

Seed Certification, Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 16, 2016

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Dan Arp; Dr. Larry Curtis; Dr. Mike Flowers; Dr. Tom Chastain; Dr. Jeremiah Dung; Dr. Bob Zemetra; Dr. Andrew Hulting; Dr. Jennifer Kling; Dr. Sam Angima; Lee von Borstel; Brian Parker; Rob Lane (conference); Scott Setniker; Warren Dole; Duane Klundt; Missy Fix; Nancy Osterbauer; Dr. Jay Noller; Dan Curry; Dennis Lundeen; Jodi Keeling.

Members Absent: Dr. Sagar Sathuvalli; Dr. Ken Frost; Lindsay Eng (Nancy Osterbauer as proxy); Dr. Bill Braunworth.

Guests: Rachel Hankins; Sandy Smith; Andy Altishin; Alex Albion; John Zielinski; Tami Brown; Terry Burr; Barry Schrupf; Mary Beuthin.

Introductions & Approval of Agenda -- Dan Curry

Dennis Lundeen and Dan Curry thanked everyone for their attendance today and confirmed that there is a quorum; business actions can be approved. Board members went around the room and introduced themselves. Dan asked for a motion to approve the agenda and mentioned one item to be added under new business regarding the appeals process as written in the OSCS Handbook. Duane Klundt moved to approve the meeting agenda, with the new business (D. Klundt/ B. Zemetra seconded); all in favor.

Approval of 2015 Meeting Minutes -- Dan Curry

Lee von Borstel moved to approve the 2015 minutes as written (L. von Borstel/ T. Chastain); all in favor.

Reports

OSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES REPORT -- Dan Arp

Dean Arp recognized the importance of the roles provided by individuals in the room and provided updates from OSU College of Ag.

- Joyce Loper has been hired to replace Larry Curtis (who has retired), and Mary Corp took over at CBARC.
- Two other stations have new director searches-- Southern, and the Food Innovation Center in Portland looking for directors.
- OSU is moving forward with experiential learning for students in efforts to gain experience in the field before graduation.
- Legislature approved a \$14 million package for Experiment stations and Extension last year, which allows for many new faculty and support positions.
- Roughly 25 new positions in the college overall, an unprecedented level of financial support for the College.

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE REPORT -- Sam Angima

Dr. Angima highlighted the current status of Ag Extension.

- There are 9 new positions added in Ag Extension over the last year; Malheur county, Mid-Columbia basin, Umatilla county.
- There is an increased emphasis in student experiential learning (18 students involved so far in Tillamook and Malheur).
- Due to last year's drought, extension agents were able to focus on adaptation for climate change in multiple tracts.
- Cutworms were a threat to agriculture throughout the state and there is collaboration on literature to define and describe how to deal with this pest.
- Another informational piece using "degree days" for forage has become an adaptable and useful tool.
- Food safety is an emphasis here in Oregon due to the advent of the Food Innovation Center, along with ID WA AK, and the center is searching for trainers to conduct classes. They had a meeting yesterday to identify how to get people trained.
- Two faculty will be hired to help ranchers manage specialized and endangered sage grouse habitat.

OSU DEPARTMENT OF CROP AND SOIL SCIENCE REPORT-- Jay Noller

- The "slug killer" Invertebrate Pest Scientist position nearly hired; in negotiations with the candidate.
- Dr. Carol Mallory Smith will be retiring at the end of June this year, and Peter Bottomley will also retire this year.
- OSU, specifically the college of agriculture, is looking to get into launching a pilot program of industrial hemp, which is a reemergence of that crop in the valley. The main obstacle is now funding for that program.

OSU HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT – no report

ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- Rob Lane/ Terry Burr

Terry read and described the PAC action items.

Action item 1: Add the varieties Pike, LaRatte and Sage to the list of “Latent Varieties” in the standards¹. These are varieties that don’t show PVY symptoms. Dan asked for a motion to add these varieties to the latent list. Motion made to add these three varieties to the latent list (W. Dole/ L. von Borstel). No discussion; all in favor.

