

# OLIVE OIL COMMISSION OF CALIFORNIA

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRIDAY  
JANUARY 17, 2025  
10:30 a.m.

Robert Cabral Agricultural Center  
2101 E. Earhart Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95206

Zoom Information  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439063668>

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michael Fox called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:40 a.m. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Jackie KENNEDY	-	Kennedy Ranch
Larry MABEN	-	Maben Farms
Matt LOHSE	-	Big W Ranch
Andrew PETRINI	-	Delta Olive Producers
Jeff COLOMBINI	-	Lodi Farming
Jim LIPMAN	-	California Olive Ranch
Mikayla GNOSS	-	Capay Valley Ranches
Bret LEISHMAN	-	Circle G Ranch
Frank OLAGARAY	-	Blossom Vineyards
Richard MARCHINI	-	Marchini Ag
Michael FOX	-	California Olive Ranch
Conor CHURCHIN	-	Cobram Estate Olives
Cliff LITTLE	-	Corto Olive
Bruce GOLINO	-	OCCC
Mark SIEVERS	-	IL Fiorello Olive Oil Company
Mary MORI	-	California Olive Ranch
Alexandra KICENIK DEVARENNE	-	CalAthena

## STAFF:

Todd SANDERS	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Michelle BORGES	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Mary McDONNELL	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Ethan CRANMER	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Janette RAMOS	-	Olive Oil Commission of California

## GUESTS

Dennis MANDERFIELD	-	CDFA
Laurel RUDOLPH	-	CDFA
Ann GROTTVEIT	-	Kahn, Soares & Conway
Amy HARRIS	-	Rood & Dinis
Chris CALVERT	-	Ciarlo Fruit and Nut
David GARCI-AGUIRRE	-	Corto Olive
Natalia RUIZ	-	Modern Olives Laboratory Services
Brittany FAGUNDES	-	California Olive Ranch

Having received a sufficient number of Directors a quorum was established.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the minutes of September 17, 2024, be approved as presented. (MOTION 1-17-25 #1)**

## II. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Michael Fox thanked everyone who attended, and stated that the transition is coming along great, and in this meeting we would be covering the audit, the Handler definition, research and The Olive Oil Conference.

## III. AUDIT

- i. Approval of 2023-2024 FY Audit – **ACTION**  
Amy Harris of Rood and presented the following reports to the Board.
  - 1) Independent Accountant's Report 2024
  - 2) Audited Financial Statements Report 2024

- **MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Audit as presented. (MOTION 1-17-25 #2)**

- ii. Approval of 2024-2025 FY Auditor – **ACTION**

The following pages in the packet contained two auditor proposals to review from Sampson & Sampson and Rood & Dinis.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LITTLE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve Rood & Dinis, as our 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Auditors. (MOTION 1-17-25 #3)**

#### **IV. GRADE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

##### **i. Mill Reporting Requirements - ACTION**

The pages in the packet contained a notice to handlers regarding their Milling Reporting Requirements (previously referred to as the Notice to File). If approved by the Board of Directors, this notice will be sent to all handlers with the intent being to ensure that the OCCC has a comprehensive handlers list to enforce both assessments and quality standards.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the Milling Reporting Requirements notice to be sent out the entire industry by the OCCC Staff. (MOTION 1-17-25 #4)**

##### **ii. Form A Update – ACTION**

There was a revised version of both Form A and Form B in the packet. These were reformed to capture toll processors

- **MOVED by LITTLE, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the revised Form A and B as presented. (MOTION 1-17-25 #5)**

##### **iii. Guidance on Use by Dating - ACTION**

The following page contains a revised version of the Guidance on Use By Dating document. The main changes pertain to adding ‘Induction Time’ to the list of required tests. Once approved, OCCC staff will add the revised document to the website

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the Guidance on Use By Dating document as presented. (MOTION 1-17-25 #6)**

##### **iv. Modification of a Handler Definition – ACTION**

Article 2, Section 79818. modifies the definition of a handler to include toll processors. These changes pertaining to the handler definition were already reviewed by the OCCC Grades and Standards Committee on January 10, 2025.

Article 2, Section 79821. modifies the definition of a producer to include toll processed. These changes pertaining to the producer definition were already reviewed by the OCCC Grades and Standards Committee on January 10, 2025.

Article 2, Section 79824. modifies the definition of a toll processor to include milled olives. These changes pertaining to the toll processor definition were already reviewed by the OCCC Grades and Standards Committee on January 10, 2025.

If approved by the Board of Directors, OOC staff will be working with Kahn, Soares, and Conway to revise the OOC law through the CA legislature. The changes will not take effect until January 1, 2026.

- **MOVED by LOHSE, duly seconded by GOLINO, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the changes, as presented, to modify the definition of a handler, producer, and toll processor in the OOC Law with the understanding that changes to the definition in the OOC law will cascade into other OOC operational documents such as Bylaws. (MOTION 1-17-25 #7)**

v. Sampling Program – **ACTION**

OOC Staff is working with the CDFA to conduct the Annual Sampling Program. On January 14, 2025, OOC staff attended an oil sampling training. Additionally, preliminary forms have been sent out and we are waiting for these to be filled out to begin this sampling program.

