

**SEED CERTIFICATION – FOUNDATION SEED & PLANT MATERIALS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 11, 2014  
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, LASELLS STEWART CENTER**

Members in Attendance: Mike Flowers,\* Andrew Hulting,\* Tom Chastain,\* Scott Setniker,\* Dennis Lundeen, Jeff McMorrان\* (representing PAC), Bob Zemetra,\* Larry Curtis,\* Dan Curry, Sagar Sathuvalli,\* Russ Karow, Duane Klundt,\* Warren Dole,\* Brian Parker,\* Barry Schruppf,\* Adriel Garay  
(\* indicates voting members)

Guests in Attendance: Oscar Gutbrod, Jodi Keeling, Farhad Shafa, Julie Hendrix, Sandy Smith, Rachel Hankins, Andy Altishin, John Zielinski, Terry Burr, Mary Beuthin, Jim Tully and Greg Nedrow (Monsanto representatives)

Dan Curry called the meeting to order at 1pm with a welcome, thanked all for coming and invited everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves. Terry Burr confirmed that a quorum of voting members had been met.

Larry Curtis moved to approve the agenda for this meeting, and Brian Parker seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Barry Schruppf moved to approve the minutes from last year's meeting (from February 12, 2013). Larry Curtis seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**OSU College of Agricultural Sciences report (Larry Curtis for Dan Arp)**

Larry provided an overview of some new positions coming open in the college, and a look at the budget strategy for the coming year.

Positions: the Linn County Extension Crops Agent position is open following the resignation of Paul Marquardt. Russ Karow has moved quickly to get the announcement posted in recognition of the importance of that position here in the valley. There is a soil fertility position soon to be filled in valley Extension also. Two horticulture positions are coming available for Linn/Benton/Lane, and Yamhill counties under the designation Professor of Practice, a new type of applied skills position focusing on crops. A search will be starting soon for a horticulture research and extension person at North Willamette Research and Extension to replace Jim Owen. Budget strategy for upcoming session: The college took cuts over the last two biennia (down 25-50%). In the most recent session, some additional funding was provided (the roll-up to cover increasing salaries, benefit costs), and for the fermentation program, which was helpful but overall not enough to recover the total losses of the base budget. Strategy for the upcoming session has been much more aggressive. Dan Arp has been proactive in asking legislators how the department can avoid getting steamrolled into other Ag related programs and largely overlooked. Currently, the budget for all statewide public services together is at 101 million for the biennium. Including roll-up, another 6-7 million is needed, so the plan is to ask for 120 million to cover rollup costs and get some new things funded. Several items in the proposed ask are linked to the agricultural industry, with focus on the resiliency of that industry throughout the recession, driving the need to keep it strong and well funded.

**OSU Extension Service report (representative not present)**

**OSU Department of Crop and Soil Science report (Russ Karow)**

Russ' update included some additional job announcements, an update on current student enrollment, the Campaign for OSU fundraising, and other research endowment funding as related to potatoes and cereal varieties.

Ed Peachey's weed science position in the Horticulture department has been expanded to valley-wide responsibilities. Eastern Oregon has a few opportunities available: Columbia Basin Ag Research Center in Pendleton is currently interviewing for a new Superintendent to replace Steve Petrie. Also open at Pendleton is the Weed Scientist position, which will round out the statewide weed program with the dryland component. Overall, Extension positions and budget are down 25-30% from 10 years ago, thus necessitating a push for filling these positions on a needs-based priority. Russ also reiterated his retirement announcement at the end of this year (December 2014), following 30 years of service with the University. A search has commenced, and the full-consideration closing date is the end of February, final closing in mid-March, and there are a handful of applicants and a few others considering at this time.

University student numbers are high, in correlation with nationwide enrollment in higher education. A number of new buildings are being erected on campus to accommodate the influx in attendance. The now 2500-3000 eCampus students may only set foot on campus once or twice, but the University must provide faculty instructors who would be stationed on campus as well. The Campaign for OSU has had a successful year in meeting their \$1 billion goal (as of early February 2014) to help meet this funding need—many of those dollars go to hiring new faculty. CRPS has been successful in procuring endowments for the potato industry to help stabilize funding for Sagar's potato breeder position in Hermiston and another down in Klamath Falls. Additionally other avenues for funding include the areas of specialty and vegetable seed—all of these help offset tuition increases and other burdens on the University and its students.

