

Citrus Administrative Committee Meeting

August 25, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

via Zoom

BOARD PARTICIPATION:

GROWERS					
Affiliation	Member / Alternate	Fname	Lname	Yes	No
Independent	Member	Cody	Estes	√	
	Alternate	Rusty	Banack		X
Independent	Member	Tom	Hammond	√	
	Alternate	Greg	Nelson	√	
Independent	Member	Scott	Lambeth	√	
	Alternate	Griffin	Greene		X
Independent	Member	Jon	Marone	√	
	Alternate	Tom	Jerkins		X
Independent	Member	Lee	Jones	√	
	Alternate	Sam	Jones		X
Independent	Member	Ron	Mahan	√	
	Alternate	John	Paul	√	
Independent	Member	Ed	Pines	√	
	Alternate	Anthony	Pascher		
Cooperative	Member	Larry	Black		X
	Alternate	Jeff	Hancock	√	
Cooperative	Member	Lindsay	Raley, Jr.	√	
	Alternate	Ellis	Hunt	√	

SHIPPERS					
Affiliation	Member/ Alternate	Fname	Lname	Yes	No
Independent	Member	Melanie	Ressler		X
	Alternate	Jon	Arost		X
Independent	Member	Doug	Feek		X
	Alternate				
Independent	Member	Russell	Gravlee		X
	Alternate	Ed	Sheubrooks		X
Independent	Member	Rusty	Varn	√	
	Alternate	George	Hamner	√	
Independent	Member	Dan	Richey	√	
	Alternate	Tom	Mitchell	√	
Independent	Member	Alex	Heller		X
	Alternate	Gee	Roe	√	
Cooperative	Member	Daniel	Hunt	√	
	Alternate	Frank	Hunt, III	√	
Cooperative	Member	Steven	Callaham	√	
	Alternate	Al	Finch		
Public	Member	Ernie	Neff	√	
	Alternate	Lisa	Gaskalla		X

Jeff Hancock was seated for Larry Black
 Frank Hunt III was seated for Melanie Ressler
 Al Finch was seated for Russ Gravlee
 Tom Mitchell was seated for Dan Richey

GUESTS:

Chris Nissen – USDA
 Jennie Varela – USDA
 Tom Nalepa – USDA
 Duke Chadwell

STAFF:

Peter Chaires & Lucy Torres

Mr. Chaires informed attendees that the meeting would be recorded.

Ms. Varela called the meeting to order.

Mr. Chaires conducted a roll-call. Ms. Varela confirmed the attainment of a quorum.

Ms. Varela confirmed that all Nominated Members and Alternates have been confirmed and seated. She then proceeded to read the Lobbying Statement to the Committee:

“Members, in their official capacities, are prohibited from taking any action specifically designed to influence legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion concerning legislation. Members, in their official capacity, may not communicate with any official of a State or Federal legislative body for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation. Members are also prohibited from attempting to influence state or Federal government actions or policies or those of foreign governments, except as specifically authorized under the Marketing Order or expressly approved by the Secretary. Members are specifically precluded from authorizing the expenditure of Marketing Order funds for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation or government actions.”

Mr. E. Hunt made a motion, second by Mr. Gee Roe, to approve the slate of officers recommended by the previous Committee in June. This slate is as follows:

Chairman	George Hamner
Vice Chairman	Gee Roe
Secretary	Tom Mitchell
Treasurer	Daniel Hunt

Motion passed.

Chairman Hamner requested a nomination for Public Member and Public Alternate to serve the 2020/21 season. Mr. Estes made a motion, second by Mr. E. Hunt, nominating Mr. Duke Chadwell to serve as Public Member and Ms. Lisa Gaskalla to serve as Public Alternate. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Lindsay Raley made a motion, second by Mr. E. Hunt, to approve the June 26, 2020 Minutes as presented and distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

In recognition that Mr. Ellis Hunt was not seated for this meeting, the Board voted to ratify the three previous motions for which Mr. E. Hunt made a motion, or seconded a motion. Ratification vote was in the affirmative and unanimous.

Chairman Hamner addressed the renewal of the Committee’s MOA with Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association. Mr. Mitchell made a motion, second by Mr. Mahan, to approve the 2020/21 MOA with FFVA. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Chaires offered a brief explanation of the draft 2020/21 e-Compliance Plan distributed to the Committee. Mr. Chaires also elaborated on a couple of minor changes to the Internal Controls Policy. He explained that it was necessary to replace Mr. Hair with Mr. Fernandez as a check signatory at FFVA, as Mr. Fernandez is now serving in this capacity. Mr. Joyner, FFVA CEO, was also added as a signatory to make it possible to have two signatures for reimbursements to the manager, with neither signature being that of Mr. Chaires. Finally, the Internal Controls now state that Credit Card and Bank Statements are to

be mailed directly from the bank to the Treasurer. Mr. Raley made a motion, second by Mr. Mahan, to approve the e-Compliance Plan, Internal Controls and Credit Card Policies as presented and distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Raley made a motion, second by Mr. Estes, to approve Regulatory Bulletin #1 as presented and distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Hamner made a motion, second by Mr. Mahan, to approve Mr. Chaires' reappointment as Manager for the 2020/21 season. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Mahan made a motion, second by Mr. Raley, to approve the check signatories as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Mahan made a motion, second by Mr. Raley, to establish the reimbursable mileage rate at the current published IRS rate, and a reimbursement rate of \$10.00 per meal for Board Members traveling to meetings when meals are not provided. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Chairman Hamner opened a dialogue on the proposed rule changes and what may need to differ from the earlier versions discussed. Mr. Chaires explained the importance of ensuring adequate representation for all segments of the fresh fruit industry, as well as the grower voice. The Committee focused primarily on §905.19 and the size and structure of the committee. The Committee concurred that a committee of 10 plus a Public Member is an appropriate size. The Committee also supports that the committee should be comprised of 10 Grower members, and that a grower may be a shipper or an employee of a shipper. One of the Members must be a bona fide cooperative. The Committee decided that it needs to retain the ability to redistrict, but that one common statewide district makes the most sense in today's environment. The Committee was unified in the belief that the interests of a grower no longer vary from region to region. The Committee also supported the extension of term of office for the Public Member to two years to coincide with the term of other Committee Members. The Committee supported moving the date of nomination meetings from June 10th to April 10th to better align with changes to shipping seasons. Inasmuch as the rest of the changes were either housekeeping in nature or flowed from the discussions above, Mr. Chaires was asked to confer with the MFO on revised language to present to the Committee at the November meeting.

Mr. Chaires introduced the subject of adding language to the Order that would enable the Committee to accept donations. Ms. Varela offered the following as a possibility:

The Committee may accept voluntary contributions. Such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor and the Committee shall retain complete control of their use.

The Committee was supportive of adding this language.

Ms. Varela informed the Committee that, despite the desire to condense to one District, the same justification will be required. This will need to be pulled together before the next meeting. Mr. Mahan made a motion, second by Mr. Raley, to incorporate the changes above into a new draft for Committee review. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned.