

**MINUTES
CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD MEETING**

April 7, 2016
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:

Joe Cataldo
Rick Cook
Lawrence Sambado
Mike Collins
Chiles Wilson
Bruce Hinchman
Angelo Cafesse

Tim Sambado
Mitch Mariani
Erick Stonebarger
Fred Podesta

John Gibson
Guy Cotton

Members Absent

Dominic Zaninovich
Blake Ueki
Ralph Santos Jr.
Jeremy Hjelmstad
Tom Gotelli

Sarjit S Malhi
Patrick Archibeque
Jessica Costigliolo

Other Attendees:

David Hillis
Larelle Miller
Ken Carstens
Paul Wilson
Rich Sambado
Rich Handel

Kassie Fraser
Chris Zanobini
James Christie
Nick Matteis

There was a quorum

III. **Approval of October 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Collins seconded by Cook and unanimously approved to approve the minutes as presented. {16-01}

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 Cataldo seconded by Cotton and unanimously approved to elect Chiles Wilson as Chair. {16-02}

Election of Vice Chairman

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

It was moved by Podesta seconded by Cataldo and unanimously approved to elect Mike Collins as Vice Chairman. {16-03}

Election of Secretary/Treasurer

Nominations for Secretary/Treasurer were opened up to the floor by Chris Zanobini. Bruce Hinchman was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer – there were no other nominations.

It was moved by Cook seconded by Cataldo and unanimously approved to elect Bruce Hinchman as Secretary/Treasurer. {16-04}

Election of Member at Large

Nominations for Member at Large were opened up to the floor. Tobin Martin was nominated for Member at Large – there were no other nominations.

It was moved by Collins seconded by Sambado and unanimously approved to appoint Tobin Martin as Member at Large. {16-05}

V. **Committee Reports**

a) **Estimating Team and Finance Committee Report**

The estimates were presented by Mike Collins. After discussing the estimate it was agreed that we would accept the estimate of 8,102,500 as presented. For budgeting purposes an estimate of 8 million will be used. It was also noted that the estimate could change significantly once we get a real sense of the quality and overall size of the crop.

It was moved by Collins seconded by Hinchman and unanimously approved to accept the estimate as presented. {16-06}

Chris Zanobini indicated that since there the Finance Committee Chair was no longer on the board the committee did not meet but he had prepared the budget on behalf of the committee. The budget was presented utilizing a total crop of 8 million an assessment rate of \$0.12 (12 cents) and total expenses of \$1,763,000. After much discussion about the potential for the crop to be smaller than estimated and a higher assessment rate with the ability to make adjustments before assessments are due if the crop came in as estimated two motions were made. The first one failing and the second one passing – roll call votes were conducted with no abstentions.

It was moved by Mariani seconded by Sambado to accept the budget and assessment rate as presented. (Yes Votes – Cafesse, Mariani, Cataldo, Sambado) (No Votes – Cook, Podesta, Collins, Cotton, Hinchman) Chairman Wilson did not vote) Motion did not pass. {16-07}

It was moved by Cook seconded by Hinchman and approved by roll call vote to set the assessment rate at \$0.14 (14 cents), add a \$150,000 contingency line item to the budget with the understanding that if the crop comes in as estimated that the assessment rate could be adjusted before assessments are due. It was also understood that the contingency could only be utilized by a vote of the board. (Yes Votes – Caffese, Mariani, Gibson, cook, Cataldo, Podesta, Collins, Cotton, Hinchman) (No Votes – Sambado) Chairman Wilson did not vote. {16-08}

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 Cotton seconded by Podesta and unanimously approved to elect maintain the line of credit and allow the executive director to make inter item budget transfers {15-09}

b) 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.

Kassie Frazier presented the export program as discussed and approved by the export committee

It was moved by Hinchman seconded by Cataldo and unanimously approved the export program budget and activities as presented. {15-10}

James Christie gave an overview of trade policy and MRL activities,.

c) 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. The committee did not fund the maximum amount of \$300,000 but it was recommended by Chris Zanobini that the board maintain the research funding level at \$300,000 given the possibility of an additional project being approved.

It was moved by Podesta seconded by Hinchman and unanimously approved to approve the research budget and projects as presented with a maximum funding level of \$300,000. {15-11}

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.

There was no nutrition research committee report – Zanobini indicated that California was still working with the Northwest but the Northwest was utilizing a grant and no funding was requested at this time.

VI. Other Business

Chris Zanobini indicated that the Center for Produce Safety presented at Cherry Day with the hopes that the Cherry industry would support the CPS and their work on Food Safety Research. After much discussion it was agreed that the cherry industry should participate but there were questions on what the benefits were and what amount was required. Zanobini indicated that he would have the CPS Executive Director come to the next board meeting to address the board.

The California Cherry Website was brought up and it was asked when the site would be updated and accessible. Zanobini indicate that the site should have been update and live last night.

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 April 7, 2016.

Chris A Zanobini
Executive Director