

T E X A S P E C A N B O A R D

Texas Pecan Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 21, 2020

TPB Members Present: Rodney Myers, Tami Sorrells, Mike Adams, Errol John Dietze, Larry Don Womack, Kyle Brookshier, David Leonard and Glen Honaker.

TPB Members Absent: Lance Lampman due to illness

Others Present: Bob Whitney – TPB Executive Director

President Larry Don Womack called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Roll call of members was conducted and then a recognition of guests. The call was recorded through UberConference.

Mike Adams gave a brief update on a proposal that might change the pecan industry coming through the Pecan Federation. More details coming. He might have to leave the call for another conference call soon.

Each of the members gave a crop update and marketing update. Tami reported that demand was up for pecan products and they are sold out. David said they were at 85% and sold. Glen's crop is in cold storage, \$3.50-\$3.60 per point is current West Texas price. Quality is excellent, crop is short. Mike says a good off year and some in cold storage. Hoping for a price increase. Larry Don says crop is mostly harvested in Central Texas. Errol John says no crop, drought and then wet weather. Bad year. Rodney says market is stagnant, offering \$2.80 - 2.90 a point he has been seeing.

Tami presented minutes and Mike Adams moved to accept and Errol John seconded and all voted approved.

Bob presented the financial report and went through the details. Financial reports are not good and we need assessment payments. Bob also went through the assessment report of payments. Glen made a motion to approve and Tami seconded. All voted to approve the financial reports.

Bob talked about the trouble collecting assessments and the opinions of growers. We discussed maybe having a forum at TPGA in July and even adding it to the ballot as a non-binding referendum. Larry Don talked about efforts to collect assessments. Some discussion about TDA enforcing the assessments. Some growers will not respond or pay.

Because of the funding crisis we have suspended Wild Hive activities and promotions. Board members said it may be time to back up a little. Nothing was voted on.

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Bob discussed the pecan weevil quarantine and non-quarantine areas and the new compliance agreements. At this point the system is working well and growers are getting compliance agreements to go into cold storage either in quarantine areas and/or non-quarantine areas.

Bob then discussed the applications that would be submitted for the Specialty crop grants from TDA. We are working on a promotion grant with Wild Hive, an economic crop development grant from Ag Eco at TAMU and a Pecan Weevil Monitoring and Control grant. These will be submitted by February 27. TDA did ask for a current proposal that they may fund. Two proposals were submitted by TPB and Wild Hive that asks for monies to fund a Snack Food project.

According to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension they are taking applications for the new Extension Horticulture position which TPB is helping fund. Sometime in the future they will ask for support of \$10,000 voted and approved in July 2019.

Bob then went through the process and procedures for the upcoming TPB member election. There is nothing to approve as the packet will be submitted to TDA and they will approve the packet.

Bob next discussed office management, emails and newsletters.

Meeting was adjourned by Larry Don at 11:02 am on February 21, 2020.