



MINUTES

NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK – HOP TIER 2 BOARD MEETING

June 11, 2014

Telecon

Attendees: Jason Perrault, Gayle Goschie, Ken Eastwell, Nate Jackson, Reggie Brulotte, Ed Atkins, Paul Matthews, Tom Wessels, Stephen Kenny, Ann George, Erich Rudyj, Debbie Woodbury.

The teleconference was called to order at 10:00am (Pacific time) by Gayle Goschie, Chair. Gayle opened the floor to feedback on the draft minutes for the January 21, 2014 meeting; approval of those minutes will be deferred until the next meeting.

Status of NCPN Funding

Erich Rudyj provided a recap of NCPN history, and explained next steps for the current funding cycle. The 2014 RFP was closed as of May 23 with 22 applicants requesting a total of \$7.8M. After all decisions are finalized regarding deductions for sequestration and overhead, it is projected that there will be “nearly” \$5M available for NCPN programs. The NCPN Governing Board will meet June 17, 18, and 19 in D.C. to review the proposals and making funding decisions. In addition, the board will be reviewing and discussing the NCPN Strategic Plan, funding trends, long-term sustainability of NCPN centers, funding clean-up of proprietary varieties, response to emerging pests and new diagnostic technologies, the relationship of NCPN to state certification programs, foreign import regulations, potential new crops in the network, and succession planning for the board.

The Governing Board has invited the chairperson and coordinator of each funded network to share feedback regarding the RFP process and issues of importance to the Tier 2s. Toward this end, there will be a series of short telecons on June 17; Gayle Goschie and Debbie Woodbury will be representing NCPN-Hop feedback. Ken Eastwell reviewed the process that was followed for the application from CPCNW, in which the committee reviewed the pre-proposal and approved it during the January 21, 2014 Tier 2 meeting in Portland Oregon.

Erich will report the board’s funding decisions to the USDA on June 20 and it is anticipated that grants will be approved shortly thereafter, making funds available by August 1.

Erich also reported that APHIS has provided \$340K of bridge funding to sustain operations of centers which had exhausted all funds during the gap between Farm Bills. Ken Eastwell inquired about the status of bridge funds, and Erich reported, just prior to the adjournment of the telecon, that the CPCNW bridge fund application had been signed earlier in the day.

CPCNW-Hop Program updates

Ken Eastwell provided an update on the hop clean-up program. Cleanup is complete for all of the 2012 introductions; three are awaiting release by the USDA and the remaining are now being distributed by CPCNW. Of the 2013 introductions, 2 varieties (Olympic and Simcoe) are still in the

clean-up process, the remaining are at various stages of the final testing process. Material has been received for all 2014 introductions and cleanup activities are underway. The new screenhouse is almost complete; irrigation will be installed as funds become available.

The summer 2014 sale of unrooted cuttings is in process; the deadline for submitting requests was June 2, 2014. CPCNW is currently processing orders for 625 cuttings from a total of 19 customers, 11 of which are from outside the Pacific Northwest (PNW) region.

Hop Distribution Protocol

The current sale of unrooted cuttings continues a steep upward trend in the demand for virus-tested hop material. As Ken Eastwell pointed out, what started as a measured response to grower requests has grown into a significant service activity, increasing from 190 cuttings in 2010 to 755 in 2013. The demands for servicing this effort have exceeded current CPCNW staff capacity, and Ken invited suggestions regarding revising the distribution protocol or increasing staff capacity. A discussion followed regarding the impact of efforts to establish new hop foundation programs and additional cleanup programs in states outside of the PNW region. While such expansion should accelerate the clean plant mission, it will likely further reduce the ability of the CPCNW program to recover costs of the cleanup process by selling propagative material. In response to the challenge of how to meet all industry demands, the majority of attendees expressed a need to continue providing unrooted cuttings. How to support and expand distribution remains an open question for the committee.

NCPN-Hop Tier 2 Committee membership

In anticipation of possible changes to the distribution protocol, the committee discussed expanding membership to include at least one voting representative from outside of the PNW region. Adding such representation prior to making any changes to the charter would allow input from the expanding growing regions in the Midwest and east coast.

Motion: it was moved by Paul Matthews to add a second “At-Large Grower” voting position to the Tier 2 board. The motion was seconded by Ed Atkins and passed unanimously.

Ann George will provide to Paul Matthews a list of active leaders from the largest growing regions outside of the PNW (as indicated by the 2014 acreage survey); Paul will annotate the list with any additional potential candidates and circulate the list to the Tier 2 for consideration. Once a slate of candidates has been approved via email discussion and vote, Gayle Goschie will contact the potential candidates, confirm their interest in serving. The Tier 2 committee will then vote via email to determine the new member prior to the August 5 meeting, allowing that person time to make travel arrangements. Once at least one voting member from outside of the PNW is in place, the committee will resume the discussion regarding changing the hop distribution protocol.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25.