Action item 2: Create a definition of “approved labs”. To place a note in the definition section of the Standards stating that for a laboratory to be considered “approved” for disease diagnostic purposes or viral “clean up” it must meet any one of the following criteria: (1) be a state or federal facility (including university labs and those run by Crop Improvement Associations) whose primary purpose is diagnosis or testing of plant pathogens or viral cleanup of micropropagation material; (2) be an APHIS approved lab for this same purpose; or (3) be approved for this purpose by a sub-committee of at least three OSU plant pathologists. Motion made to create a definition of “approved labs” in the Potato Standards (L. von Borstel/ B. Parker). Discussion: A question was asked about whether an industry representative should be involved in the subcommittee meeting to determine whether a lab is qualified. The notes from the subcommittee indicate that the lab be approved by a subcommittee of at least 3 OSU representatives.

All in favor.

At the PAC meeting in January, Jeff was asked to further explain the appeals process for Winter Grow Out readings in the Potato Standards; however, no action is needed for this item as the appeals process is already defined in the OSCS handbook and can be copied into the Potato Standards.

GRASS AND LEGUME ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- Brian Parker

Action item 1: Adopt the standards for industrial hemp. Brian Parker and Sandy Smith explained the reasoning and history behind the industrial hemp standard. It is adopted from the AOSCA hemp standard, which originated in Canada. A motion was made to adopt the hemp standard (B. Parker/ L. von Borstel). Discussion: Members asked about the three-mile isolation distance protocol and whether there would be a pinning process, similar to canola. Dr. Noller responded with a brief explanation that yes, to be certified, the grower will have to follow the legalities and ODA rules, which do include a pinning system.

Members asked why these standards are necessary at the current time. Dr. Noller responded that there is interest by the University and some growers to pursue industrial hemp as a crop, and most of the varieties OSU researchers and interested growers would like to bring into the state are not allowed until the standards are in place.

All in favor.

Action item 2: Amend the bylaws to change the title of the Foundation Project manager to Director of Seed Services, modify the title of OSU Forage Researcher to OSU Plant Breeder/Plant Geneticist, and the Forage Seed Extension Specialist to OSU Extension specialist.

Motion to approve this amendment (B. Parker/ D. Klundt). No discussion; all in favor.

Action item 3: Accept the proposal to ensure a 95% minimum ploidy level of OECD pre-control annual ryegrass seed stock, both diploid and tetraploid. If a pre-control sample fails upon receipt, the seed would be ineligible for further certification. This already exists for domestic seed varieties. Motion to accept this proposal (B. Parker/ T. Chastain). Discussion? Andy Hulting asked how often this has been an issue. Rachel responded that to our knowledge, it has only happened once a single lot with this circumstance made it through to tagging.

All in favor.

CEREALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- Lee von Borstel

Lee von Borstel presented the action items for the CAC.

Action item 1: Corn certification standard update. The committee asks to insert the words, “Where pollen parent border rows are ineffective or missing, effectively shedding pollen parent rows within the field may be used in accordance with Table 1 to determine the isolation distance correction in the seed parent.”² This addition brings the Oregon standard in alignment with the AOSCA standards. Motion made to add this verbiage to the Corn Standards (L. von Borstel/ M. Flowers). No discussion; all in favor.

Action item 2: Small grains standard update. To insert into the standard the words, “Mechanical separations, genetic isolation zones, and other excluded areas of a seed field must be designated by physical markings placed in the field that are easily observed and readily recognized to be designating a boundary. See also:

<http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/guidelines/smallgrainsisolation.pdf>.”³ Motion made to approve this update (L. von Borstel/ M. Flowers) No discussion; all in favor.

¹ Specifically, these three varieties would be added to Part XIII-B (page 16), Table 7 footnote e (page 18), and Appendix A (page 22, varieties with a * after them) in the Potato Standards.

² To be inserted in OSCS Corn Certification Standards (pg. 4) as item 3e under Section B, Isolation from Contaminating Pollen, in Field Standards.

³ Added to OSCS Small Grains Certification Standards, Seed Standards, in the table heading.

