

**Minutes of the
Idaho Nursery and Florists Advisory Committee Meeting
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Monday, October 20, 2003
Teleconference**

In Attendance:

Howard E. Hughes, Hughes Greenhouses, Post Falls, ID - Committee Chairman
David Jenkins, Jenkins & Son Christmas Trees, Inc., Sandpoint, ID - Committee Member
Matt Wolff, Baxter Wholesale Nursery, Emmett, ID - New Committee Member
Gary Paulson, Trail Creek Nursery, Victor, ID - New Committee Member
James “Ding” Johnson, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID - U.I. Representative
Michael E. Cooper, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) - ISDA Representative

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by teleconference.
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 January 25, 2003 meeting minutes. Several changes were suggested based on memory and notes of the members. The suggested changes will be made and a final report will be submitted to the committee at the January 2004 committee meeting.

Review of year 2003 Grants – Mid-Year Reports

- 1) **NAC/2003-1** “Evaluation of Corkbark and SubAlpine Fir for their Potential as Ornamental Nursery Stock and Christmas Trees” Danny L. Barney, University of Idaho, **\$3,425**. This is an ongoing project that Dave Jenkins has been keeping up with on the ground.
- 2) **NAC/2003-2** “Defining Business Operations Related to the Green Industry” Dr. J. D. Wulfhorst, University of Idaho, **\$4,360.25**.
- 3) **NAC/2003-3** “Examining Fertilizer Treatments Used on Colorado Spruce to Maintain Post Harvest Quality” Dr. Robert R. Tripepi and John E. Lloyd, University of Idaho, **\$21,366**.
- 4) **NAC/2003-7** “Using Degree-Day and Plant Phenological Models to Accurately Time Chemical Treatment of White Pine Weevil in Conifer Nurseries” John Lloyd, Robert Wilson, and Edward Bechinski, University of Idaho, **\$13,008**. **This project will be held over for the 2004 field season**
- 5) **NAC/ISDA 2002-4** “Evaluating a Gravel Bed Growing System to produce Conifer Seedlings for Fall Transplanting” Dr. Robert R. Tripepi, University of Idaho, **\$5,709**. This report is an addendum to the Final report submitted to the committee at the January 25, 2003 meeting.

A motion to accept the reports was made, seconded and approved by the committee.

New Business:

Dan Campbell, Agricultural Investigator – The committee was informed of his accidental death.

Legislation for licensing validation – There is a feeling within the industry that only those actually engaged in the Nursery and Floral business as a full time occupation should be allowed to obtain a license. There has only been discussion at this time and no proposed legislation had been presented. It is too late for any ISDA sponsored legislation and, therefore, the industry would have to present it. If there is a move to present legislation, the committee would like the ISDA to be involved.

Ding Johnson – Dr. Johnson gave the committee an overview of what was going on within the College of Agriculture. The search to replace vacant and soon to be vacant Deans' positions was discussed. The Department of Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences is down to 13 faculty positions, as the ranks are getting thinner. The existing staff is stretched thin and staffing is presenting challenges. Some faculty has had to cover other areas for a year or more and the stress is beginning to show. Undergraduate enrollment is down and graduate enrollment is rising. The emphasis on undergraduate course work will be shifted to graduate course work. They hope to hire a Turf Specialist soon. Entomology and Plant Pathology staffing is down significantly and is struggling. Dr. Johnson recapped the various positions that had been lost through early retirement and movement to other opportunities out of state. Contract work at the non-faculty level is being explored. The basic support staff is beginning to leave also.

Reporting of research projects that are continued – Committee members suggested that grants that are a continuation of a previous grant be annotated as such on any copies distributed to the members.

The next meeting will be the Saturday morning (January 24, 2004) following the annual Idaho Nursery Association Horticulture Show in Boise January 21-23, 2004