CRPS has been in discussion with the Wheat commission as to whether the University should place royalties on varieties developed by OSU, but no final decision has been made to date. However, it has been decided that all new varieties coming out of OSU will be subject to Title V—meaning that if the variety is to be sold on the open market, the seed must be certified. Washington and Idaho have made the same move, supporting the effort to stabilize the industry.

## **OSU Horticulture Department report (representative not present)**

### **Grass and Legume Advisory Committee Recommendations (Brian Parker)**

Brian outlined the following list of four GLAC action items:

Item 1: The committee recommends that the board approve the proposed standards for Rocky Mountain Penstemon (*Penstemon strictus*). These standards came directly out of Wyoming and are brand new to Oregon. The committee found no reason not to accept these standards as written.

Item 2: The committee recommends that the board approve the proposed standards for Teff (*Eragrostis tef*). These standards came from California, and at the suggestion of a few members, the committee raised the pure seed minimum standard from 97 to 98%, and 2% inert.

Item 3: The committee recommends that the board approve the proposed standards for Swede (*Brassica napobrassica*). These were copied from currently existing Oregon Turnip seed standards, given the similarity in these two brassica species. The reason for the separate standard (instead of creating a subsection in the Turnip standard) is to differentiate between species due to differing chromosomal numbers. There was discussion at the committee meeting regarding isolation distance requirements for not just Swede, but all insect pollinated crops. Ultimately the committee decided that since there have already been numerous discussions about the topic, and to wait to belabor the point until the subject became ripe for debate again.

Item 4: The committee recommends that the board amend the Annual ryegrass standard to correct the history requirement for Foundation and Registered fields with Perennial ryegrass history. The standard currently reads, "Land must not have grown or been seeded to any Annual or Intermediate ryegrass or Festulolium during the previous five years unless of the same variety, class, and certified. Land must not have been seeded to Perennial ryegrass for two years to produce Certified class seed."

The amendment clarifies the intention of the standard and reads,

"Land must not have grown or have been seeded to *any ryegrass or Festulolium* during the previous five years unless of the same variety, class, and certified. *For Certified class seed production (only) the five year period may be shortened to two years following Perennial ryegrass.*"

Discussion: Andy Hulting asked Brian to speculate about how the industry as a whole might view the practice of following Perennial with Annual ryegrass after two years. Brian's response was that it is possible if it is done properly, but it does not necessarily mean that every grower would be successful at it in every circumstance. Further discussion ensued regarding the current demand for certified Annual ryegrass and the industry's inability to fully meet that demand, thus driving the push for avenues that can be used to increase Annual ryegrass acreage. Jeff McMorran added that this amendment doesn't actually change the standard but only clarifies the wording. Some growers had been asking if the original phrasing meant that they could shorten their time between Annual crops by planting Perennial, and this was not the intention when the standard was written. Brian reiterated that the Modified Land History is a tool already in place to reduce the 5-year requirement between Annual ryegrass crops, and that option has not been changed by this clarification either. A typo was pointed out in the Swede standard (subsp. *rapifera* should not be capitalized) that was corrected by the GLAC secretary.

Andy Hulting moved that the board approve all four of the motions sent forward by the Grass and Legume Advisory Committee. Warren Dole seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

As a side note, Russ Karow mentioned that ODA has approved production of industrial hemp and sometime soon a standard for certified hemp seed will be necessary, and that no such standard currently exists in the country.

### **Cereal Advisory Committee Recommendations (Barry Schrumpf for Lee von Borstel)**

Barry outlined the following recommendations to the board.

Item 1 With regard to Field History: for Foundation seed in the Small Grains standard, it is proposed to change the wording "Land must not have *been seeded to, grown and/or harvested* for a small grain variety of the same kind (for example wheat to wheat) for two years." This wording already exists for Registered and Certified classes and this addition would make the Foundation class as strict as those two classes.

