



MINUTES

NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK – HOP TIER 2 BOARD MEETING

July 23, 2013

Red Lion Downtowner, Boise, Idaho

Attendees: Jason Perrault, Ken Eastwell, Nate Jackson, Reggie Brulotte, Bernard Gamache, Ed Atkins, Paul Matthews, David Gent, Stephen Kenny, Jennifer Stevens, Mark Nelson, Ann George, Stephen Massie, Thomas Nielsen, Paul Signorotti, Carol Newhouse, Dan Newhouse, Vicki Gamache, Debbie Woodbury.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Jason Perrault, Chair. Self-introductions were made and it was announced that the newest committee member, Tom Wessels, WSDA, would not be in attendance due to a medical emergency. The minutes from the March 6, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

NCPN Industry Leadership Group: Jason Perrault reported that there was no current activity, but planning is underway for a meeting in August or September.

Outreach & Education Group: Debbie Woodbury reviewed recent activities and reported that the tri-fold brochure can be ordered online at:

<http://nationalcleanplantnetwork.org/outreachmaterials/>.

A white paper is being developed and this subcommittee is requesting success stories and testimonials from the hop industry. The NCPN website has been updated with current NCPN-Hop information, and the CPCNW website has been expanded to include the hop program. Ann George offered to give Debbie access to update the USAHop website with NCPN-Hop information, possibly in lieu of creating a separate NCPN-Hop site until funding issues are resolved. CPCNW is exploring a suggestion for a field day at IAREC and attendees suggested alternatives such as augmenting the Hop Convention activities in Portland in January 2014 and the HRC meeting in July/August 2014.

Funding: Ken Eastwell recapped the status of a new Farm Bill and shared speculation that a new bill may not be passed until after the 2014 mid-term elections. In an NCPN Operations telecon prior to this meeting, Erich Rudyj shared that he will be discussing with USDA in early August the potential for bridge funding, but is encouraging all programs to develop strategies to become self-sufficient “sooner rather than later.” Ken reviewed current budget status of the hop program, explained steps being taken to conserve funds, and concluded that if bridge funding is granted for a three-month period, CPCNW may be able to retain current staff for the coming year.

Ann George provided a recap of how the predecessor of NCPN-Hop, the Certified Rootstock Program, was funded via grants from Anheuser-Busch (AB) and Washington Hop Commission (WHC). The CPCNW Hop program is currently supported by the Hop Research Council (HRC) and WHC, plus NCPN funds. There was discussion regarding success of the program in providing equal

access to clean hop varieties for both large and small growers, and a future focus on maintenance and distribution rather than new variety introductions. Other strategies were discussed, including increasing fees to sustain the program, implementing a per-acre grower assessment, constraining the program size, and increasing production of marketable propagative material.

It was decided that the Vision subcommittee (Reggie Brulotte, Ken Eastwell, Bernard Gamache, Nate Jackson) would meet in October to pursue options for moving the program toward self-sufficiency; Debbie will help coordinate a meeting date.

For the near-term, it is estimated that the program will need \$34K in stop-gap funding this year. Tom Nielson will explore whether the Hop Quality Group (HQG) can help with interim funding. Ann George stated that WHC would look at allocating part of the existing WHC Contingency Fund toward keeping the program operational, with the caveat that other groups such as HRC and HQG also contribute to stop-gap funding.

Harmonizing State Certification Regulations: Ken Eastwell reported on the status of the objective to harmonize all state certification programs, making it less onerous for trading partners to navigate and comply with regulations. NCPN-Fruit Tree has a model certification program, which was distributed at the meeting and is also posted on the NCPN-FT website (<http://ncpn-ft.org/home/state-certification/>). The certification model was also considered by Oregon, but had to be extensively revised to meet state formatting requirements. NCPN recently released a Glossary, also distributed at the meeting, which could serve as a resource for harmonizing state certification programs. Washington State has defined standards for certifying hops (Ch. 16-354 WAC) which could serve as a starting point for New York state's effort to establish a state certification program.

Harmonizing State Quarantine Regulations: Ann George explained that the objective of this effort is to establish regulations that would allow movement of all hop material (both "clean" and common) between Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Proposed revisions to the WAC have been distributed and are currently with WSDA for review. Tom Wessels is the WSDA point of contact for this effort.

Program Status: Ken shared a status report of material currently in the clean-up program and a summary of plants and cuttings distributed to-date. Proposed changes to the Plant Distribution Protocol were reviewed and discussed. The most significant revision is a change in the deadline for submitting requests for the Winter Plant sale; the cut-off date is now January 15. After that date, any cancellations or changes in orders will be assessed a \$50 administrative fee, except where demand exceeds available material.

Motion: Bernard Gamache moved to accept the changes to the Plant Distribution Protocol, Reggie Brulotte seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Target number of plants: Ken posed the question to the committee "Are two to three plants of newly released, clean varieties, still adequate for meeting industry demand?" It was acknowledged that while a new variety may create greater demand initially, that demand quickly tapers off as the

material is propagated and distributed through the industry. The committee deferred any decisions on this matter for now and the Vision subcommittee will revisit the question at a later date.

Tier 2 Committee membership terms: Terms for five of the nine voting positions will expire at the end of the year (Dec 31, 2013). Debbie Woodbury will poll those members individually to see if they are willing and able to serve another term. The Tier 2 Selection committee will be asked to confirm the slate of candidates by early December so that Tier 2 members can make their travel plans for the January meetings in Portland WA.

NCPN-Hops Charter review: It was requested that a process for designating proxy voting be added to the charter. Debbie will draft that change and distribute the proposed revision to the Tier 2 Committee for an email vote. It was also suggested that *Appendix B: Context Statement for the National Clean Plant Network for Hops*, be reviewed for potential updating. Ken Eastwell will draft proposed changes, to be reviewed by Tier 2 members.

Hop Network Vision subcommittee: Chair Reggie Brulotte will call a meeting of this group; target date is October 29, 2013. Debbie will help coordinate the meeting date and time.

Other business:

Best business practices: There was a discussion about documenting practices for limiting the spread of viruses between and within grower sites, particularly in light of the effort to facilitate tri-state hop exchanges (WA/OR/ID). One suggestion was to add equipment and other mechanical considerations to the WAC; another suggestion was to develop an article for *Zymurgy* magazine. It was also suggested that section 10201 of the Farm Bill may provide for funding development of a best practices document.

Customer Satisfaction Survey: Prompted by a suggestion from Gayle Goschie prior to this meeting, it was decided that Debbie Woodbury would develop and administer a survey to assess customer satisfaction in the process and products being distributed in the NCPN-Hop sales. Debbie will work with Gayle, toward the goal of collecting the feedback prior to the late-October Vision subcommittee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50.