

**Minutes of the
Idaho Nursery and Florists Advisory Committee Meeting
January 14, 2002
Statehouse Inn, Boise, Idaho**

In Attendance:

Howard E. Hughes, Hughes Greenhouses, Post Falls, ID - Committee Chairman
Bill Dial, Sterling Landscape Co., Boise, ID - Committee Member
David Jenkins, Jenkins & Son Christmas Trees, Inc., Sandpoint, ID - Committee Member
Ann Bates, Idaho Nursery Association (INA), Idaho Falls, ID – Guest
Michael E. Cooper, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
Kevin Glenn, Idagold Nursery, Caldwell, ID - Committee Member
Mike Hennequin, Clearwater Nursery, Sun Valley, ID – Committee Member
Mike Weiss, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Introductions were made by all of the committee members and guests.

Agenda items for this meeting were briefly identified

Old Business:

Members reviewed the minutes of the September 25, 2001 Conference Call. Mike Hennequin moved to approve the minutes, which was then seconded by Bill Dial and approved by the committee.

Review of year 2001 Grants – Final Reports

1) Dr. Robert R. Tripepi, University of Idaho, Grant, #NAC/ISDA2001-1 (\$7,246), “Evaluating a Gravel Bed Growing System to produce Conifer Seedlings for Fall Transplanting.” Committee comments included the hope that a University of Idaho “Current Information Series” (CIS) would be developed and that it include a diagram and the process involved in making a gravel bed, as well as, irrigation, transplant procedures and conditions. Ina was going to check with the major U.S. Forest service suppliers to see why they don’t do fall transplants. A motion to approve the final report was made by Mike Hennequin, seconded by Kevin Glenn and approved by the committee.

2) Dr. Dan Barney, University of Idaho, Grant #NAC/ISDA2001-4 (\$1,131.00), “Evaluation of Corkbark and SubAlpine Fir for Their Potential as Ornamental Nursery Stock and Christmas Trees.” This is a continuation of Grant NAC/ISDA 2000-1, originally approved February 7, 2000. The committee would like to see a chart of each planting sites survivability in future

reports. The committee believes that the project is on “track” an motion to accept the report was mad by Kevin Glenn, Seconded by Bill Dial and approved by the committee.

3) Mr. Don Gerhardt, State Statistician, “Year 2000 Nursery and Greenhouse Survey” contract, “2000 Gross Value of Nursery Sales.” The survey has been completed and was published in the *2000 Idaho Agricultural Statistics Report*. The final report was submitted for review at the Sept. conference call and approved at that time. A motion was made to continue this project for the next five years provided that there was no great increase in the funds needed by Eric Madson, Seconded by Kevin Glenn and approved by the committee.

In other old business INA representative Ann Bates expressed the continuing concern of trees from Michigan and other Eastern States going into the Jackson area of Wyoming and possibly being contaminated with Gypsy moth and Japanese beetle life stages.

New Business:

2002 Grant Proposal Submitted:

1) Dr. Harold Pellet, Ph.D. “ Development of Improved landscape plants” Grant Number NAC/ISDA 2002-1, (\$10,000). The committee felt that this proposal was not of direct benefit to Idaho growers and a motion to deny the proposal was made by Mike Weiss, seconded by Bill Dial, and approved by the committee.

2) Dr. Dan Barney "Evaluation of Corkbark and Subalpine Fir for their potential as Ornamental Nursery Stock and Christmas Trees" Grant Number NAC/ISDA 2002-2 (\$2,900). This is a continuation of Grant number NAC/ISDA2001-4. The committee had several questions about this grant that were e-mail to Dr. Barney and his response is attached. A motion to accept the grant was made by Eric Madson, Seconded by Bill Dial and approved by the committee.

3) Dr. Robert R. Tripepi “Evaluating a Gravel Bed Growing System to produce Conifer Seedlings for Fall Transplanting” NAC/ISDA 2002-4 \$5,709. This is a continuation of Grant number NAC/ISDA 2002-2 (\$7,246). A motion to accept the proposal was made by Kevin Glenn, seconded by Mike Hennequin and approved by the committee. The committee made note that they would like to see this project expanded to include deciduous trees, in a separate grant this year. This proposal was e-mailed to Dr. Tripepi and he responded via telephone that was not sure he could get to it this year, but would try and as of March 26, 2002 no proposal had been received.

4) Dr. Robert Tripepi “Examining Fertilizer Treatments Used on Colorado Spruce to Maintain Post harvest Quality”. NAC/ISDA 2002-3 (\$21,016). A motion was made by Mike Weiss to approve the grant, seconded by Mike Hennequin and approved by the committee. The committee had the following comments which were relayed to R. Tripepi via E-mail: 1) What will be the nitrogen source used to fertilize the plants? 2) What was the type of fertilizer used and fertilization regime of the plants prior to purchase for the project? 3) Harvest Techniques? 4) They had prefer that all of the plants be from one supplier, but if not, shouldn't the plants the

tracked separately? Dr. Tripepi indicated by phone that he would try to take all of these factors into account.