Item 2 With regard to Field History: proposed to immediately follow the words "All Seed Classes" with "*Land must not have been used for livestock feeding of cereal hay for the previous two years.*" This would prevent a situation with potential for high levels of contamination in a field signed up for certification.

Item 3 With regard to Seed Source Documentation: proposed to retain stock seed documentation types 1 and 2, but replace types 3 through 6 with "(3) *Certificate of Final Certification.*" This came about because of the improvements that have come about over the past few years through online certificate generation.

Item 4 With regard to Cereal rye in Other Small Grains Field Standards: proposed to add the following words at the end of footnote 2 in Field Standards: "*further, no re-inspection is allowed in the Foundation class of small grains.*" When a field inspection is being done on a Foundation level field, if Cereal rye were found, the field would be downgraded.

Item 5 With regard to Special Requirements, G, Seed Transfer Documentation: proposed to add words to G(4): "*Certificate of Final Certification, to move seed following completion of testing and setting eligibility for tagging. Previously prepared documents for Transfer of Presampled Seed and for Transfer of Seed Pending Final Certification can be finalized with a Certificate of Final Certification. Seed previously documented with a Certificate of Final Certification for transfer from one approved warehouse to another for further distribution can be further documented with Certificates of Final Certification. Seed is not officially and finally certified until it has been tagged, or documented by a Certificate of Final Certification.*" The main purpose of this addition is for education.

Item 6 With regard to Special Requirements, L, Commingling Seed: Proposed to clarify section L, to read: "*Seed from a field in another state, that is contracted by an Oregon Seed Certification Service client, and has passed field inspection for certification and moved to Oregon with a transfer/shipping certificate from the state of origin, may be commingled with an Oregon seed lot of the same variety with OSCS field blend approval, a fee will apply. Additional testing...*". Existing wording was not explicit enough and needed to be further expanded upon.

Item 7 With regard to Seed Standards, Working weights and Seed test reporting: proposed to change the purity standard so that percentages of pure seed, other crop, inert, and weeds would be based on 75 gram (for Oats and Cereal rye) or 100 gram (for Wheat, Barley and Triticale samples) working weights. The presence and rate (number) of other crops (including other cereals and off-types, e.g. red wheat in white wheat), weeds, noxious weeds, ergot and smut balls, would be based on 500 grams (for all cereals including Oats and Cereal rye). Current requirements for testing 2lb. samples of Foundation seed for off-type, other cereals and noxious weeds will remain unchanged. A year ago, the committee recommended that all tests be based on 500-gram samples, particularly to increase the reported information about weed seed components of a lot, also seeing that some efficiency might be gained from not having to pare down sample weights for other kinds of tests. But there would be more time required to go through an entire 500g sample, particularly for components of inert, which proved to be true this year according to the Seed Lab. Most of this time is spent specifically on broken seeds which must be evaluated individually to determine whether the piece is more or less than half of a full seed to count it appropriately as either pure seed or inert. The proposed wording would return the standard for pure seed and inert to the pre-2013 status, but retain reporting the number of seed contaminants in 500 grams.

Item 8 With regard to Ergot in Triticale: proposed to increase the maximum to *allow 0.1% ergot in Foundation and Registered classes* of Triticale, and 0.05% (no change) in the Certified class.

Item 9 With regard to Seed Standards, Immature Seeds: proposed to add three additional zero tolerance weed seeds to the provision prohibiting immature seeds. It would read: “None of the prohibited weeds... Immature and/or mature seeds of the weeds referenced or listed in this footnote, *or of Cereal rye (as a contaminant), vetch, and Wild oats, except as provided in Oats,* are prohibited in certified seed.” With this wording all weed seeds prohibited in small grains, both mature and immature, would be prohibited.

Barry moved that the board accept all 9 of these proposed changes put forward by the Cereals Advisory Committee. Scott Setniker seconded.

Discussion: Jeff McMorran asked why the words “and/or harvested” are being included in the first field history item. No other certification standard includes this wording because harvesting in and of itself doesn’t affect field history like “seeded or grown”. Barry conceded that they might not be essential words.

