

**MEETING MINUTES  
CALIFORNIA PISTACHIO RESEARCH BOARD  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**June 20, 2024 at 9:00AM  
Western Agriculture Processors Association**

**Roll Call**

Chairman Tom Coleman called the zoom meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. A complete board roster is shown below with an \* indicating those in attendance. A quorum was established.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	<b>Advisory Committee</b>
* Tom Coleman, Chairman	1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate	Robert Beede
* Gerrid Climer	* Joseph Coelho	Carl Fanucchi
Jeremy Blackwell	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate	Todd Fukuda
Rob Goff	Clay Beck	Mike Harvey
* Joey Mendonca	3 <sup>rd</sup> Alternate	Brad Higbee
* Brian O'Neill	Todd Tracy	Anthony Rabo
* Zack Raven	4 <sup>th</sup> Alternate	*Rod Stiefvater
* Mike Smith	* Michael Naito	
* Erik Wilkins		
* Christine Milgrom (Public Member)		

\*Indicates those members, alternates and advisors in attendance.

Others Present: Mirek Wilczek (CDFA), Cindy Dean, Stephen Vasquez, Laura Larsen, Kirk Squire, Monica Hopwood, Jeff Scheer, Peter Albright, Joseph Mastro (Cuttone & Mastro, CPA Auditor)

**Approval of the April 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Board Motion 2024-06-20 #1**

It was moved by Gerrid Climer and seconded by Brian O'Neill to approve the April 9, 2024; minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

No Comments

**CDFAs Report**

Mirek Wilczek CDFAs representative noted there is an effort to create an Agave Commission.

**CPA Audit Findings 2022-2023 – Cuttone & Mastro**

Joseph Mastro, CPA, Cuttone & Mastro, introduced himself and gave a brief background of his work history. Highlighting that their firm Cuttone & Mastro, CPA specializes in Agricultural and Audits. He went through the CPRB financials noting that to correctly state our financial position, they changed the way CPRB research grants were reported. There were a few clarifications requested from the board. Mr. Mastro made those clarifications and asked for questions. The Board had no further questions.

**Board Motion 2024-06-20 #2**

It was moved by Erik Wilkins and seconded by Joey Mendonca to approve the 2022-2023 CPA Audit findings as presented. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions,

## **Manager's Report**

Stephen Vasquez went over the following topics:

- Bob Klein, previous CPRB Manager has retired and moved. The staff continues to stay in contact with Bob via weekly phone meetings. This allows Bob to advise CPRB staff on issues that rely on Bob's institutional knowledge.
- Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director, Laura Larsen, Compliance Officer and Bob Klein, retired manager returned from the EU. Bob led the delegation, making introductions with USDA-FAS, EU Commission and FRUCOM personnel, discussing the US pistachio industry and imports.
- Since beginning his new position, Stephen has been meeting with board members and researchers to get a feel for where the industry stands and what issues need to be addressed. Next month he will be meeting with researchers at UC Davis.
- Rising costs of using the UC system land and facilities for researchers was discussed. Stephen has met with the new Center Director for UC ANR Kearney and Westside field stations, The Center Director was planning on hosting a meeting with all commodities to discuss ways to decrease researcher costs in June, which did not happen. Stephen will be contacting him to continue the discussion. Rod Stiefvater noted his foundation was approached by several researchers regarding the use of his orchards for test plots to offset rising UC costs.

## **CPRB Website**

Stephen brought up the CPRB website onto the screen ([www.calpistachioresearch.org](http://www.calpistachioresearch.org)) and showed that the website is outdated and needs to be updated. Much of the information is no longer applicable or relevant. Starting from scratch will allow CPRB to improve user access and focus our attention on improving the grower resource section. By improving the research reports searchability, and adding links to relevant information on pesticides, weather stations, etc. Stephen asked for suggestions from the Board regarding website layout and functionality.

## **Weather Stations**

Stephen provided an overview of the CPRB weather network. He reviewed the 3 installation phases of the weather network. Phase 1 has 10 stations and is complete. Phase 2 has 8 stations, with an additional two stations to be placed in the Kerman/Mendota area. Phase 3 will have 10 stations with most located up north in the Sacramento, Davis and Chico areas. The UC Fruit and Nut Research and Information Center gathers, cleans and uploads the data from the CPRB Wildeye weather stations and presents it in an easy-to-use format for growers. Stephen will be visiting all stations to ensure they are in the most optimum locations for gathering data such as chill. He will also be updating the weather stations names by adding the nearest town name for reference.

## **2024-2025 assessment rate**

Stephen recommended that the CPRB assessment rate should remain the same as the previous crop year and be set at \$0.0015 per pound for the 2024-2025 crop year.

### **Board Motion 2024-06-20 #3**

It was moved by Zack Raven and seconded by Gerrid Climer to set the CPRB 2024-2025 assessment rate to \$0.0015 per pound as recommended. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

## **2024-2025 Budget**

Stephen went over the 2024-2025 proposed budget. Explaining any changes or increases. There was some discussion. Mirek from the CDFA confirmed that it is not recommended to have more than a year and a half of the budget carried over to a new year.

### **Board Motion 2024-06-20 #4**

It was moved by Brian O'Neill and seconded by Zack Raven to approve the CPRB 2024-2025 budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

## **CPRB Auditor Approval for the 2023-2024 Year**

Chairman Tom Coleman called for a motion to approve Cuttone and Mastro, CPA firm as the auditors for the CPRB 2023-2024 fiscal year.

**Board Motion 2024-06-20 #5**

It was moved by Joey Mendonca and seconded by Gerrid Climer to appoint Cuttone and Mastro, CPA firm as the auditors for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**Other Business**

None

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Topics for Future Consideration**

None

**Scheduling of Future Meetings**

No future meetings were scheduled at this time.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

**Certification**

I, Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director, California Pistachio Research Board, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct account of the meeting of the California Pistachio Research Board conducted on June 20, 2014.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director California Pistachio Research Board