



MINUTES NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK – HOP TIER 2 BOARD MEETING August 1, 2011 – Best Western Ahtanum Inn, Yakima, WA

Members Attending:

Jason Perrault, Yakima Chief/Perrault Farms, jason@perraultfarms.com
Fred Geschwill, Oregon Hop Commission/HRC/F&B Farms & Nursery, hopgrower@fandbfarms.com
Reggie Brulotte, Washington Hop Commission/HRC, BruFarms@aol.com
David Gent, USDA-ARS, gentd@onid.orst.edu
Paul Matthews, SS Steiner, Inc., pmatthews@hopsteiner.com
Diane Haas, Idaho Hop Commission (alternate for Mike Gooding)
Ed Atkins, Elk Mountain Farms, ed.atkins@anheuser-busch.com
Steve Kenny, WSU-IAREC, skenny@wsu.edu
Ken Eastwell, WSU-IAREC, keastwell@wsu.edu

Staff & non-member attendance:

Ann George, Washington Hop Commission, ageorge@wahops.org
Nancy Frketich, Oregon Hop Commission, nancy@oregonhops.org
Megan Twomey, SS Steiner, mtwomey@hopsteiner.com
Charlie Matt, HRC
Eric Smith, WSU-IAREC, edsmith@wsu.edu
Nicholi Pitra, SS Steiner,

Absent Members:

Robert (Sam) Johnson, USDA-APHIS, robert.s.johnson@aphis.usda.gov
Kim Hummer, USDA-ARS-NCGR, kim.hummer@ars.usda.gov
Erich Rudyj, USDA-APHIS-PPO-PHP, erich.s.rudyj@aphis.usda.gov
Rocco Black, WSDA, rblack@agr.wa.gov
Bernard Gamache, Gamache Farms, virgilgamachefarms@amerion.com

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by Jason Perrault, Chair, followed by announcements and introductions.

MINUTES/MOTION: FRED GESCHWILL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 5/5/11 MEETING AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY REGGIE BRULOTTE; APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Update on 2011 work plan

Network activities for 2011 NCPN grant cycle: Ken Eastwell said preliminary NCPN-Hops funding had been approved for the full amount of \$154,000. Some adjustments may be needed to the budget to accommodate personnel cutbacks for NCPN-Fruit Trees. That's because Fruit Tree personnel spend part of their time working for Hops. The funding included monies for a new heat therapy growth chamber. This should increase the number of plants processed through the program. 2013 Farm Bill approval is necessary to continue funds past 2012. There may be a gap of one year in funding.

2011 Distribution of plant material: Ken Eastwell prepared a handout containing the [2011 distribution numbers](#). Nearly 500 cuttings were shipped out in June and July. Nearly 700 cuttings and plants have been distributed over the last two years. Liberty was the most requested variety. The handout also contained lists of cultivars that have completed virus-testing and are in the maintenance greenhouse, along with a list of

cultivars in the virus-testing process. Centennial, Mt. Rainier, Teamaker and Sterling have completed meristem culture and the first round of virus/viroid testing with no pathogens detected (other than Hop latent viroid).

Collaborative efforts with NCGR: Ken Eastwell reported that Kim Hummer and Joseph Postman from NCGR have sent 101 varieties to WSU-IAREC for testing. Some material tested positive for Hop stunt viroid, so it will not be distributed. A lot of Alpha Aroma hops are going through the program due to requests from crafters.

Policy on proprietary material: Jason Perrault said the policy was discussed during the Prioritization Committee meeting held immediately before the NCPN-Hops meeting. The general agreement was if a restricted release variety enters the NCPN-Hops program then the patent owner must pay for cleaning up the plant. It's a NCPN policy. On an annual basis the Prioritization Committee will decide which private varieties can enter the program. Perrault said the Prioritization Committee decided on a priority formula which was described in detail later in the meeting.

2011-12 NCPN funding application: Ann George submitted a copy of the [NCPN-Hops response letter](#) to the 2011 NCPN RFA.

Outreach Efforts: Terri Reddout now has administrative rights to the USAHops website in order to create webpages for NCPN-Hops. Members will be able to access it through a tab at the top of the USAHops website. Reddout anticipates having the basic pages up on the web by the end of the month.

Perrault asked for an update on the NCPN Education and Outreach Working Group. Reddout reported that the biggest accomplishments were creating identifier graphics for all the NCPN specialty crops to create a more unified look for the network. Creating the graphics had a ripple effect on names for each of the specialty crops and charters. All the specialty crops have either adopted the NCPN- (name of specialty crop) name or plan to do so. An identifier graphic for the entire NCPN network is being developed. So is a communication plan that will be used to evaluate future budget requests for Education and Outreach activities and projects.

Priorities for clean-up: Perrault developed a spreadsheet to prioritize which cultivars should go through the NCPN-Hops program for virus clean-up each year. The spreadsheet considers how many acres are currently planted of a given variety, whether the plant was nominated for clean-up, whether the variety is Intellectual Property or not and the cultivar's status (progress) in the program. The committee recommended that acreage trends (the increase in acreage over a 3-year period) might be a better indicator. They also suggested who does the nominating (a commission, group of growers, grower or crafter) should be a factor. The committee will continue to work on the priority spreadsheet via e-mail. Reddout will create a nomination form for the committee to review. The plan is to have the spreadsheet and nomination form ready to meet a December 1, 2011 deadline for nominations. It was agreed that 14 positions would be available each year, to be allocated as follows: 2 positions for NCGR requests; 2 positions for the center; 10 positions to be split between public and proprietary requests as determined by the prioritization committee at the January meeting.

BMP (Best Management Practices) for Breeding: The general consensus was anything about to be distributed needs to be tested. Need to figure out at what level in the breeding process plants need to be tested.

NCPN Updates: Eastwell described the rationale for the NCPN Leadership meeting scheduled for November 15-17 in the Washington, D.C. area. The idea is to deal with several questions such as how do we decide if other specialty crops should be added to NCPN, if so what criteria needs to be established, developing a business plan for the network along with Education and Outreach questions and questions about issues that lie just outside NCPN's authority. NCPN is asking for nominations from each specialty crop. They anticipate 5-7 people for each specialty crop. The Tier 2 group will check their schedules and indicate if they are interested in attending. A list of possible topics generated by Erich Rudyj will be sent to all Tier 2 members.

Harmonization of state quarantine and certification rules: The goal is to create a "free-trade" zone between Washington, Oregon and Idaho. There are USDA funds (non-NCPN) available for harmonizing state

certification standards. Board members representing the Oregon and Idaho Hop Commissions indicated a willingness to accept the Washington standards with some slight modifications. Once all three Commissions agree on a set of standards they will approach their respective state agriculture departments about accepting the standards. The board felt they could handle the problem without USDA grant money. Nancy Frketich and Ann George will draft a set of standards and run it past Tier 2 members with the goal to have it completed in time to run it past state commissions during their October meetings.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 17 from 3-5 p.m. The meeting will be held in connection with the Winter HRC meetings and American Hop Convention in Newport Beach, California.

New member: Rocco Black is the newest member of the Tier 2 Committee. Black is an inspector with the Washington Department of Agriculture.

Tier 2 elections: All four Tier 2 members up for re-election indicated they are interested in serving another term. Ann George will turn the names to the nominating committee, representing the state hop commissions and HRC. Elections will be held during the Winter Hop Meeting.

MINUTES/MOTION: PAUL MATTHEWS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; SECONDED BY FRED GESCHWILL; APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by:
Terri Reddout
Program Coordinator
National Clean Plant Network-Hops
August, 2011