Mike Flowers voiced concerns about the language of the proposed change to the working weights for samples and testing (item 7), citing the potential for inconsistency between a number vs. a percentage. Jodi Keeling pointed out that the reporting does at times contradict itself, but the certification is based on the requirements for the standard. Brian Parker suggested that in grasses, when a report is issued the purity percentage is listed and then if there is a noxious weed found in the second exam, it is listed beneath that section with an asterisk noting the frequency percentage is within tolerance. Adriel reminded the group that the reason testing is done this way is because we are subject to the rules of AOSA, and this is how they are written. Four components (pure seed, other crop, inert and weeds) are based on the smaller sample weight, a number per pound of all seed components are based on the larger 500g sample, and anything above and beyond that is up to the states. Mike called for the group to clarify the wording in the example given. Duane brought up the point that this very inconsistency is dealt with in the grass seed industry all the time, and is what they are used to so doesn’t see the problem.

Mike also voiced a concern regarding the issuance of 2 weeds reports—one based on the 75g (or 100g for Oats and Cereal rye) and a second from the 500g, wondering what would happen if the tests contradict each other (ie one meets certification standards and the other not). There was some discussion of the origins of the proposal to change the working weight for purity standard last year, and Schrupf noted that the push for that was from industry, the seed lab complied this year and, while noting some increased efficiencies, the time costs incurred by teasing out the inert material in a larger sample caused major time increases for testing—not the streamlining effect that the industry had been hoping for.

Barry wrapped up with comment that the CAC was interested in the additional information pertaining to other crop and weed seeds, knowing that the additional information may not have any bearing on tag eligibility (aside from the special testing that comes out of that exam ie noxious weed, ergot).

A suggestion to reduce the weight of the bulk exam (250g) is not a possibility because the AOSA rule for the noxious exam is 500g.

Dan called for a vote for the above motion; 4 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstain. Motion passes.

Mike went on the record as encouraging seed certification to clarify how this standard will be practiced in the event of a contradiction, and Tom Chastain voiced agreement.

#### **Mint Advisory Committee Recommendations (Scott Setniker)**

Scott offered a few updates from the mint industry.

Mint acreage increased from 3 acres in 2012 to 94 acres in 2013 due to the changes to the mint modified land history made by this committee at last year's meeting. This is the highest certified mint acreage the industry has seen in several years.

Inspectors noticed off-type looking plants (blue-tinted and hairy) in some of the rootstock fields this year that had to be rogued out. It is unclear whether they were true off-types, or a throwback gene. This is something the Mint Industry Research Council is looking into.

No recommendations are submitted to the board this year.

#### **Tree Seed Advisory Committee Update (Barry Schrupf)**

For the last five years, Oregon and Washington have had an agreement that Washington Crop Improvement would administer the forest reproductive materials program in the state of Oregon. This agreement expires this year, and signatures are being gathered to renew the agreement, favored by both states.

Adriel commented that although they have seen less testing for certified tree seeds, overall they continue to see a fair amount of tree seed testing, presumably for government agencies and private industry.

#### **Potato Advisory Committee Recommendations (Jeff McMorran for Rob Lane)**

Jeff gave a brief summary of the activities and recommendations that came out of the PAC meeting held January 28, 2014 in Kennewick, WA.

There was a fair amount of discussion at the meetings regarding the State National Seed Potato Harmonization Program, administered by the ODA, and the lack of participation in audits on the part of the commercial industry in Oregon. Without the participation of the commercial growers, ODA may not be in compliance with the national MOU and there is concern that because of this Oregon potato seed may not be eligible to be sold outside of the state.

Bacterial ring rot was also a topic discussed at this year's meetings, following a recent reemergence in the state last year. The disease has potential to be undetectable in seed production, and then when planted wipe out a commercial crop—the effects of which can be devastating. BRR has a tendency to be cyclical, cropping up every few years and spurring an industry-wide emphasis on proper sanitation procedures and testing at all levels. No suggestion came from industry with regard to certification rules or procedures.

There is a movement in the national potato industry towards lab testing, away from reliance on visual inspections in the potato grow-out program. Oregon has not yet implemented this practice, and there was no recommendation from the committee to change our standards in regard to this movement yet.

