

MINUTES

FPS GRAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 10:00am-noon

Peter Christensen Conference Room,
Trinchero Family Estates Building, UC Davis

Present: Maher Al Rwahnih, Kamyar Aram, Kendall Ash, Michele Barefoot, Mark Battany, Ernie Bowman, Donnell Brown, Sal Captain, Susan Captain, Michael Carriere, Javier Castillon, Alemeh Chaharsoughi, Julian Clymer, Jerry Dangl, Sean Dayyani, Nick Dokoozlian, John Duarte, Anna-Liisa Fabritius, Kristen Farrar, Dennis Frick, Grant Frick, Deborah Golino, François Guillaume, Jack Cecil, Joshua Kress, Karl Krist, Carole Lamb, Brenda Lenini, Phuong Lao, Lori Leong, Chris Lindelof, David Marion, Dan Martinez, Denise Meade, Martin Mochizuki, John Moso, Clint Neagley, Ed Nikssarian, Katherine Pond, Jim Pratt, Joshua Puckett, Ted Rieger, Adib Rowhani, Tia Russell, Raquel Salati, Sue Sim, Rhonda Smith, Stephanie Syphers, Athar Tariq, Michael Vietti, Leo Villanueva, Kristina Weber, Alan Wei, Jeffrey Wheeler, Judy Yang, Yunping Zhang.

Agenda Items:

Welcome and Introductions

Nick Dokoozlian, Chair of the Foundation Plant Services (FPS) Grape Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order and asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Approve Minutes from December 1, 2016 Grape Committee Meeting

Dan Martinez moved to approve the minutes from December 1, 2016. Dennis Frick seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Recent Grape Releases, and More - Nancy Sweet, Foundation Plant Services

Nancy Sweet, Staff Research Associate at FPS, provided a handout on the new grape introductions to FPS in 2017. Some highlights of the new wine grape selections include: Cabernet Sauvignon 74/74.1, which is a very popular clone in New York and grows well in the cooler southern region of Napa Valley; Cabernet Sauvignon 86.1 which is a highly valued Larkmead Heritage clone; Chardonnay 143.1; and Tempranillo Blanco 0.1. FPS also acquired heritage clones donated by Ridge Vineyards in Sonoma County. Some Greek clones from the Fassoulis Grapevine Nursery in Greece were sent to FPS with the agreement that FPS would return clean material in exchange for the acquisition of the material. Several Armenian wine grape varieties were sent to FPS. They are very old varieties that, by reputation, produce quality wines. We continue to receive proprietary grape clones from Geisenheim University in Germany; the Riesling 33.1 is a red Riesling clone that has a color mutation, resulting in white Riesling with pink berries.

FPS has discontinued the National Grape Registry (NGR) and has transferred the information from the NGR to the FPS website.

Nancy is also working on online book entitled "Grapes of the United States." This large volume that she's been working on for number of years has many features and stories on varieties, including the history of FPS and the grape nursery business and the involvement of UC in bringing the varieties here.

Updates on 2017 Red Blotch (GRBV) Foundation Vineyard Testing - Maher Al Rwahnih, Foundation Plant Services

Maher Al Rwahnih, Diagnostic and Research Laboratory Director at FPS, discussed the finding of Grapevine Red Blotch Disease, caused by Grapevine red blotch virus (GRBV), in the Russell Ranch Vineyard (RRV) during annual maintenance testing. Due to the importance of RRV material, identification of a vector, and the location of RRV, the entire vineyard of 4,132 vines was tested using a validated composite testing protocol. This comprehensive testing found four additional positive vines in RRV. It is thought that these are new, vector-mediated infections due to the negative test results of the mother and sister vines and increased visual evidence of the vector. To determine the potential source of GRBV, FPS surveyed, sampled, and tested grapevines in the area surrounding RRV. Seven additional positive vines were identified outside of RRV. Further testing of all isolates showed that the two different clades of GRBV were present both inside and outside of RRV, indicating that the infections in RRV are separate infection events. Additional testing was conducted at FPS's Classical Foundation Vineyard where one vine was found positive. FPS has removed and destroyed all affected vines. FPS is carefully monitoring the vineyard blocks in which GRBV has been found and additional testing has been implemented to ensure that any occurrence of disease is immediately detected and contained. Moving forward, FPS will focus on vector control by monitoring the vector, developing a program for control of vector, pursuing an areawide approach with growers, and studying the epidemiology of the vector. FPS continues to maintain the highest testing standard of its Foundation vineyards and will make every effort to keep interested parties informed as new information becomes available.

Deborah Golino contributed that this may impact of planning for the future. If red blotch pressure continues, we may consider: 1) downsizing the foundation or 2) maintaining select cultivars in the greenhouse. In addition, perhaps there would be a need to revisit the grape regulations to ask questions like, "if a popular variety becomes infected with red blotch, what happens to the supply chain?"

Josh Kress from CDFA contributed that it may be suspended from registration, but the question would be when that action would be taken.

It was agreed that it is essential to keep track of the source material of every vine as that information is critical with red blotch outbreaks.

What the FPS Custom Database Can Do for You - Karl Krist, Foundation Plant Services

Karl Krist, IT director at FPS, shared information on how the industry can benefit from the FPS database. The database provides important information at the fingertips of our research and production personnel. For example, FPS was able to react quickly to the discovery of red blotch with information readily available in the database. We can quickly access red blotch positive test results and with the plant identification number, we can trace orders that were filled with those vines. Spatial area data is provided, which is useful in mapping the location of diseased plants. The database also informs the public website information, while protecting customer and sales data.

Progress Report on the Activities of the National Clean Plant Network - Deborah Golino, Director, Foundation Plant Services

NCPN was established with funds from the 2008 Farm Bill and is managed by USDA-APHIS in consultation with NIFA. At FPS, Maher holds the permit for imports. Crops that were added recently to the import program are roses and tree fruit (FPS is also looking to add pome fruit). The fruit and nut tree industry expressed interest in the expansion of FPS's fruit and nut tree program and the foundation orchard. To accommodate this need, FPS increased tissue culture therapy for all tree crops, which was funded by IAB improvement advisory board and NCPN. Currently, NCPN has approximately \$5 million per year to distribute to all clean plant centers. NCPN funds seven crops: grapes, fruit trees, roses, hops, citrus, sweet potatoes, and berries. FPS has programs for grape, fruit and nut trees, roses, and sweet potatoes and fares well with getting NCPN funding in addition to support from the industry, grape user fees, and IAB funds.

Sue Sim, the NCPN coordinator for grapes, also serves as liaison for the other crops and will be retiring on July 1. Kristen Farrar will be replacing her in this capacity.

Other Business

John Duarte expressed interest in having FPS be the source for true-to-type material from other crops such as pistachio, walnuts, etc. Deborah indicated she would consider it.

There was no other business. Dennis Frick motioned to adjourn the meeting: Bud Dangl provided a second and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Farrar
Foundation Plant Services