



Matt Blua, Chair – Presiding  
September 8, 2023  
Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am.

### **Introductions**

Commission members present: Matthew Blua, Bryn Hubert, Maggie Elliot, Leighton Overson, Griselda Arias, David Gang, Catherine Jones, Erik Hodson, David Gang, Kelly McLain

Commissioners absent: Doug Walsh, Sally Buckingham, Greg Caron, Anneke Jansen, Aylin Moreno, Jason Beechinor, Gary Melchior, Maggie Elliot, Griselda Arias

Staff: Alan Schreiber, Alicia Adler, and Liesl Zappler

The Commissioners introduced themselves and discussed the crops/ programs that they represent.

Matthew Blua- the late potato harvest just started, things were delayed this season due to weather, but the degree days caught them up.

David Gang- is working on a federal program regarding cannabis.

Bill Orchard- lead agronomist for SVZ Othello. He's responsible for sourcing products and quality control. Heavy metal rates in baby food are challenging.

Neil Withers- the forestry nurseries are doing well with good growth, and they just finished transplanting.

Logging and timber harvest is moving forward but saw restrictions were issued due to fire danger.

Erik Hodson- has been in the pest control industry for 29 years and is the area manager for Purcor Pest Solutions. Pesticide license testing has been challenging.

Kelly McClain- she's the Legislative Liaison & Policy Advisor to the Director of WSDA. She provides policy support on pesticide issues and cannabis. She's currently working with legislators on pesticide issues. WSDA has been working with pesticide license testing as well as product registration.

Marie Hallinen- EPA Region 10. Works on FIFRA enforcement and has a background in entomology.

Alicia Adler- Bryant Christie in CA. Has been the Research Coordinator for the past year. She's worked with commodity groups on export market programs in all aspects such as research and MRL monitoring.

Leighton Overson- Sales Manager at CHS for berry crops. It was a good year for raspberries, and there were pollination issues with blueberries so the pounds may be down. He's the Research Chair for the WBC and is on the research committee for the Red Raspberry Commission

Catherine Jones- Viticulture and Specialty Crop Advisor for Wilbur Ellis. Ste Michelle cut 40% of their contracts so there's lots of extra fruit. She's also on the WA State Grape Society Board and works with the WA Wine Growers.

Griselda Arias- DOH. She works on the passive surveillance system on pesticide exposures.

Bryn Hubert- She's an agronomist for Syngenta. The harvest was good this year and they are planting for next year.

### **Approval of Minutes- March 3, April 5, May 16**

*Bill moved to approve the minutes for the March 3, April 5, and May 16<sup>th</sup> meetings. Erik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Financial Report/Administrator's Report/Tour Report/DES Update**

WSU hasn't provided their report, so the financial report is delayed.

### **WCIPM Name Change**

The logo will be changed. On the RFP they will use the new name.

### **WSCPR Specialty Crop Tour**

Alan gave an update on the July tour. Clover Island Inn gave state per diem and were great to work with. Marie and Matthew thought the tour went well, even the breakdown. Bryn thought the tour went smoothly and that folks were happy.

### **Review of FY 2023 WSCPR Request for Proposals**

David Gang participated in meeting with DES, and wrote a memo regarding the oversight of Commission funds for research. The AG has since decided that funds used for research should not be subject to DES oversight. There are already several layers of oversight within WSU. Research funding is not the same as purchasing deliverables.

The research meeting will be Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Ellensburg. The Nursery and Landscape position is still vacant. The Vice-Chair is being groomed for the Chair position, who is stepping down this year.

There will be a new WSU Associate Dean of Research, Leslie Edgar, starting Jan 1. Scott Holbert will now be a Senior Associate Dean.

Alicia reviewed the RFP. The Commission has felt that presentations in person allows for better interactions. Meetings can be virtual if a quorum is needed. The Commodity groups select who comes to the meetings. A hybrid meeting could be an alternative. There were minor changes made to the RFP. Alan will follow up with the AG to share their response and copy the Chair regarding WEBS and RFPs. Alan reviewed the list for the RFP.

### **Update on Japanese Beetle Eradication and Review of EPA Pesticide Restriction Plan for Protection of Endangered Species, Kelly McLain, WSDA**

The city of Grandview and Wapato treated just under 1300 acres and 3,000 properties for Japanese beetle, including public areas. They are looking into emergency declarations. There were new detections in Pasco and they've increased traps there, with a total of 5 beetles. In the Spring they will treat the same areas and expand the treatment area. It's \$400,000/ week for treatments. The Resiliency Fund is a policy project which creates a plant, pest, and animal disease response fund, similar to the drought fund. This will be submitted to the Governor's office next week. There could be an advisory group for this. Alan suggested that the Commission be connected to this project. The Japanese Beetle irradiation lost time due to needing to go to the legislature for funding.

### **Research Presentation – A Fresh Look at Garden Symphytan, Navneet Kaur, OSU**

Navneet gave an update on her Commission funded project on garden symphytan and she will be submitting her report. Commissioners were very appreciative.

*The meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm.*