

# Texas Pecan Board

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## Texas Pecan Board (TPB) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 1:00 P.M. CST

The Swinbank AgriLife Center Boardroom: 556 John Kimbrough Boulevard  
College Station, TX 77843-2140

TPB Members Present: Troy Swift, Rodney Myers, Dennis Hardman, Zachary Swick, Jake Montz, Jennifer Ivey, Lalo Medina

Guests: Blair Krebs, Meghan Mabry, Catherine Clark, Kelsey Wallis (TPGA), Patrick Dudley (TDA), Anne Warden (APC/APPB), Will Cullers, Mary Elizabeth Santos, Larry Don Womack, Shannon Ivey, James Livergood

Texas Pecan Board (TPB) President Troy Swift called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M. CST. He called the board roll call, establishing a quorum, and asked guests to introduce themselves.

In the interest of the guest's time the board first listened to a presentation from Anne Warden, CEO of the American Pecan Council and the American Pecan Promotion Board about the organizations and their work. Following her presentation, board member Lalo Medina gave a presentation with his assessment of the pecan market.

The board members reviewed the meeting minutes from the October 17, 2023 virtual meeting. Jennifer Ivey made the motion to approve the minutes. Dennis Hardman second the motion, all voted in favor, and the meeting minutes were approved.

Patrick Dudley from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) then gave an update from the department about its work, including in regards to the regulatory and research efforts on pecan weevil.

Blair Krebs with the Texas Pecan Growers Association (TPGA) and contractor for TPB gave an update on the activities and finances for the organization. She gave updates on the administrative, grant, and infrastructure work the team had been handling.

The board then moved on to discuss Texas Pecan Board compliance, audit expectations, and procedures. President Troy Swift noted that everyone, particularly board members, need to make sure they are paying. The board noted audit procedures needs to be put in place, similar to that of the compliance procedure. A working group of Jake Montz, Troy Swift, Patrick Dudley, and Blair Krebs was created to do a test audit on Jake Montz's business, to work through the process.

The discussion then moved to the protocol for reported or known noncompliance. Blair Krebs noted the staff is keeping track of cases where a grower has reported paying to a handler, but the handler not paying TPB. From there the board approved compliance protocol is set in place. President Troy Swift noted that the first use of the compliance protocol was very successful and to be sure to report to the staff.

The next agenda item focused on the proper protocol and tools available for growers who submit the TPB assessment themselves, instead of through a handler. Blair Krebs note that TPB should have a tool to provide the grower proof of payment to a handler. Krebs created a template, which was

distributed in the meeting packet and included in these minutes. Zachary Swick made the motion to approve the use of the letter. Jake Montz seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

There was then conversation on the reported suspected pecan weevil finding in West Texas, originally reported to industry members at the end of February. An update was given about the situation and noted that Orlando Flores, an AgriLife County Agent in El Paso County is the main point of contact. AgriLife field training have been done in the area and the group is looking to get information on proper treatment and containment procedures from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Texas Department of Agriculture staff added the following agenda item regarding the need for field staff for the situation and monitoring of the suspected case. However, West Texas representatives said they are currently working through the West Texas Pecan Association (WTPA) and other groups to address the problem. Board members asked for the WTPA to get an estimation of costs and protocol to see if TPB could assist in providing funds or other resources.

Discussion moved to the rolling agenda item of including additional counties to study for pecan weevil, similar to that in Pecos County. In an effort to identify possible counties and collaborators for the research, several board members were tasked with assignments. Dennis Hardman was assigned to work on Central Texas. Zachary Swick and Lalo Medina were asked to call their contacts in Reeves County to see if they would be willing to collaborate with the weevil trapping and procedure. Also, with the departure of Texas AgriLife IPM Agent in El Paso County, Joel Arce, the question remains of who would be able to do the study was set forth. The previous work done by Arce was accomplished through a TDA Specialty Crop Block Grant.

The group then spoke about the potential funding from New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to go to weevil research already being done with USDA-ARS researchers Dr. Charles Suh and Dr. Elizabeth Perkin. While in El Paso, Blair Krebs met with NMDA Researcher Brad Lewis and his team in late February. Lewis indicated NMDA would be able to contribute an additional \$30,000 to the work being done. Krebs will continue to contact NMDA and coordinate with all those involved with the reworking of the research agreement. There was also discussion about further research on other pests, including stink bugs. The team will discuss the industry's options with any entomology research outside of weevil with Dr. Suh.

The board then planned for the next board meeting, which will be held on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm CST during the TPGA Conference and Trade Show in San Marcos, Texas. President Troy Swift pointed out that this summer he would be coming on as TPGA President and does not feel both organizations should have the same President. He has asked Jake Montz to be voted on as TPB President at the next meeting. Rodney Myers also noted that with the changes in Leonard Bend Pecans he likely doesn't qualify for a board position. The group expressed much gratitude for Rodney's many years of service on the board. An election will be held this fall for any open positions.

With no further business, Jake Montz made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Zachary Swick seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned about 3:23 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Krebs

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

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Date XXXX

Pecan Handler,

Grower XXX has submitted his mandatory payment to the Texas Pecan Board on \_\_\_\_\_ date for \_\_\_\_\_ pounds. This has satisfied the payment required by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Additional payment for Texas Pecan Board should not be withheld from the grower on this purchase.

If you should have any questions or would like to confirm the status of this payment, please contact the Texas Pecan Board at the information below.

Texas Pecan Board  
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