Action item 3: Small grains standard update. To add the following words to the Seed Standards table: “ All wheat, barley, and triticale seed lots will be tested for seeds per pound and reported on the OSU Report of Seed Analysis.”⁴ Motion made to accept this insertion as written (L. von Borstel/ B. Parker). Discussion: Lee explained that this is one of the most important pieces of information on the seed test report. Mike mentioned that the hotly discussed item at the CAC meeting was the current \$30 cost of the test and the group requested of the OSU seed lab to reexamine the fee; Jodi said the seed lab is looking into purchasing the mechanized equipment which would reduce the labor time expenditure. When asked, she estimated that about half of the small grains lots currently include this test. All in favor.

SEED CONDITIONERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- Warren Dole

Warren noted that the SCA group supported the move away from faxes, and that a letter has been mailed making this notification.

Action item 1: Allow alternate bulk bag labeling for seed transferred for further conditioning. A subcommittee met in January and came up with a plan to require that the tag be sewn in on top or on side, and then allow an additional adhesive tag on the clear pouch (two-tag system) in lieu of stenciling.⁵ Motion made to allow bulk bag labeling with this two-tag system (W. Dole/D. Klundt). Discussion: Samplers must be able to view the tag at any time; often bulk bags are stacked making a tag at the top inaccessible. This allows for re-use of the bulk bags as an adhesive tag can be removed more easily than a stencil. All in favor.

Action item 2: Request for allowance of delivery of urgent or priority samples to the lab by a warehouse representative. From the one year pilot proposal: “ An ‘Urgent’ sample can be hand delivered to the lab by a warehouse or company representative when the need for sample results is faster than would be provided by a basic Rush or Super Rush sample. It must meet the following criteria: 1) must be an OSU Seed Lab Rush or Super Rush sample and be entered that way on the sample certificate; 2) must be sealed in a secondary bag provided by OSCS samplers; 3) must be received at the lab during normal working hours 8-5pm and cannot be left in the outside drop box; 4) only the Urgent sample can be hand delivered, the rest of the samples must be delivered through normal means; 5) with OSCS oversight, the Seed Lab may refuse tampered samples; 6) samplers must be notified prior to arriving at the warehouse in order to monitor the number of urgent samples by each warehouse.”

Discussion: it was discovered that some warehouses were allowed to bring samples to the OSU Seed Lab, outside of Seed Certification purview. Board members agreed that if allowed, this should be opened to everyone and only for a “super rush” and for a special fee, for the rushed sample ONLY. The best estimate of timesaving that this would offer is 6 hours at most during a normal weekday and up to 48 hours over a weekend or holiday; it is likely that this would be seen as an avenue to get ahead of competition, rather than an “emergency only” use. Without being in the hands of the official sampler, there would be increased opportunities for tampering and the standard may be called into question; however the Seed Lab has the right to refuse any sample that appears to have been altered. The “chain of custody” is in place to help minimize those risks; an allowance outside of that rule might lower the appearance of quality. This would also likely put an undue burden on the Seed Lab to manage; the point was made that the burden of opportunity to “get ahead” of the competition should be between contractor/grower and warehouse. Someone suggested using Overnight service from the East side; this is already being done. Another suggested that a secondary sample be drawn and sent to a private lab to get results faster while waiting for the OSU Seed Lab results. One of the biggest problem times is weekends and holidays during the off-season when there is no runner; a sample that comes off on Friday afternoon and mailed in isn’t delivered until Tuesday. It would be useful to have a runner or on-call person who could take care of those issues, on a case-by-case basis.

Warren asked if there is support from this group for this to be allowed. After much discussion, it was moved to maintain the original policy that OSCS samplers maintain custody of seed samples and not allow hand delivery of samples. It was suggested, when possible, to assist in the pickup of samples, while still maintained in OSCS custody (B. Parker, D. Klundt); all in favor. Barry suggested that a statement should be added to the Sampler and Taggers Guide about maintaining chain of custody.

MINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- Scott Setniker

No action items. Scott gave a brief summary of the MAC meeting and some field appeals in 2015 due to field history issues.

