, Debbie Woodbury.

The meeting was called to order at 3:38pm by Jason Perrault, Chair. Self-introductions were made. The minutes from the July 23, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Jason shared an email update from Erich Rudyj, regarding NCPN funding: “There seems to be some movement to have NCPN included in the Ag Appropriations Act for 2014 with \$4 million (not \$5m) provided for our use...will likely be asking for 100% ‘Full’ proposals from everyone and trying to move funds sufficient to cover costs for a full year with agreements maybe beginning in spring/summer.”

Vision Committee: Reggie Brulotte reported that the subcommittee met on October 29, 2013 to explore options for moving the clean-up program to a more self-sustaining business model, since Federal funding is unstable. Ken Eastwell reinforced the need to establish a more stable source for baseline funding to program operations. Currently, the program receives approximately 25% of funding from industry and 75% of funding from NCPN. The subcommittee has suggested the idea of a “group funding” approach (e.g. Kickstarter.com) to raise money for a specific project, such as constructing the new greenhouse for which a kit has already been purchased. The contingency funds earmarked to erect that greenhouse have been expended on daily operations, in the absence of continued NCPN funding via a new Farm Bill.

Leadership Committee: Jason reported that the cross-commodity group has been discussing the matter of using Federal funding for cleanup of proprietary varieties. While the definition of proprietary varies between centers and between crop groups, in general there is support for using NCPN funds in this way, to the benefit of the U.S. agriculture industry as a whole. The committee invites additional input on this issue, while continuing to work towards a consensus decision.

Paul Matthews offered the services of S.S. Steiner to perform genotyping of all 38 public cultivars currently in the NCPN program with methods that provide a much higher degree of resolution. This will provide data for S.S. Steiner’s program and provide additional confidence in the genetic identity of the plant material in the CPCNW. They will do this at no charge, providing CPCNW can supply tissue samples of the hop material for testing. Results will be made available to anyone seeking genotype information on the tested cultivars. Eastwell welcomed the offer but reconfirmed that no proprietary varieties will be provided for genotyping.

Outreach: Debbie Woodbury shared the NCPN-Hop white paper created for educating policy makers on the benefits of the National network. The crop-specific section of the template includes a testimonial provided by Reggie Brulotte. Paul Matthews offered to represent NCPN-Hop at the Annual Hops Conference in Vermont on February 27. Debbie will provide Paul with presentation material for the conference.

Clean Plant Center Northwest Updates

Budget: Ken reviewed current budget status of the hop program, reiterating that some outside source of funding is needed to keep the program operating until June of this year. Reggie reported that the Washington Hop Council “Research Emergency Contingency Fund” would be available, if needed, to keep the doors open pending the outcome of new Farm Bill legislation.

Clean-up Status: There are 36 cultivars available for distribution, with an additional 5 anticipated to be released in the next few months, pending approval by USDA or WSU. Eight additional cultivars introduced in 2013 are in various stages of the clean-up process, plus two proprietary varieties.

Winter Hop Sale: Debbie Woodbury reported that allocations have been made and invoices will be distributed in the coming week. At the time of this meeting, 89 units were allocated to 19 customers who requested material.

Virus-tested Plant Retention: The current protocol of retaining up to 3 plants in the foundation greenhouse was reviewed, prompting discussion on the challenges of managing hop plant production within the constraints of a greenhouse. Ann George suggested revisiting the idea of establishing cooperative agreements with commercial growers, and Gayle Goschie inquired about the feasibility of maintaining foundation material in tissue culture. Ken Eastwell expressed concern regarding regeneration issues with material stored long-term in tissue culture, and Paul Matthews suggested checking with Barbara Reed about her success rate using the StarPak system. Exploration will continue regarding alternative trellising systems and tissue culture options for retaining the foundation collection.

2014 Clean-up Nominations: the committee reviewed the nominations submitted for introduction this year: Hallertauer Mittelfruh, WSU 0227-036, Comet, Azacca (ADHA 483), and Summit. The last two nominations were submitted just prior to the meeting and it must be determined if they will be made available for public distribution once they are released as virus-free. Debbie will get clarification from the sponsors and notify the Tier 2 members of the outcome. Kim Hummer will provide two nominations from the NCGR. A motion was introduced to accept those nominated varieties which will be made available for public distribution. The motion was seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.

Customer Satisfaction Survey: Debbie shared the results of the survey conducted in September 2013 using the online Survey Monkey service. While there were no surprises revealed by the survey, it was agreed that this was a good starting point for gathering customer feedback and should be

continued. Reggie suggested the poll not be distributed during harvest season, and David Gent proposed establishing a process of asking for feedback shortly after materials are purchased.

Tier 2 Committee Updates

Committee Membership: Terms dates are expiring for 5 of the Tier 2 committee members. All candidates confirmed they would serve another term, and the slate of candidates was accepted by the Selection Committee in late 2013. Reggie Brulotte moved to cast a unanimous ballot to accept the proposed candidates, David Gent seconded, and the motion was accepted. Representatives serve a four-year term.

Committee Leadership: The terms for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions are expiring. Jason Perrault expressed a desire not to renew his term as Chair, and proposed that the outgoing Vice-Chair, Gayle Goschie, assume the role of committee Chair and represent Hops on the NCPN Leadership committee. Reggie moved that Gayle be elected to the two-year term as Chair, David Gent seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Bernard Gamache, who was not in attendance, was nominated for two-year term as Vice-Chair, but subsequently has declined to accept that role. The position of Vice-Chair remains open for now.

NCPN-Hop Charter: the committee voted to accept a revision to Section 5, e, iii, allowing the Chair and Vice-Chair to approve alternates designated by voting members. It was determined that the phrase “alternate to serve in their absence” allows approved alternates to cast proxy votes for the member being represented at a specified meeting.

Funding Requests: Ken Eastwell presented a pre-proposal in anticipation of new Farm Bill funding for NCPN. The committee was asked to discuss and approve the proposal in advance, so that CPCNW is positioned to act quickly if/when a new Farm Bill is passes and NCPN issues a Request for Proposals. Debbie will also prepare a letter of endorsement from industry, which is traditionally submitted with the grant request. Paul Matthews introduced a motion to accept the pre-proposal, Reggie Brulotte seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regulatory Activities

State Certification Programs: Ken Eastwell reported that New York and Michigan have initiated efforts to establish state certification programs for hops.

State Quarantine Regulations: Ann George reported that Washington and Oregon have adopted new regulations that would restrict movement of hops into the tri-state region while allowing movement between Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The new quarantine regulations are still being considered by Idaho. Paul Cobet initiated discussion regarding how the new regulations would be communicated. Tom Wessels will likely be posting the new regulations on the Plant Board website. It was also suggested that something be published in Zymurgy magazine.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13.