

November 29, 2018

TO: Director Taylor, Board of Agriculture

FROM: Tyson Raymond, Barbara Boyer, Stephanie Hallock, Luisa Santamaria

RE: Role and Configuration of Subcommittees

In determining the best use of subcommittees, we first looked at what Board meetings should accomplish:

- Educate Board members to be knowledgeable messengers and advocates for the Department and agriculture;
- Utilize the expertise of Board members to guide the Department in policy decisions;
- Provide a forum for public input on issues related to agriculture.

Whatever the Board decides about subcommittees, we believe that Board meetings should continue to include two evenings, with the first evening being devoted to in depth discussion of “hot topics” and/or policy issues or educational information for the Board. The first evening session can be for full Board or for subcommittees when needed, per the options below.

We recommend that the full Board discuss subcommittees at our February meeting in Salem and propose two options beyond status quo for the Board’s consideration:

**Option One:** Retain subcommittees as standing committees that meet only when there are policy issues and/or resolutions requiring more discussion than time allows at Board meetings. Each subcommittee should have no more than 5 members, as is currently the case. Board members should pick which subcommittee(s) they want to be on and membership should change every (2? 4?) years. The Board should discuss with staff whether the current subcommittees capture the policy issues that need to be discussed and/or whether more/fewer/different subcommittees are needed.

**Option Two:** Dissolve subcommittees and have Board members volunteer to work on issues as they arise, e.g. as Board members volunteered to work on a policy regarding resolutions and on addressing the issue of subcommittees. No more than five Board members could volunteer to work on an issue. It is likely that Board members who volunteer will have to devote time to work on issues outside of Board meetings.

Under either option, full Board discussions and/or subcommittee discussions at Board meetings would be open to the public.