



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

Specialty Crop Committee (SCC) Meeting Notes – Thursday, May 9, 2024

SCC Members Present: Dr. Gregory Goins (Chair), Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Casey Foster, Dr. Lorin Harvey, Dr. Carlos Iglesias, Mr. Jack Karlin, Dr. Charlie Messina, and Mr. Jim Tuinier - 8

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Michele Simmons, Program Support Specialist

I. Welcome, Roll Call,

DFO Lewis welcomed the group and attendance was taken. A quorum was established amongst the SCC Members.

The prior minutes from the April 2024 meeting were approved after a motion and a second motion. All approved the minutes, and none opposed. Ms. Simmons will post the April agenda and minutes to the SCC website.

II. Statement from Chair:

Dr. Goins welcomed the Members. He thanked some of the Members for extending their terms to the end of FY25. Dr. Goins stated that he is scheduled to attend the Specialty Crop Tour. The tour includes visits to crop production sites in the San Joaquin Valley, Salinas Valley, and Sacramento Valley including conventional and organic production practices that will be held June 2024.

III. Old Business/Review

DFO Lewis stated that there was no old business to review. The SCC works on one recommendation statutorily every year. They have concluded old business for FY23 and FY 24.

IV. New Business

The SCC discussed the International Plant Breeding Seminar Series video by Dr. Margaret Worthington which talked about how plant breeding helped grow blackberries and muscadine industries. The webinar link can be found here >> [Dr. Margaret Worthington: How Plant Breeding Helped Grow Blackberry and Muscadine Industries - YouTube](#)

The SCC discussed the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) FY25 Specialty Crop Initiative Research program recommendations. DFO Lewis stated that she wants to make sure that the new SCC Members can review the research recommendations that were provided to NIFA for the past two years. This will ensure that all SCC Members can develop new recommendations for the next fiscal year which should be done by June or July 2025.

V. Wrap-up/Adjourn

DFO Lewis asked if there were any more comments or questions. There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. ET.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13th @ 2pm ET.