

Texas Pecan Board

www.TexasPecanBoard.com

Texas Pecan Board (TPB) Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 14, 2024 1:30 P.M. CST

Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center - 1001 E McCarty Ln, San Marcos, TX 78666

TPB Members Present: Troy Swift, Rodney Myers, Dennis Hardman, Zachary Swick, Jake Montz, Joseph Massey

Guests: Blair Krebs, Patrick Dudley, Larry Stein, Jason and Sharon Hoermann, James Livergood, Mary Santos, Mark Friesenhahn

Texas Pecan Board (TPB) President Troy Swift called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M. CST. He called the board roll call, establishing a quorum, and asked guests to introduce themselves.

The board members reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 26, 2024 meeting in College Station. Jake Montz 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, in regards to the penalty matrix for pecan weevil quarantine, a practice audit with Jake Montz, the New Mexico compliance agreement, and weevil research.

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 informed the group about administrative, grant, and infrastructure work the team had been handling, including an update on the ARS weevil research. The discussion then moved to TPB grant work. Krebs had previously informed the group that the Specialty Crop Block Grant submitted for TPB was not approved. The grant received good scores, so Krebs will be submitting it again next year. In regards to the diabetes research done by Dr. Cisneros, a handout was provided for the board to finalized his work and will be submitted to the American Pecan Promotion Board as a start for future research.

The board then moved on to discuss Texas Pecan Board compliance, audit expectations, and procedures. President Troy Swift noted that everyone, particularly board members, needs to make sure they are paying or else the organization loses all credibility. Jake Montz gave an update of the practice audit procedures and process he worked through with Patrick Dudley to establish a method to handle audits. They will have further updates at future meetings.

The Texas Pecan Board needs to hold elections this fall for three board members whose term is set to expire; Rodney Myers, Troy Swift, and Jennifer Ivey. The staff will work to have nomination forms out by August and the elections process through the fall. In other board placements, Troy Swift will become Texas Pecan Growers Association President at this conference and therefore steps down as President of TPB. Rodney Myers as Vice President becomes acting President and opens the floor for nominations for someone to serve as President. Zachary Swick nominated Jake Montz to serve as TPB President, effective at adjournment of this meeting. Dennis Hardman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed. Jake Montz will be TPB President at the conclusion of this meeting.

There was quick discussion about agenda items addressing the suspected weevil finding in West Texas and the possible need for field staff. However, there were no further updates or need for continued discussion.

The board then moved to the discussion and possible action on including additional counties to study if pecan weevil is present, like the actions taken in Pecos County. Zachary Swick noted he spoke to the new County Agent in Reeves County, Mickey Harris. She has experience in entomology in other crops and they have the farmers in line that would be willing to take part in the study. However, funding is needed for traps and other materials to conduct the study and monitoring. Jake Montz made the motion to allocate funds, not to exceed \$4,000, for the necessary supplies for the county agent in Reeves county to monitor for pecan weevil. Dennis Hardman seconded the motion. Zachary Swick recused himself from the vote, but all other board members voted in favor and the motion passed.

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. Lindsey Perkin. Troy Swift and Blair Krebs had further discussions with the NMDA team, where they had said they would contribute \$50,000 to the study of weevil. Krebs is working with their team to get the paperwork completed and the funds transferred.

There was discussion about continued research for other pests, but also about ethylene use in pecans. Zachary Swick indicated there was a trial to ripen pecans with ethylene and possible reduce issues with sprouting. However, it has not been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in pecans. The board noted they would like to see more information from the trials and look to see if this is something they would like to get approved.

The board then planned for the next board meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, September 17th at 1:00 P.M. CST in Stephenville, Texas. The same board will be seated since the elections will be ongoing during this time.

With no further business, Jake Montz made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Dennis Hardman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned about 3:01 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Krebs