



## **Seed Certification, Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board**

### **2019 Meeting Minutes**

February 12, 2019

**Members present:** Joyce Loper (acting Chair); Brian Parker; Scott Setniker; Barry Schruppf; Pat McClain; Phill Lindgren (proxy); Elizabeth Savory; Jay Noller; Dan Curry; Andrew Altishin; Dave Stimpson; Sagar Sathuvalli (tele); Ryan Graebner (tele); Jeff McMorrnan (proxy); Mary Beuthin (secretary)

**Guests:** Betsy Verhoeven; Will Jessie; Carrie Lewis; Jodi Keeling; Alex Albion; Tami Brown; Terry Burr; Brandi Cox; Oscar Gutbrod; Rachel Hankins; Farhad Shafa; John Zielinski

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Dan Curry called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The quorum for this meeting is one-half of the 18 voting members; 10 in attendance met this requirement.

### **Approval of 2019 Agenda**

Phill moved to approve the meeting agenda, and Brian seconded (Lundgren / Parker). All in favor.

### **Approval of 2018 Minutes**

The motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (Loper / Setniker). All in favor.

### **OSU College of Agricultural Sciences report**

Dr. Loper greeted the group with a warm thanks on behalf of Dean Alan Sams to the OSU Foundation Building for providing the new space; to Seed Certification and the Seed Lab staff for services provided in support of the industry; to the OSU Faculty for the support they provide to Oregon agriculture; and to the growers, contractors, and breeders who strengthen the industry and commit to participating in advisory committees and this Board.

- The big news from the College is the arrival of the new Dean, Alan Sams, who joined OSU on November 1, 2018. Most recently he served as Executive Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M. Dean Sams graduated from the University of Florida with majors in poultry science and food science and a minor in food and resource economics. His first months at here have been focused on visiting with stakeholders, faculty, and other colleagues statewide. Among these groups are the Oregon Seed League and Oregon Seed Association. This month he's traveling to different departments and field stations, including the Crop & Soil Science department next week.

- Currently, the Oregon State legislature is in session and the College has communicated its vision and financial needs through the statewide program along with Outreach and Engagement, and the College of Forestry. The statewide programs have requested an increase of \$30M, with about half of that to restore capacity lost since the 2015 session due to budget reductions. The remaining half is intended for new initiatives.

- With the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, the production of industrial hemp became legal in all 50 states and territories. Because of existing state statutes and regulations, the State of Oregon and OSU are uniquely positioned to provide assistance to the emerging hemp industry, particularly in the areas of plant breeding, economics, agronomics, and pest/pathogen research. Initially, this industry is expected to generate as much as

\$500M annually for the state's economy, with considerable growth thereafter, resulting in additional jobs and an alternative crop for many producers.

- Three CAS Professors, who lead research in fungal and plant genomes and soil microbes, were recognized in 2018 as among the most impactful researchers worldwide. The assessment was based on the number of times that publications from these programs are cited by other researchers. The College is pleased and extremely proud of the continued excellence of the faculty and staff.

### **OSU Extension Service report**

Director Angima was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted a short report via email that was read aloud to the group.

- Two vacant Extension positions were filled in 2018; Will Jessie and Betsy Verhoeven took field crops positions serving the South and Central Willamette valley respectively.

- CSS is also in the process of hiring an Extension field crops entomologist this year.

- Amber Moore is covering for soils programs around the state.

### **OSU Department of Crop and Soil Science report**

Jay Noller announced that he will be stepping down as Crop and Soil Science (CSS) Department Head in response to the Dean's request to lead the newly developing hemp research programs statewide. He expects to complete this transition sometime in 2019.

- Three new hires in the CSS department are: Dr. Caio Brunharo, professor of weed Science; Bailey Jenks, new Cereals Outreach Coordinator; and Dr. Stuart Reitz, new Director of the Malheur Experiment Station.

- Currently, there are three faculty searches underway within the Department. In Corvallis, a search for an Assistant Professor – Extension Entomologist is led by Dr. Silvia Rondon. There's a search for an Assistant Professor – IPM Scientist at COAREC in Madras. In Klamath Falls, a search for an Assistant Professor – Agronomy has been started at KBREC. Jay stressed that input from all stakeholders is needed and greatly appreciated in defining these positions and in future searches.

- Two new Degrees will be available online this year: the BS major and minor in Soil Science is the first of its kind, and later in 2019, Agronomy will be added to the list. The first ever Organic Agriculture graduate certificate will be coming online this spring as well.

- With respect to hemp and Seed Certification, it is expected that there will be varieties for inspection, pending USDA rules and AOSCA standards, in the near future. The Seed Lab has ability to perform purity and grow out testing, but no CBD or THC type testing at this time. For questions about the developing hemp research program, contact Dr. Noller directly.

### **OSU Department of Horticulture report**

Dean Bill Braunworth was not able to attend, and there was no report submitted.

### **Oregon Department of Agriculture report**

Elizabeth Savory presented the updates from ODA.

- Industrial hemp entity registrations increased significantly in 2018. In 2017, there were 246 registered growers and in 2018 that number doubled to 584. All signs indicate that those numbers will only grow in 2019. Hemp regulation falls under the nursery program at ODA. No official action has been taken regarding possible cannabis isolation issues.

- Phytosanitary field inspections for hemp are available for seed and/or plant parts, however, since only two have been completed so far there are no protocols yet as to what diseases and problems look like in the crop. Phyto requirements are usually determined by the receiving country on a case-by-case basis so as those requests come in, more will be developed.

- Randy Black is retiring in a few months following an extensive career at ODA in the Market Access and Certification (MAC) and Hemp programs.

- A new Director has been hired for the Market Access and Certification Program, Jess Paulson, who will be starting in June. He has been working in Foreign Agricultural Services (FAS) and is currently serving as an attaché in Tokyo.
- The Kentucky 31 investigation is ongoing, but parts of it are expected to wrap up soon. The agency was asked to investigate misrepresentation violations where VNS lots were marketed as K31 seed: this is the biggest investigation ever undertaken by ODA. Many states, growers, warehouses and dealers have been affected for many years.
- A new online system for testing and sampling requests will be available this spring.
- Canola co-existence with other Brassica species in the valley is a challenge. Recommendations have been made for both legislative and non-legislative options moving forward, and an advisory committee is in process of working to update administrative rules. The report and additional information is available at <https://oda.direct/Canola>.
- Palmer amaranth will be added to the Oregon Prohibited noxious weed seeds list, giving ODA the authority to seize and quarantine contaminated seed lots entering the state.
- In 2018, twenty wheat lots from 7 counties were sampled and tested for karnal bunt; none was found.

### **Potato Advisory Committee report & recommendations**

Jeff McMorran (for Mike Macy) gave a brief report from the Committee and submitted two action items.

Item 1: The Committee recommends an update to the Potato standards allowing OSCS to accept seed lots with lab-only testing from states/provinces where lab testing is the only post-harvest testing (PHT) option (no grow out available) for recertification. This change applies to section XIV Post-Harvest Testing Requirements on page 17 of the 2018 Oregon Seed Potato Standards, and reads as follows:

*B. Acceptance of tuber tested lots: A Post-Harvest Test (PHT) in Oregon is construed to mean a winter grow-out (WGO) of plants that are then visually evaluated. Lots that have only been subjected to laboratory-based tuber testing as the PHT will only be accepted from states or provinces where a winter grow-out is not an option. Tuber tested lots from states or provinces where there is a WGO option will only be accepted as a 'special case' (policy on file).*

Item 2: The Committee recommends implementation of an amendment to footnote \*3 in Table 4 of the Oregon Seed Potato Standards, relating to isolations from non-certified material (experimental plots), based on several appeals to the current requirement. Currently, the standard requires G1 and G2 producing lots to be isolated 300 feet from commercial, or uncertified, lots. The proposed footnote reads, *This isolation requirement is waived if adjacent to experimental lines that can be documented as having the same, or higher, testing status as materials of a similar class to those being certified in the block.*

Jeff moved to accept both items as written, and Brian seconded (McMorran / Parker). No discussion. All in favor.

### **Grass and Legume Advisory Committee report & recommendations**

Brian Parker gave an update regarding the breeder group subcommittee, which was formed at the Dean's request following this meeting last year. Following a course of meetings, Seed Certification developed a prototype program by which information could be requested from the OSCS database via the appropriate channels (observing the rules of confidentiality). The program development and implementation costs were provided to the subcommittee, who returned to their individual groups with this information. Upon review, the Oregon Seed Association and Oregon Seed Council have voted against supporting the program, and the Turfgrass Breeders Association has not responded at this time.

He then outlined the two GLAC recommendations for action.

