

**MINUTES
CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD MEETING**

March 11, 2015
Stockton, California

I. **Chairman Chiles Wilson called the meeting of the California Cherry Board to order at 9:30am**

II. **Introductions**

Roll Call was completed and Self-Introductions were done

Members in attendance:

Jeff Colombini
Joe Cataldo
Rick Cook
Tom Gotelli
Lawrence Sambado
Mike Collins
Chiles Wilson
Fred Podesta
Bruce Hinchman

Tim Sambado
Skip Foppiano
Mitch Mariani
Patrick Archibeque
Erick Stonebarger
Sarjit S Malhi
Dominic Zaninovich

Members Absent

Steve Lagorio
Angelo Confessi
Anthony Guido
Skip Foppiano
Blake Ueki
Jeremy Hjelmstad

Ryan Zaninovich
Michael Jameson

Ralph Santos Jr.
Ryan Logoluso

Other Attendees:

Kathy Diaz
Michelle Paul
Kassie Fraser
Chris Zanobini
James Christie
Ken Carstens
Matt Lantz
Kevin Pitto
Cliff Ohmart

Maurice Cameron
Kaleb Smith
Nick Matteis
Wayne Aalto
Paul Wilson
Rich Handel
Andrew Dasso
Deborah Olsen

There was a quorum

III. **Approval of October 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Colombini seconded by Hinchman and unanimously approved to approve the minutes as presented. {15-01}

IV. **Election Result and Seating of Board**

Election of Chairman

Nominations for Chairman were opened up to the floor by Executive Director Chris Zanobini. Chiles Wilson was nominated for chairman – there were no other nominations.

It was moved by Colombini seconded by Sambado and unanimously approved to elect Chiles Wilson as Chair. {15-02}

Election of Vice Chairman

Nominations for Vice Chairman were opened up to the floor by Chiles Wilson. Mike Collins was nominated for Vice Chairman – there were no other nominations.

It was moved by Colombini seconded by Cataldo and unanimously approved to elect Mike Collins as Vice Chairman. {15-03}

Nominations for Chairman were opened up to the floor by Executive Director Chris Zanobini. Chiles Wilson was nominated for chairman – there were no other nominations.

It was moved by Colombini seconded by Sambado and unanimously approved to elect Chiles Wilson as Chair. {15-04}

Election of Secretary/Treasurer

Nominations for Secretary/Treasurer were opened up to the floor by Chiles Wilson. Jeff Colombini was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer – there were no other nominations.

It was moved by Sambado seconded by Cook and unanimously approved to elect Jeff Colombini as Secretary/Treasurer. {15-05}

Election of Member at Large

Nominations for Member at Large were opened up to the floor. Tom Gotelli, Guy Cotton and Blake Ueki were nominated for the member at large position.

A preference vote was conducted and after a review of the votes it was identified that one board member voted incorrectly so the vote was redone. Before the second vote was conducted Guy Cotton withdrew his nomination. A second vote occurred and Tom Gotelli was elected as the member at large.

V. **Committee Reports**

a) Management Committee Report – Chiles Wilson

Chairman Wilson reported that he checks in with management on a regular basis and that there are no issues to report at this time.

b) Finance Committee Report

Finance committee chair Jeff Colombini asked Chris Zanobini to review the financials and what is to be considered a working budget. Mr. Zanobini reviewed the projected year end budget and the 2015/16 working budget. The budget is attached to these minutes. After some discussion Mr. Colombini made a motion to approve the working budget as presented.

It was moved by Colombini seconded by Podesta and unanimously approved to approve the working budget. {15-06}

At this time Mr. Zanobini asked for a motion to maintain the line of credit at \$300,000 with F&M Bank and to allow the Executive Director to make inter item budget transfers.

It was moved by Colombini seconded by Podesta and unanimously approved to elect maintain the line of credit and allow the executive director to make inter item budget transfers {15-07}

A question was raised about the annual audit and Mr. Zanobini indicated that the auditor was finalizing the extensive audit from the prior board and would be conducting the CCB audit next. Because the CCB receives in excess of \$500,000 in grant funds it is subject to a more extensive audit which is required by the federal government.

c) Export, Marketing, Trade Policy and Statistics

Export committee chair Tim Sambado turned the report over to Bryant Christie to present the results of the export committee meeting.

Michelle Paul provided a detailed presentation on what the committee approved and the activities and budgets for each market. A copy of the activities and budget is attached to these minutes.

It was moved by Sambado seconded by Mariani and unanimously approved to approved the export program budget and activities as presented. {15-08}

James Christie gave an overview of trade policy and Matt Lantz provided a report on MRL activities,.

d) Research

Nick Matteis, CCB research coordinator provided an update on the activities of the research committee and presented the list of projects that the committee recommends to the board for funding. A list of the projects is attached to these minutes.

It was moved by Sambado seconded by Cataldo and unanimously approved to approve the research budget and projects as presented. {15-09}

Mr. Matteis indicated that the research review is scheduled for January 26, 2016 and that the next research committee meeting is scheduled for August 26th. He also indicated that the committee has continued to discuss the idea of hiring a research director to work

directly with growers and the research community but until there is more consistently funding and crop that the position is on hold.

Chris Zanobini introduced Cliff Ohmart from Sure Harvest. Mr. Zanobini indicated the cherry board was successful in obtaining a \$200,000 grant to take the sustainability self-assessment and turn it into an online workbook. Mr. Ohmart gave an overview of the project, reviewed the progress of the project.

Tom Gotelli gave an update on the Nutrition Research Committee meeting held with the Northwest in January. He indicated that this is an exciting area of research that has tremendous potential for the consumption of cherries.

VI. **Other Business**

Chris Zanobini reported that we needed to follow up on the Buy California presentation given to the board in October. He indicated that a number of operations had expressed interest in the program and CCB becoming a member.

It was moved by Collins seconded by Cataldo and unanimously approved to join the Buy California program for \$5000. {15-10}

The issue of Food Safety was discussed and it was agreed that the CCB should pull together a food safety committee to discuss the topic of food safety. There was also discussion in regards to listeria and that the fact there should be a US tolerance.

It was moved by Sambado seconded by Cook and unanimously approved to give the executive director the authority to work with the appropriate groups in establishing a tolerance for listeria. {15-11}

Mr. Cook brought up the possibility of the board putting on a labor seminar for the growers. He indicated that he attended one earlier this year and it was very informative. Mr. Zanobini said he would work to make this happen before the season started.

VII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned/

I, Chris Zanobini do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the California Cherry Board meeting held on March 11, 2015.

Chris A Zanobini
Executive Director