



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics (REE)
National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory
Board

Specialty Crop Committee (SCC) Meeting Notes – Thursday, January 12, 2023

SCC Members Present: Dr. Gregory Goins (Chair), Dr. Carlos Iglesias, Dr. Nikki Lynn Rothwell, Mr. Jim Tuinier - 4

SCC Members Absent: Ms. Donnell Brown, Ms. Marguerite Green, Mr. Shawn Peebles – 3

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Ms. Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Ms. Michele Simmons, Acting Program Support Coordinator

GUEST: None

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Dec 2022 meeting minutes

Ms. Simmons welcomed the group and attendance was taken of members. A quorum was established amongst the SCC members. The December 2022 meeting minutes were approved by consensus and will be posted to the NAREEE Advisory Board Webpage.

II. Statement from Chair:

Dr. Goins welcomed everyone to the call. He mentioned new things are happening with the World Vegetable Center. He would like Dr. Iglesias to talk about the Center at next month's SCC Meeting. Since Ms. Brown was absent, the summary of discussion with Gary Van Sickle from the California Specialty Crops Council, will be bumped to the February SCC Monthly Meeting. The members agreed to discuss timing and location for the proposed FY23 SCC face-to-face meeting next month when more members might be available.

Comment from DFO Lewis - Prior to the February SCC Meeting, DFO Lewis will share her notes regarding the California Specialty Crops Council discussion she had with Ms. Brown, Dr. Goins, and Mr. Van Sickle.

Comment from DFO Lewis - Proposed an SCC in-person business meeting in early August. DFO Lewis suggested a possible field tour that the California Specialty Crops Council conducts for maybe a day or day ½. Dr. Goins suggested that DFO Lewis contact Ms. Brown to discuss further an SCC In-person meeting August 2023.

DFO Lewis reached out to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture's Specialty Crop Research Initiative Program (SCRI) to get a sense of what their program will look like in 2023. How would that translate to the SCC members objectives that could help their program this year? She doesn't have clarity yet but would like to provide updates when most SCC members are present. DFO Lewis suggested she will attempt to create an environment where the SCC committee can talk about the SCRI approach and how the committee can work this year. The committee members agreed.

Comment from DFO Lewis – Gave a sincere heartfelt thanks to Dr. Rothwell for extending her term past September 2022 until the end of January 2023. She also thanked Dr. Rothwell for her leadership for stepping up to the plate Feb-April 2022 to help start the preparation of recommendations for the SCRI work products.

Comment from Dr. Rothwell – It's been a pleasure working with the committee. Dr. Rothwell wishes the committee the best going forward. She hopes to see SCC members in passing through the specialty crop work that's done.

Comment from DFO Lewis – Thanked Mr. Peebles for his work with the SCC committee. His term will be ending this month.

Comment from DFO Lewis – The nomination package for 3 new SCC members has moved forward to REE leadership. We hope the package will move forward to the Secretary for his review/approval by the end of January or February.

III. Wrap-up/Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. ET

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2023.