



MINUTES

NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK – HOP TIER 2 BOARD MEETING

August 5, 2014

Holiday Inn, Yakima WA

Attendees: Jason Perrault, Gayle Goschie, Ken Eastwell, Bernard Gamache, Nate Jackson, Reggie Brulotte, Ed Atkins, Paul Matthews, David Gent, Tom Wessels, Ann George, Paul Cobet, Missy Raver, Peter Wolfe, Sidney Grier, Heather Jackson, Stephen Kenny, Chris Holbrook, Brooks Erickson, Debbie Woodbury.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm by Paul Matthews, Vice-Chair (Debbie Woodbury facilitated until Gayle Goshie arrived). Self-introductions were made and Brian Tennis, recently elected to the new, second At-Large Grower position, joined the meeting via telecon. The minutes from the January 21, 2014 meeting were reviewed; a motion to approve as presented was made by Dave Gent, seconded by Reggie Brulotte, and passed unanimously. The minutes for the June 11, 2014 telecon were reviewed; a motion to approve as presented was made by Reggie Brulotte, seconded by Jason Perrault, and passed unanimously.

NCPN Updates

Funding: Ken Eastwell and Tom Wessels reported that the 2014 NCPN-Hop request was reportedly being funded at 100%, but monies have not yet been distributed. According to Erich Rudyj, NCPN Coordinator, funds should be allocated by mid-September. In the meantime, the bridge funds previously granted by APHIS, have been fully committed.

Vision Committee: Reggie Brulotte reported that there has been no action by this subcommittee.

Leadership Committee: Paul Matthews reported outcomes from the July 24, 2014 telecon, including the plan to hold a national level NCPN meeting Beltsville MD next summer; tentative timeframe is July 13-17. It is anticipated that this meeting will be in scheduled in conjunction with the WERA-020 meetings, and possibly with Tier 2 meetings for each specialty crop. The Hop committee expressed their preference to keep NCPN-Hop meetings scheduled in conjunction with HRC meetings, the next being in San Diego in January 2015 and in Oregon later that year.

Outreach: Debbie Woodbury reported that the NCPN Education & Outreach Coordinator, Keith Striegler, has resigned and no decision has been made regarding the future of the position. In the meantime, the E&O working group continues to meet monthly and Outreach materials for NCPN-Hops are available through Debbie. It was suggested that members consider presenting NCPN-Hop information at the Great Lakes Expo in December. Paul Matthews stated he will likely have further opportunities to represent NCPN in the Carolinas.

Clean Plant Center Northwest Updates

Budget: Ken Eastwell reviewed current budget status of the hop program, reporting that the annual operating budget received from NCPN has now been stretched to cover 20 months, while awaiting allocations from the 2014 Farm Bill funding to NCPN. The new greenhouse has been erected, but peripherals will not be installed until funds are available.

Clean-up Status: There are currently 42 virus-tested public selections available in the hop clean-up program; 8 are pending from the 2013 nominations and 5 are in progress from the 2014 nominations. Planning is underway to include a mist cooling system in the greenhouse, and to experiment with raised beds as a method to promote development of rhizomes. Progress is being made in the development of protocols to eliminate viroids. Interviews for the open position of Production Manager for the CPCNW are scheduled for August 18 & 19.

Customer Satisfaction Survey: Debbie Woodbury provided an overview of the survey data from 2013-2014. Overall feedback is positive, with the exception being the vitality of plants distributed directly from the greenhouse. Survey responses were considered further in a discussion regarding the distribution protocol for propagative material. David Gent suggested future surveys also gather data regarding how customers are expanding the material they purchase, to assess the interest and viability of tissue culture as a propagation tool.

Distribution Protocol: A discussion on the role of CPCNW in providing propagative material to the hop-growing industry led to an agreement to continue focusing program efforts on the primary mission of virus-testing and therapy, while streamlining methods for distribution. Industry will need to seek ways to satisfy the intermediate expansion of clean material for planting. It was recognized that this will impact the income stream to the center and the industry needs to explore alternative funding mechanisms. It was agreed that CPCNW would discontinue the practice of offering young, actively growing green plants, and continue to distribute limited quantities of dormant, potted plants and unrooted green cuttings. Requests for cuttings will be accepted once a year, in June, as was done in 2013 and 2014. The sale of potted plants will be conducted in two parts with two price points: early requests will be considered in October at \$500 per pot. Any remaining available plants will be sold in January at the previously established price of \$300 per pot. The intent is to address the needs of growers who want to begin expansion in their own greenhouses over the winter, as well as those who prefer to place orders after the annual Hop Convention in January. The CPCNW hop distribution protocol will be revised accordingly, communicated to known stakeholders, and posted on the USAHops website.

Tier 2 Committee Updates

NCPN-Hop Charter: the committee reviewed proposed revisions to the charter and passed the following motions:

Motion: Accept revision to Section 5, a, i, as presented, to reflect earlier decision to add a second At-Large Grower, including the statement "at least one at-large grower will be from

outside of the Pacific Northwest growing region". Motion was made by Ed Atkins, seconded by Bernard Gamache, and passed unanimously.

Motion: Accept revision to Section 5, c, as presented, that nominating candidates for voting positions on the NCPN-hop Tier 2 will be the purview of the existing Tier 2 committee and industry stakeholders. Also, that Tier 2 membership will be decided by majority vote of the voting members. Motion was made by Gayle Goschie, seconded by Nate Jackson, and passed unanimously.

Motion: Accept remaining minor revisions, as presented, which clarify existing language and provide updated statistics to the context statement in Appendix B. Motion was made by Jason Perrault, seconded by Reggie Brulotte, and passed unanimously.

Regulatory Activities

Certification Harmonization Committee: Ken Eastwell reported that the NCPN templates are still being considered, but that variation between state requirements make it unlikely that state certification programs will become fully aligned.

Harmonizing Quarantine Regulations: Ann George explained that the regulations to restrict movement of hops into WA-OR-ID while allowing movement between the three states, have been adopted by Washington and Oregon, and are under consideration by Idaho.

Other Business

New, Emerging Programs: The committee discussed new programs that are emerging to meet the demand for virus-tested hop propagation material. In addition to the list of tissue culture facilities published by NCPN-Hops in July 2013, Arbor Grove Nursery in Oregon is expanding their inventory to include virus-tested hop cultivars sourced from the CPCNW program. Sales of virus-tested hops are also being conducted by Cornell University's Madison County Extension program in New York and Gorst Valley Hops in Wisconsin. While new sources may help meet the increasing demand for planting material, CPCNW has no control or responsibility over the clean status of materials from these sources.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm