

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board (WCHPDB)

Monday March 19, 2018

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location

Lynden, WA

Whatcom County Lynden Library

216 4th St, Lynden, WA 98264

<https://goo.gl/maps/Bm5xXjXNiNz>

Agenda

- Call to order
- Roll call and determination of a quorum
- Public comment
- Approval of minutes from March 2017 meeting
- New business
 - Presentation by Dr. Debbie Inglis, Plant Pathologist WSU Mt. Vernon NWREC
 - Discussion of outreach activities and materials
 - Schedule of next meeting
- Announcements
- Adjourn

Staff contact information

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Meeting Minutes 3/19/18

Attendees

Board Members

Melissa Bedlington, Matt McDermott, Allen Brown

Quorum Present - Yes

Staff

Chris Benedict

Others

Kay Oakley (WSDA)

Debbie Inglis (WSU)

Open Session for Public Comments

No members of the public were available for comment.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved from March meeting, Melissa motioned, and Allen seconded.

New Business

Dr. Debbie Inglis gave a presentation to the Board on potato virus Y (PVY). The presentation focused on issues with virus inoculum coming into the County. Some survey work that she did found tubers sold in garden stores were positive for PVY. Of the tubers surveyed and the source was known, all were grown in other areas and states. Results from an additional survey in Skagit County was discussed that looked at PVY presence in conventional and organic commercial potato fields. Further discussion amongst the Board focused on the Washington seed potato certification process. Several WSU Extension publications targeted towards growers and the public are/will be published. Dr. Inglis emphasized that organic growers/home owners need better access to disease free seed. Board member Matt McDermott explained some of the issues with getting certified organic seed and exemptions that are in place that may help with access to disease free seed. Further discussion around big box stores and the impact of educating their employees on PVY. Chris agreed to map out where organic potato seed is being sold in the County. Melissa raised the issue of home owners growing blueberries and acting as a source for Scorch/Shock virus. Allen underscored the concern. Further discussion along maintaining a strong educational outreach to homeowners. Chris said that he would he would build this into the Master Gardener training in the next class so that volunteers could act as docents for the agriculture industry.

Melissa motioned the meeting to be adjourned and Allen seconded at 11:40 AM.