GMO's in Oregon were a topic of much interest and discussion at the meetings. Potatoes were one of the first GMO crops in large-scale production about 12 years ago, but after a huge market fallout that all but destroyed the industry, Oregon seed potato growers have been required to do some intensive testing to prove that their seed is non-GMO and have moved away from GMO production altogether over the last decade. With some talk again of GMO potato production entering the state, concerns were voiced as to whether Oregon should participate and risk increasing that testing potential which burdens the growers.

The following three items that were discussed at the meetings and had potential for actions from today's meeting:

Item 1 Early Generation Line Selection Program (EGLSP): OSCS has been approached by Simplot to create a program that would allow test-tube derived material (nuclear mini-tubers) of multiple lines from the same mother plant, to be planted on a seed farm without jeopardizing that grower's ability to grow certified seed. The difference between this and the existing nuclear class certification program being that each tuber is the same variety from the same mother plant, but each also has a different plasmid inserted into the DNA that is being researched for various beneficial traits. This program would allow these tubers, all of the same variety but with different insertion sites, to be planted as one lot, inspected by certification, and produce certification-eligible material. This program would fit under the nuclear potato certification program with the designation “-LSP”\*. The PAC approved the program as an experimental program for one year (which isn't necessarily subject to the approval by this board). It turns out that this material will be coming from out of state as Certified Nuclear production tags already, which means that this program may not actually be necessary at this time.

Discussion point: Sagar asked whether this material would actually be certified, or if it would be certification-eligible. Jeff clarified that originally it was intended to mean that the material produced would be eligible for G1 production having been inspected by certification. However, since the material will be entering the state as certified, the material will actually be certified under this proposed nuclear program with the designation “-LSP.”

Also, discussion ensued about the terminology used in the wording of the program (“lines” versus “clones”). This wording is confusing because “line” indicates that the plants are homozygous, and in this case “clones” might be more appropriate. The nuances of the wording have relatively little effect as to how certification will actually handle these because each “line” will be signed up under one lot—certification will not be inspecting each plant individually but the “line” as a whole, and there is zero tolerance for plants that appear to be off-type. Sagar points out that under Section III, B. (2) of the experimental program proposal must be changed. It reads, “Is properly labeled and handled to assure the final certified product is genetically pure (single genotype).” Jeff concedes that the phrase “true to type” should be used in place of “genetically pure (single genotype)” in this program. What is presented here to the board is actually two separate things: the EGLSP program which is now believed to be unnecessary at this time, and the addition of the subclass “-ELSP” for this kind of material, coming into the state certified at the nuclear level.

Motion to accept the EGLSP for 1 year w/ “true to type” correction made by Jeff McMorran. Sagar Sathuvalli seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Jeff McMorran moved to allow OSCS to designate the subclass “-ELSP” for lots of this type that arrive as certified, which are not genetically identical but otherwise can be accepted into the Nuclear program, for one year. Brian Parker seconded.

Discussion: Andy Hulting asked if this is a sub-class that Jeff sees as becoming more and more prevalent. Jeff responds to the negative, saying that he feels the intention in this case is purely to allow this company to work with a seed grower under those specific field conditions (as opposed to conditions in a controlled greenhouse setting). Once the selections from this material have been made, the company will likely increase the tissue culture for that/those selections, and proceed with increase under the standard nuclear program.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Item 2 Isolation Requirement for G1 material: Currently the standards have the non-specific phrase “Approved Location” as the isolation requirement for Nuclear and G1 material. OSCS has defaulted to interpreting this by using as minimum the requirements for G2 and 3, which read, “300 feet from fields planted with seed higher than certified G4 class”. This year there was a circumstance in which a nuclear lot had been planted within 300 feet of an Oregon variety development lot, which is not certified at all, so the lot was downgraded. The grower appealed, arguing that because it was variety development material it was not as high risk as other uncertified

material. The PAC disagreed and upheld that variety development material should *not* be exempt from this requirement. There is no action requested from the PAC to the board for this item, but this is noted in the record as a precedent and a basis for an appeal in future cases is unwarranted. The PAC also set up a subcommittee that will meet sometime over this year with intent to more specifically define “Approved Location”.