Item 1: The Committee recommends an update to the red and chewings fescue standards to include an ammonia test for Registered (tolerance: 1 green seedling) and Foundation (tolerance: 0 green seedling) classes only. The test is already completed on all classes and this update enables the results to be applied to certification. The change will apply to footnote 3 relating to Other Crops on both standards. It will read, *The ammonia test is done automatically on all certified seed lots of Red and Chewings fescue species to determine the*

presence of *Hard, Sheep, Blue and Idaho Fescues*; tolerances are: *Foundation, zero green; Registered, one green*. See section IX D3 General Standards in the OSCS Handbook.

There was discussion of whether a test and tolerance should also be considered for Certified class, but concern was expressed about the timing of the testing and seed shipments.

Item 2: The Committee recommends an edit to both the red and white clover field history and field inspections to correct grammatical errors and make consistent with other standards in the program. These edits do not change the standards' requirements in any way, and can be viewed in the 2018 GLAC minutes. Brian moved to accept both items as written, Scott seconded (Parker / Setniker). All in favor.

### **Cereals Advisory Committee report & recommendations**

Alex Albion reported for Lee von Borstel and outlined the two action items from the CAC.

Item 1: The Committee recommends a change in the Land History Requirement in the OSCS Corn Handbook from, *Fields signed up for certification must not have been planted to corn of another color or endosperm type during the previous season, to Land must not have been seeded to or grown any type of corn in the previous year to produce Foundation or Certified corn. Modifications to this requirement may be made with prior approval from OSCS.*

Item 2: The Committee recommends a change in the requirements for seeds per pound testing in the OSCS Handbook. As currently written, the test is required for wheat, barley, and triticale. The proposal is to require the seeds per pound test only on wheat.

Brian moved and Scott seconded to approve the items as written (Parker / Setniker).

### **Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee report & recommendations**

There were no action items put forth from this committee in 2018, and no report was given.

### **Mint Advisory Committee report and recommendations**

There were no action items put forth from this committee in 2019, and no report was given.

### **Tree Seed Project update**

Barry Schrupf reported that 367 bushels of Oregon tree seed cones were verified in 2018. Per a recurring agreement that originated in 2009, the Oregon forest reproductive materials program is administrated by Washington State Crop Improvement Association.

### **USDA National Clonal Germplasm Repository report**

A brief report was given on behalf of Missy Fix. Sixty-five new accessions were added to the Repository in 2018; genuses *Rubus, Ribes, and Vaccinium*. Also 1,020 seed items were shipped, totaling 27,423 seeds.

### **Oregon Seed Association report**

There was no report from the OSA this year.

### **OSU Seed Services report**

Dan Curry provided an update for Seed Services, Seed Certification, and the Seed Lab activities in 2018.

- OSCS certified over 235,000 acres and overall the Seed Lab had a good average turnaround time on sample testing and reporting.
- The Seed Lab is hosting Seed Quality Workshops in March, the 18-19<sup>th</sup> and 25-26<sup>th</sup>. Time will be spent focusing on field and warehouse production, sampling, and quality testing.
- Hemp seed samples have begun to arrive at the Seed Lab. Currently, purity and germination testing are available and the lab is working on making additional testing possible.
- Seed Services is working with the International Seed Testing Association on a validation study to determine if PCR testing can reliably distinguish perennial from annual ryegrass. The study should conclude by fall of this year.

- Seed Certification updated the OSCS website at the end of the year, making it more intuitive and easier to navigate.
- Last spring, the Tall Fescue Commission requested some Breeder class seed of Kentucky 31 tall fescue from Kentucky Foundation Seed (KFS), and received 2lbs of K31 with endophyte and 14lbs of K31 endophyte-free seed. It is currently in cold storage at Hyslop Farm and may be planted to produce Certified K31. Samples from each have been sent to ODA for comparison to samples they have on file.
- OSU Computer Science and Engineering students have been working with Seed Services to develop a computerized seed-sorter. Such a device could possibly increase the speed and accuracy of purity testing, and decrease turnaround time at the Seed Lab.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Dan thanked everyone for attending and Seed Certification staff specifically for coordinating the meeting details. The meeting was adjourned at 2:02pm.

Minutes prepared by Mary Beuthin

All advisory committee meeting minutes and supplementary materials are available online at [seedcert.oregonstate.edu](https://seedcert.oregonstate.edu), or by request.