The question was asked how many fields go to appeals in a season. Dan responded with a handout about the Current Appeals process, relating to the next agenda item. It varies, between 5 and 8 every year on average.

⁴ To be inserted in OSCS Small Grains Certification Standards, Seed Standards, in the table heading.

⁵ Both the OSCS Handbook (Section IV, Part B, 2.c.) and the Samplers and Taggers Guide (Appendix 2) are to be amended to make this accommodation.

NEW BUSINESS – Dan Curry

Dan Curry presented a proposal to update the handbook to further delineate the appeals process⁶:

If a grower disagrees with a decision rendered by the primary inspector of the field, this decision may be appealed. The grower must file a letter or email notice of appeal within 15 days of receiving notice of the decision. The appeal notification should include the crop type, the variety and the certification field number. The letter of appeal must be signed by the grower or the grower's agent and forwarded to the Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS), **107 Crop Science Building, Corvallis, Oregon, 97331**, or emailed to (**what is our generic email address?**). The grower must include with the appeal letter or email any additional information that may be appropriate to the resolution of the appeal.

When a notice of appeal is received by the OSCS office, the Certification manager will review the notice of appeal. If in the judgment of the Certification manager a second inspection would assist in resolution of the matter, s/he will instruct a second inspector to review the field or fields in question when time, weather, and crop conditions still permit a valid assessment. The Certification manager will review all relevant information held by the OSCS office and make a decision. The Certification office will notify the grower of the Certification manager's decision and the reasons for the decision. Within 15 days of notification of that decision, the grower must notify the OSCS office in writing if the grower continues to dispute the decision. The OSCS office will then forward as promptly as possible all information to the Chair of the Certification Board (**Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences**) for consideration by the Appeal Advisory Panel.

A confirmation notice letter or email will be sent out by the OSCS office to the grower or grower's agent who sent in the notice of appeal. This will acknowledge that the notice of appeal has been received and that a Certification Appeal Advisory Panel will be assembled. The grower must provide any additional pertinent information in writing to the OSCS office within one week of the notice. The Appeal Advisory Panel will be composed of Oregon certified seed growers and an OSU Extension staff member when available. The recommendations by the Appeal Advisory Panel members and all relevant information held by the OSCS office will be sent to the OSU Dean of Agricultural Sciences for review. Once the Dean has made a decision, a letter will be sent to the grower or grower's agent who sent in the appeal letter, explaining the Dean's decision. The Dean's decision is final and is not subject to further appeals.

A motion was made to approve this update (**with a secondary motion to approve the annotated amendments D. Klundt/ B. Parker**), (B. Parker/ W. Dole). Discussion: Jodi asked about the anonymity of the grower to the panel and vice-versa. The panel knows the grower of record, but the grower would not know who was on the panel. Nancy asked whether the Dean or OSCS convenes the panel, and Dan responded that the Director of Seed Services is the intermediary who convenes the panel. Brian Parker asked whether there is consideration for potential conflicts of interest (ie neighbors, family members), and Dan confirmed that it is so. Sandy Smith asked if there is exclusion for an appeal that contradicts an established standard. Yes, any appeal can be made. Mike Flowers suggested that due to the time sensitive nature of the business, at the point of notification of appeal that the appeals panel be convened automatically instead of waiting for the Dean. The process is not necessarily linear, many things are happening concurrently and there isn't time spent waiting on the Dean to move forward.

All in favor.

TREE SEED ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Barry Schrupf

Barry offered a brief report. The memo with Washington State Crop Improvement for tree seed continues. Jerry Robinson of WSCIA has accepted responsibility to be secretary/treasurer for the Northwest Forest Tree Seed Certifiers Association.