Item 3 Seed Directory reporting: OSCS is required to report all certified lots in the potato program to include the results of the field inspections, and specifically the presence of bacterial ring rot, excepting lots that are withdrawn before field inspections are completed. These results are published each year in the Certified Seed Potato Report & Directory of Growers. The Potato Commission requested that a line be added to the requirement to clarify the exception for withdrawn lots if BRR was found. There is a requirement that if a grower withdraws a lot after the first inspection, OSCS must still perform the 2<sup>nd</sup> inspection for BRR. The proposed wording clarifies this requirement written on page 9 of the Oregon Potato Seed Certification Standards, Part IV: “Seed Potato Growers Lists.... Lots withdrawn prior to completion of field inspection portion of the OSCS program are not included *unless Bacterial Ring Rot found during the required inspection for BRR.*”

Jeff moved that the board allow this wording be added to the Oregon Potato Seed Certification Standards. Sathuvalli seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

\*Post-meeting note: the proposal that was discussed was for the designation “-ELSP”, but after the meeting McMorran realized that the use of the letter “E” would cause confusion between this program and the designation for the Experimental Line Selection Program. So the designation has since been shortened to “-LSP”.

### **Seed Conditioner’s Advisory Committee Recommendations (Warren Dole)**

Warren briefly updated the board on the discussion from this year’s meeting.

He gave a brief discussion regarding the success of the transition to online sample certificates, citing the jump from 40% online participation to 88% since the implementation of the \$10 fee per handwritten certificate that went into effect this fall.

Also, he gave brief mention to a discussion that took place about a proposal to require the stenciling of lot numbers on all sides of bulk shipping bags. The OSCS requirement is for the stenciling of one side, and the proposal came out of the problem that samplers are having when it comes to verifying lots and the stenciled side is not visible. Ultimately the committee decided not to change the requirement but encourages stenciling on at least two sides when shipping in bulk bags, and also supported the right of samplers to refuse to sample when the lot numbers are not visible.

No recommendations for action to be taken by the board this year.

### **Review of Proposed Corn Seed Standards (Dennis Lundeen)**

Dennis opened the discussion with a brief history of the Oregon certified corn seed program, which began in 2009. Up to this point, OSCS has been using AOSCA standards, and this year finally has pulled together some Oregon standards using AOSCA, Washington, and a few Midwest states as references. These have been sent out to interested parties (both Monsanto and Pioneer, and our colleagues in the Midwest) for comment and blessing, and now OSCS is requesting that the board accept these standards for the corn program.

Jim Tully (representative from Monsanto) had a comment regarding the Land History requirement, which reads, “Fields signed up for certification must not have been planted to corn of another color or endosperm type during the previous season.” He stated that their program has had success planting a “roundup-ready” variety in a field that had been planted to a conventional variety (of a different color or type) the year before, and asked if there was a possibility to make such a circumstance allowable, in a pinch. Rachel Hankins offered that this could be something that could be dealt with in an appeals process, in a case-by-case basis like we handle it in other crops.

Others suggested adding the following wording to the section: “Modifications to this requirement may be allowed with prior approval from OSCS.”

A question was asked about the inclusion of the moisture component of the seed standard, being that almost no other crops have that testing requirement. As a point of information, Oregon corn seed is grown and begins the conditioning process here, but as a general rule, is sampled for testing and receives final certification in the Midwest. The 14% is a component of the AOSCA standards, and was transcribed directly into these proposed standards. Growers suggested that the moisture content might be included because of viability following a period of storage. The group also asked whether these standards are for all seed corn or specifically field corn seed. After further discussion, it was determined that these standards pertain only to field corn seed, and that the addition of other types of corn seed to these standards could be made when pertinent.

Two modifications to the proposed standards were made based on this discussion: 1) update the Land History requirement to include, “Modifications to this requirement may be allowed with prior approval from OSCS” and 2) the title of the standards must specify that these seed standards pertain only to field corn.

Brian Parker moved to accept the proposed field corn standards with the above listed amendments. Tom Chastain seconded.