In other new business a letter from Dr. Gene Merrell, A technology transfer officer with the University of Idaho was received. The letter expressed concerns about the sharing of any profit received from patents arising from the research funded by the committee. It was the University of Idaho's contention that since the committee did not allow overhead to be charged to a grant then the research was not fully funded and therefore the committee should not share in any patents that might granted. The committee decided to remove any reference to patents from its "Statement of Policy on Research" but, still asked the question as to whether or not a patent might result from this research and what their sponsoring organization's "official position" on patents is as part the grant application. The thought was that if a patent might result from the research grant the committee might wish to further negotiate the terms of the grant. Mike Weiss said he would follow-up with Dr. Merrell on this aspect.

Other letters between INA President Eric Madson and Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Patrick Takasugi concerning the previously mentioned situation with nursery stock were discussed. It was asked if the Director might follow-up with a letter to his counter part in Wyoming expressing the industry concerns over the situation?

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Addendum:

All grant applicants have been notified as to whether their applications were approved or rejected. The first disbursement of funds has been made to approved grant applicants. As of February 28, 2002 there was \$111,917.79 in the account.

A letter to the Director of the Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture will be drafted.

From: Danny L. Barney [dbarney@mail.netw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2002 9:29 AM

To: Mike Cooper
Subject: Re: Grants

Mr. Cooper,

My thanks to you and the Nursery and Florists Advisory Committee for your continued support. We are gaining valuable knowledge regarding these fir species.

The committee's questions are good ones. The reports regarding site performance submitted to date were short because results were preliminary. Please bear in mind that most of the trees are still only 4-8 inches tall. Spring 2002 evaluations will give us our first clear picture of survival and growth under different growing conditions and practices. Our 2002 reports will be broken down according to site and will be both longer and more detailed than previous reports.

Site reports throughout the summer of 2001 were tentative. Transplant shock on dryland sites apparently created the impression that more trees died than actually did so. We'll know better what the survival rates are for each site after bud break this spring. Survival under irrigation appears to have been excellent. Of the 960 trees planted at Sandpoint, I know of only two that died, one from transplant shock and one from tractor blight. Because both PossAbilities and Birch Haven are dryland farms, as opposed to the Sandpoint R&E Center irrigated plots, I believe we should continue to evaluate the trees at those sites. The cost is very small and sample size is not a problem.

Committee members and other interested parties are welcome to visit the plots at Sandpoint any time. I'm sure cooperators Dave Wattenbarger and Randy Poss would also welcome visitors. I can arrange for tours of the three Idaho sites, if anyone is interested.

Thanks again. Please

Dan Barney

----- Original Message -----

From: "Mike Cooper" <MCOOPER@agri.state.id.us>
To: "DAN BARNEY (E-mail)" <dbarney@uidaho.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2002 8:54 AM
Subject: Grants

> Dr. Barney,
>
> The committee voted to continue with the research but they have some
> questions.
>
> "Evaluation of Corkbark and Sub-alpine Fir for their potential as
Ornamental
> Nursery Stock and Christmas Trees", Dr. Dan Barney, University of Idaho,
> Sandpoint Research & Extension Center. This is an ongoing research
project.
> \$2,900.00

>
> 1) Should we separate the results between sites there appears to be too
> much
> variability.
>
> 2) Are the tree as the other sites doing ok?
>
> 3) What is the survivability per site.
>
> 4) Should we continue with the Possabilities and Birch Haven sites?
>
> 5) Is sample size becoming a problem?
>
>
> Please respond to the questions so that they can be passed on to the
> committee.
>
> I will process the grant paper work in the next week or so.
>
>
> Michael E. Cooper, Chief
> Bureau of Feeds and Plant Services
> Plant Industries Division
> Idaho State Department of Agriculture
> P.O. Box 790
> Boise, ID 83701
>
> Phone: (208) 332-8620
> Fax: (208) 334-2283
> e-mail: mcooper@agri.state.id.us

From: Mike Cooper
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2002 9:47 AM
To: BOB TRIPEPI (E-mail)
Subject: Grants
Dr. Tripepi,

The committee awarded the following grants at its annual meeting January 14, 2002. They have some question on each that you will need to respond to before I can process the awards.

"Evaluating Additional Conifer Seedlings Grown in a Gravel Bed Growing System for Fall Transplanting", Dr. Robert R. Tripepi, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho. \$5,709 This is an expansion of project funded last year and will be modified to include some hardwood species. They wanted to know if a new gravel bed needed to be built for the hardwood species and what would the additional cost be?

"Examining Fertilizer Treatments used on Colorado Spruce to Maintain Post harvest Quality", Dr. Robert R. Tripepi, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho. \$21,016.00 They had some questions; 1) What form would be the form of nitrogen would be used. 2) Fertilization history of the plants purchased? 3) Harvest techniques of the plants purchased. 4) They would prefer that the

plants all be purchased from the same supplier, if from different suppliers would not that affect the results?

Give me a call if you need to.

Michael E. Cooper, Chief
Bureau of Feeds and Plant Services
Plant Industries Division
Idaho State Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 790
Boise, ID 83701

Phone: (208) 332-8620
Fax: (208) 334-2283
e-mail: mcooper@agri.state.id.us