**V. RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

i. Approval of 2025-2026 Research Priorities

Each year the Research Committee sets priorities of research they would like executed on their behalf for the following year. These efforts are to fund more specific and calculated research to enhance the benefits to the industry. Once the priorities are set, they are provided to the University of California liaisons to request proposals from researchers. Additionally, priorities are distributed to land grant universities across the nation and to private research facilities. Proposals will be reviewed for funding in May by the Committee.

**2024-2025 RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR THE OLIVE OIL COMMISSION**

<b>Researcher</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Dr. Jim Adaskaveg*	Management of Foliar Diseases-A. Olive Knot and B. Evaluation of New Fungicides For Control of Olive Leaf Spot	\$6, 500
Dr. Jim Adaskaveg	Epidemiology and Management of Olive Knot Caused by Pseudomonas Savastavoi pv. Savastanoi	\$10,000
Selina Wang	Analysis of 2024 harvest quality oil	\$20,000
Kimberly Houlding/AOOA	Study on Olive Oil Quality PPP and DAGs	\$5,000
Paul Long	Olive Oil Cost of Production Study	\$30,000
Integrative Economics/ Kyle Birchard	Industry Benchmarking Research and Analysis	GRANT
Giulia Marino	Water Management Strategies for Hedgerow Olive Orchards in California	GRANT
	<b>Special Projects</b>	\$4,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$76,000</b>

\*Projects are co-funded by the California Olive Committee.

## **Olive Oil Commission of California Research Priorities for 2025**

- Figuring out how to grab carbon money for olives
- Understanding SAP analysis
- Diving deeper into the residual chemical presence of bifenthrin in depth
- New canopy management trial
- Loosening agents
- Nitrogen analysis
- Tissues vs yields
- Foliar sprays and their effectiveness (focusing on yield and accuracy)
- Help hold bloom on plants
- Bloom volume compared to actual set
- Neofabraea: fungus affecting mechanically harvested olives and the next years production

### ii. Olive Oil Conference

The packet contained the Olive Oil Conference speaker recommendations and topics as well as the Sponsorship Packet. This Packet offers a unique opportunity for people to demonstrate their commitment to the growth and success of the olive oil industry. By becoming a sponsor, organizations can showcase their support for the industry's advancement, while also gaining valuable visibility and recognition within the olive oil community.

## **VI. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

### i. Balance Sheet & Profit & Loss Statement

Sanders presented to the Board of Directors the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Sanders announced staff member Elise Oliver will be leaving her employment at the end of January. Sanders, then formally introduced three new employees, Michelle Borges, Director of Operations, Mary McDonnell, Program Supervisor, and Ethan Cranmer, Program Coordinator, for the Olive Oil Commission of California.

### Next Steps:

- Sanders to make password protection for research section on the website accessible only to assessment-paying members.
- OOC staff to create a QR code for a survey about the Commission's performance to be presented at Olive Oil Day.
- Brittany Fagundes to continue seeking sponsorships for Olive Oil Day.

- OCCC staff to work with Selina Wang of UC Davis to determine how to handle the \$24,673 research equipment on the balance sheet.
- Staff to send out a poll to board members to determine the best date for the next meeting in June.
- OCCC staff to ensure the proper 10-day notice is given for future board meetings.
- OCCC staff update the website with future meeting dates.
- Mary Mori to follow up with Paul Long about potentially creating live spreadsheet tools for the olive oil production cost study.
- Research committee to focus the olive oil production cost study on the Central and South regions, with emphasis on new plantings.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Michael Fox adjourned the meeting of the Board of Directors at 11:51 a.m.



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Todd W. Sanders  
Executive Director  
Olive Oil Commission of California

## **SUMMARY OF MOTIONS FOR JANUARY 17, 2025**

### **MOTION 1-17-25 #1**

**APPROVED**

**MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the minutes of September 17, 2024, be approved as presented.**

### **MOTION 1-17-25 #2**

**APPROVED**

**MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Audit as presented.**

### **MOTION 9-17-24 #3**

**APPROVED15**

**MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve Rood & Dinis, as our 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Auditors.**

### **MOTION 9-17-24 #4**

**APPROVED15**

**MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LITTLE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the Milling Reporting Requirements notice to be sent out the entire industry by the OOC Staff.**

### **MOTION 1-17-25 #5**

**APPROVED**

- **MOVED by LITTLE, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the revised Form A and B as presented. (MOTION 1-17-25 #5)**

### **MOTION 1-17-25 #6**

**APPROVED**

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the Guidance on Use By Dating document as presented. (MOTION 1-17-25 #6)**

### **MOTION 1-17-25 #7**

**APPROVED**

**MOVED by LOHSE, duly seconded by GOLINO, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors adopt the changes, as presented, to modify the definition of a handler, producer, and toll processor in the OOC Law with the understanding that changes to the definition in the OOC law will cascade into other OOC operational documents such as Bylaws.**