Another comment was made regarding the use of the word “None” listed on Table 2 Quality Standards (pg 8) under the TOTAL weed seed category. This ambiguous wording comes straight out of the AOSCA standards, and is intended to mean none allowed or zero tolerance. There was a suggestion to change the word “None” to a zero for clarification, but ultimately the group decided best to stick with the direct quotation.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Mike Flowers asked where corn fits in our advisory committees, suggesting that cereals might be the most logical place. It was pointed out that due to the nature of the corn program being so small, being rolled into the cereals committee would give them a larger voice. Some members argued that because the corn program currently only has two companies that their voice would be lost in a larger committee, and that they should have their own. Discussion ensued as to where the corn program would fit, and the topic of hybrid crops in cereals and small grains production came up that would make a good place for corn. Other hybrid miscellaneous crops like sunflowers and canola that don’t currently have a place in our committees may have some commonalities with corn and as production continues to increase in those crops as well they might find a number of similarities that would work well in a committee of their own. Perhaps a subcommittee within an already existing committee structure would be a good place to start, and if after being involved within that structure the program outgrows it then a separate committee could be formed. It was noted that these companies might have interests in other areas of the cereals committee in addition to corn.

Tom Chastain moved to invite corn to the cereals advisory committee meeting in 2014. Brian Parker seconded.

Another discussion point came up as to whether then the cereals advisory committee would be adding more members, and if so, it was suggested to add at least three: one for each company and Don Hornek from Hermiston as an Extension representative. Ultimately, the board decided that this forum is not the place to discuss how specifically this will be handled within the committee, that the details be left to the cereals group.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Dennis Lundeen offered that this is a unique situation, given that all other committees have industry support for an industry group, rather than individual company representatives. If both current corn companies were to be given a place on the advisory committee, this would be the most individual representation we have on any committee. Barry and Mike discussed the current makeup of the cereals advisory committee, and how corn

might fit into that—offering that maybe only one industry representative be selected at a time to be a voting member on a rotational basis. Dennis reminded us that the motion is to invite them to the meeting, and that the specifics of how this would be handled can be determined over time. Being a part of the group the companies will be able to propose agenda items and use that forum to get their issues handled, whether or not a voting position is held. Following the cereals advisory committee meeting in 2014, that group and this group will have a better picture of specifically how corn might fit and the board can revisit this item again at next year's meeting.

At this time, Dan Curry and Dennis Lundeen made a special presentation to honor Russ Karow. Dennis shared a brief history of Russ' career, including his involvement with this board, and they presented Russ with a certificate of appreciation to thank him for his support of and service to the Oregon Seed Certification Service. Russ responded with a gracious thank you to the group and acknowledged that his career has been very enjoyable, as he has had the opportunity to work with such a diverse and supportive group of folks in Oregon agriculture. He is looking forward to continuing to support the industry in a volunteer capacity.

### **USDA National Clonal Germplasm Repository Report (representative not present)**

### **Oregon Department of Agriculture Report (representative not present)**

#### **Oregon Seed Association Report (Duane Klundt)**

Duane summarized recent activities. OSA currently recognizes 102 members, 8 of which were added at the most recent meeting. The association is working towards being more progressive, active and diverse in membership and activities. A new 5-year strategic plan and stewardship program are being developed with a focus on being more proactive in member recruitment and policy planning. The association has been working with seed growers and cleaners to ensure the use of appropriate labeling, offering education credits to members through different workshops for continuing education (most recently a training about OECD procedures and ODA labeling and OSCS online services), and has been monitoring warehouse violations. OSA also awarded \$9500 in scholarships this year, and hopes to continue building their successful scholarship program. One hundred sixty people attended the winter meeting, held in Salem this December. The summer meeting will be held June 25-27 at the Salishan in Gleneden Beach, and any proposed agenda items can be sent to their office.

#### **Foundation Seed Programs Report (Dan Curry, Mike Flowers)**

Mike reminded the group that OSU has had a long-standing relationship utilizing the Washington State foundation seed program for all cereal crops. Lately that business relationship has been complicated by concerns over the collection of WSU royalties through Washington State Crop Improvement, and the financial ramifications of that to the Oregon program.

Discussion: what is the objection to royalties? It is not an objection to royalties, but how that collection is handled (through WSCI), and whether there would be incentive to push the sale of certain varieties over other varieties and the advantages or disadvantages of that system incurred by OSU and Oregon growers. If it comes to this, there will likely be discussion put forward about the University reclaiming their rights to the program. Currently, Washington runs our program because there isn't a person that holds that responsibility at OSU due to lack of funding.