OTHER REPORTS

USDA – NATIONAL CLONAL GERMLASM REPOSITORY REPORT -- Missy Fix

- 1764 seed samples shipped, an increase over last year. Over 8000 items, 800 orders filled in 2015.
- Repository members attended a plant expedition to Vietnam and brought back 26 different accessions of seed samples and plant pieces (some have yet to be identified). Hosts will be coming to the states this summer in an exchange.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT -- Nancy Osterbauer

- The new temporary rules for Industrial Hemp are now in place, the only change is that the license is good for one year instead of three.
- Updated the Malheur county bean disease protocol updated to match more closely with Idaho; and onion white rot control area changed to allow some specific onions to be shipped in reusable plastic containers, providing they have been sanitized.
- Still working on updating the rules for cruciferous seed due to blackleg issues in the Willamette Valley;

⁶ Beginning in 2016 the verbiage would replace pages 6-7 of the 2015 handbook.

- USDA Biotech Regulatory Service will be hosting a GE bentgrass meeting at the OSU Extension office in Ontario, OR, on March 1st from 5-7pm.

OREGON SEED ASSOCIATION -- Duane Klundt

- OSA is watching two legislative tracks, the proposals to increase the state minimum wage, and a couple of bills on Genetically Engineered seed and products of seed.
- OSA's stewardship policy enforces that members disclose whether they are growing GE products in the state.
- Continue to seek support for a database for public data reporting of industry production to follow trends.
- Risa DiMasi is the first female chairperson of ASTA and the annual convention will be held in Portland June 19-23.

OSU SEED SERVICES REPORT – Dan Curry

- Adriel Garay retired in December of 2015 and a small internal search for an interim manager was unsuccessful, so Dan Curry was appointed for up to 6mos. Position description is available, and there have been 5 applicants to date.
- AOSA/SCST happening in Portland on June 5-8 this year.
- No private seed testing labs have been qualified for outsourcing at this time.
- Recent software and firewall updates and encryption of the Online Services website. Asking all companies to change pin numbers regularly to protect your information.

OREGON SEED CERTIFICATION SERVICE REPORT – Dennis Lundeen

- Tami Brown joined the Certification staff this year, and comes with a plant breeding background. She will be leading the seedstock and corn inspection programs.
- New Tech: A field mapping online application was added to the Online Services website. iPad applications allow inspectors to enter results in the field to get results to clients more quickly. App for Apple devices that enable push notifications for lab test results.
- UAV/Drone experiments for use in certification inspections; currently in observation mode. Working with the AES group on campus with the Department of Forestry who already have the appropriate permits.
- Crop acreage in 2015 was pretty static with a decline in about 1%. Details about certified acres and other pertinent information can be found in the Oregon Certification Activity Summary.
- This meeting serves as kickoff to our celebration of 100 years of Seed Certification in Oregon!! George Hyslop took on the role of certifying seed for the then Oregon Agricultural College in 1916, but the first Seed Certification, Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board meeting wasn't held until Sept 5, 1945.

OSU SEED LABORATORY REPORT – Jodi Keeling

- Two rule proposals have been submitted to AOSA and are currently under review: one to allow the discontinuing of the factoring procedure in fine fescues, the other corrects the current AOSA formula to estimate annual and perennial ryegrass in the pure ryegrass seed component.
- Research: lively discussion at the OSA meeting about the current reporting of ryegrass contaminants is wrong. Reported as AR/PR, would like to report as "Other Ryegrass". Industry frustrations arose as Oregon is held back because other states don't follow rules. Dan traveling to Montana to go to the seed regulatory group.
- The lab is looking into the feasibility of breaking multiples of ryegrass for two reasons; the seed industry wants to speed up the process, and multiples can cause planting problems. Are these larger particles being caught with sampling probes and being reported? More discussions needed to address larger inert and plantability issues.
- Just began entertaining idea of researching whether it is possible to shorten the 42 day growout for ryegrass using "fine" vs "wide" leaved to differentiate rather than waiting for flowering.
- The Seed Lab fax server will be turned off April 15, 2016. Postal mail will continue for clients who have not gone paperless. It was down for a day and a half recently and nobody noticed. e-Reports are available to all customers without a sign-up process, and there are multiple other applications available to receive notifications.

OLD/ OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 3:10PM (L. von Borstel/ B. Parker). All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Mary Beuthin.

All advisory committee meeting minutes and supplementary materials are available online at the OSU Seed Certification Online Services website (<http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/>), or by request.