



MINUTES

NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK – HOP TIER 2 BOARD MEETING

August 4, 2015

Holiday Inn Downtown, Yakima, WA

Attendees: Jason Perrault, Gayle Goschie, Ken Eastwell, Reggie Brulotte, Bernard Gamache, Ed Atkins, John Solt, Nate Jackson, Mark Nelson, Ann George, Sidney Grief, Fred Geschwill, Stephen Kenny, Cole Provence, Tom Britz, Jessie Nielsen, Jaki Brophy, Nancy Sites, Debbie Woodbury. Attending via telecon: Brian Tennis, Erich Rudyj, David Prokrym.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm Pacific Time Zone by Gayle Goschie, Chair. The minutes from the January 20, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved.

NCPN Updates

Erich Rudyj, participating via teleconference, gave an overview of NCPN with PowerPoint slides, with “points to ponder” including future funding considerations and program sustainability. He also announced that the 2016 RFA would open in early September. It is anticipated that APHIS will retain 15% of available NCPN funds for overhead functions going forward. David Prokrym asked that the committee consider how the hop industry would participate in strategic planning for NCPN in the coming year, as the original plan is revisited and updated, and a future vision for the network is discussed.

Motion: Jason Perrault moved that the NCPN-Hop Coordinator serve as liaison for national-level NCPN planning efforts, Reggie Brulotte seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Clean Plant Center Northwest Updates

CPCNW Strategic Planning: from March through May of 2015, CPCNW launched an in-depth strategic planning effort, with financial assistance and support from WSU and NCPN. Under the guidance of a professional facilitator and with broad industry participation, eleven initiatives were established and a lead person was identified for each. Ken Eastwell shared the Balanced Scorecard that was developed and invited representatives from the hop industry to help achieve the long-range goals for the Center by volunteering to work on any of the initiatives.

Clean-up Status: There are 62 cultivars now in the program. Of these 43 are available for distribution, 7 require release by USDA, 4 are proprietary, and 13 are still in process. In a discussion regarding performance measures, it was suggested that overall quantity of cultivars in the program may not be the best measure of success at this point in the program; other considerations include increase in sponsored varieties, improved technology/reduced process time, or breadth of varieties in foundation collection (alpha, aroma, ornamental). The CPCNW tissue culture facilities have been consolidated into a single laboratory and a LED lighting system is being tested to determine if this

improves recovery of plants from meristem culture. High-throughput sequencing for disease diagnosis is gaining traction with regulators and may be used for hop diagnostics in the near future.

2016 Clean-up Nominations: Nominations for 2016 introductions to the clean-up program will be opened in November, with a mid-January deadline for submitting requests. Historical sales data was provided, as requested in the January meeting, to assist with identifying cultivars that might be considered as candidates for viroid elimination trials in lieu of additional introductions to the program. Ken reported that results have been promising in efforts to eliminate certain viroids.

Distribution Status: For the winter 2015 hop sale, CPCNW experimented with shipping dormant hop plants as bare roots; 25 bare root plants were distributed to 12 customers in 5 states. Feedback to-date has been favorable. Charts were shared that illustrate a steady upward trend in distribution of virus-tested material across the country. For the period 2010-2012, material was distributed to 7 states; for the period 2013-2015, material was distributed to 20 states plus Canada. Total distribution since 2010 is 3,962 units (cuttings and plants).

CPCNW is experimenting with a raised bed-planting method in the screenhouse to see if rhizomes can be generated in greater quantity for future distribution; currently two cultivars are planted in this configuration and will be dug next spring to assess rhizome production.

Discussion continued on the feasibility of storing and distributing propagative material in tissue culture. The program is concerned that such material may not respond readily after long-term storage. Additionally, this approach to increasing inventory would also require facility expansion. It was suggested that the program experiment with setting aside a portion of the material derived from meristem culture if the tests proved negative for targeted pathogens; the remaining portion would be rooted and grown for diagnostics, retaining half of it for distribution. The Tier 2 requested that CPCNW proceed with piloting an “early, higher-priced plant sale” in the fall season.

It was agreed that CPCNW would make available tip shoots from the newly released cultivars Bramling, Comet, Hallertau m.f., Olympic, Pocket Talisman, and WSU 0227-036 for Tier 2 members to conduct trials in tissue culture propagation. Results will help determine if distribution protocols can be revised going forward.

A list of hop propagators in the PNW region was distributed and it was suggested that a similar list be created for a broader audience. The PNW list will be finalized and distributed, along with a solicitation for names of additional hop propagators nationwide. The NCPN-Hop Coordinator will initiate this process, and recipients are encouraged to forward the list and request for additions to their own email distribution lists, as appropriate.

Budget Status: Ken Eastwell reported that the 2015 NCPN funds will be released in late August, to be used for the balance of 2015 and into 2016. The NCPN RFA for 2016 funding is expected to be announced in September.

Funding for the Future

Gayle invited comment on Erich Rudyj's question "Are we getting what we need from NCPN?" Feedback indicated that there is a need for more outreach to small growers and brewers in the Pacific Northwest to encourage use of virus-tested material for new plantings, and it was suggested that NCPN-Hop have a presence at the annual Craft Brewing Conference toward this objective. It was also proposed that metrics and methods be explored for shortening the clean-up process.

Fred Geschwill shared that F and B nursery will pay a royalty of 5 cents per plant propagated from material obtained via NCPN-Hops. Virgil Gamache Farms will also be making a donation based on propagated material. Fred encouraged everyone to promote this idea so that other growers will follow suit.

Regulatory Activities

Reactivating of the Washington State Hop Certification program was suggested as a way to increase access to clean planting material. While there is a hop certification program for WA State, there are currently no active certified nurseries. Ken Eastwell proposed changing the WA certification standards to make it possible for tissue culture operations to propagate material that would qualify for certification in the PNW region. Cindy Cooper, WSDA offered to help spearhead this action.

Brian Tennis confirmed that the Michigan Department of Agriculture is working on establishing a State certification program for hop plants, which could potentially increase access to clean material outside of the PNW region.

Other Business

The question was raised whether propagation material obtained from the NCPN-Hop clean-up program could be resold to non-U.S. growers. It was agreed that purchase of material includes the right to redistribute at will, as long as quarantine and import/export regulations are followed.

Ken Eastwell shared that his last day of work will be toward the end of November, and he will then be on vacation until his official retirement date in late January 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm Pacific Time Zone.