#### **OSU Seed Services Report (Dan Curry, Dennis Lundeen, Adriel Garay)**

Dan Curry gave a brief overview of certification and seed lab activities in 2013. Seed Certification saw an increase in acres for the third year in a row, including new planting acreage increasing from 84,000 acres in 2012 to just over 100,000 in 2013. We also held a customer satisfaction survey this summer and the response was overall very positive. The results of this survey can be found posted on the OSCS website.

The Seed Lab initiated a new Orchardgrass rule proposal that was accepted by AOSA in May 2013, aligning those rules with ISTA rules regarding how multiples are counted. Concurrent with this rule change, Oregon Certification increased the purity standard for Orchardgrass from 90 to 92% pure seed. In July, the lab also initiated an AOSA rule change that allows the fluorescence test of Perennial ryegrass to end early if maximum germination of a sample has been reached. This new policy shortens the waiting period for sample reports, creating the potential for seed to be shipped up to seven days sooner.

Seed Services is working on an outsourcing plan that would make possible an approval process for other labs to perform tests for certification during the busy season.

And finally, there are 11 grass seed warehouses in Oregon that passed the ISTA/ISF Seed Lot Size Experiment allowing them to ship large seed lots up to 55,000 pounds. The training program began in 2010 and concluded in the summer of 2013.

Dennis followed up with a few certification updates. OSCS hired two new inspectors in February 2013, Andy Altishin and Mary Beuthin. They have taken on more and more responsibilities and involvement over the past year, and are a welcome addition to the inspection team.

We experienced a huge loss in the passing of our friend and colleague, Iraj Motazedian in September 2013. He was an expert and go-to person for our program as his expertise in the agricultural industry was wide-ranging. As an inspector, he was a key person in the North Willamette Valley and Central Oregon, as well as involved in the potato, mint, and corn programs. Iraj was involved in many agricultural education and humanitarian efforts all over the world and within his faith community, and all who knew him will miss his bright, happy spirit. Industry submitted a request that seed certification conduct a customer satisfaction survey, and OSCS is pleased to report that the majority of the feedback received was positive. There were also some criticisms that are being taken into consideration, and the public can view the results of the survey in its entirety on our website.

There will be a fee increase initiated this year, the first since 2003. Three of the biggest increases are for grasses and legumes which will see an increase from \$3 to \$3.60 per acre, the poundage fee for grasses and legumes will increase from 0.23 to 0.27 cents per cwt, and for small grains from 0.13 to 0.17 cents per cwt. Some of the other crops will see field fee increases of about \$10. These increases will be taking effect March 1. Seed Certification participated in an informational workshop conducted by OSA, which was attended by over 80 members. For our part, certification presented information related to OECD policies and an overview of Online Services, which was followed by a presentation by ODA on Federal seed labeling laws.

Certified acreage totaled 243,105 acres in 2013, and were officially the state with the most certified acres in the US last year according to the director of AOSCA who was visiting campus last week (February 2014).

Adriel presented some highlights about seed lab activities. The upcoming Seed Quality Workshop is an opportunity for growers, dealers, cleaners to come together and have valuable conversations and networking with each other, and also supply feedback to the lab.

He complimented Oregon seed growers, stating that as a member of ISTA he has the opportunity to see the quality of seeds from around the world, and nobody can produce the same level of quality seeds that we produce here in the Northwest. However, he argues when it comes to purity our AOSA rules are not helping our industry, and expressed a need to further harmonize those rules with the ISTA rules to continue to be competitive in the global market.

Some issues with regard to fluorescence in ryegrasses have been of growing concern to industry, with the appearance of high-fluorescing perennial ryegrass varieties. The current fluorescence testing is not a tool that can be used to differentiate these varieties from annual ryegrass varieties, generating a lot of discussion about updating some rules and procedures.

### **Other business**

Dan offered a welcome to Jim Tully and Greg Nedrow of Monsanto, and invited them to speak freely to the board a little about themselves and their experience in the seed corn industry.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.