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## BUDGET & NOMINATIONS MINUTES

10am – June 03, 2025  
Zoom and in Person

Manager Dante Galeazzi called the meeting to order at 10:04am for nominations. Mr Galeazzi recommended that we elect a full and brand-new committee since USDA has not approved.

Nominations for Producers and Handlers were held for all positions.

### Producers

Chad Szutz	Max Schuster
Will Beckwith	Michael A Helle
Thomas Hanka	Wayne Reavis
Bret Erickson	Kristen Davis
Marcus Forthuber	Clayton Martin
James Crawford	Brandon Olivaria
Brandon Laferre	Courtney Schuster
Mike Palmer	Jay Williams

### Handlers

Dennis Holbrook	Tony Martinez
Mike Davis	Sam Ruiz
Trevor Stuart	Taylor Schuster
Steve A Cargil	Nano Tafolla
J Allen Carnes	Eddy Carnes

- **Motion to renominate the Handlers current slate and fill the vacant positions made by Dennis Holbrook; seconded by Mike Davis. Unanimously approved.**
- **Motion to renominate the Producers current slate and fill the vacant positions made by Bret Erickson; seconded by Thomas Hanka. Unanimously approved.**

Members present: Will Beckwith, Thomas Hanka, Bret Erickson, Brandon Laferre, Dennis Holbrook, Steve Cargil and J Allen Carnes.

Alternates present: Wayne Reavis seated for Chad Szutz, Kristen Davis seated for Marcus Forthuber, Tony Martinez seated for Will Steele, Mike Davis seated for Vacant position, and Nano Tafolla.

Others present: Delaney Fuhrmeister and Rebecca Geller, USDA; Noel Carreon, South Texas Produce and Imports Solutions; Hector Garza, Marisol Garza, Lilly Garcia and Dante Galeazzi, Staff.

The meeting was held with an in-person element at the TIPA offices, but most participation was by way of the Zoom platform.

- I. Roll Call
  - Lilly Garcia conducted roll call – a quorum was present
- II. Approval of Minutes (Previously mailed)
  - January 29, 2025 – Organizational Meeting
  - April 28, 2025 – Diversity Subcommittee Meeting
  - May 06, 2025 – Marketing Subcommittee Meeting
  - May 16, 2025 - Marketing Subcommittee Meeting

➤ **Motion to approve the minutes made by Bret Erickson; seconded by Wayne Reavis. Unanimously approved.**
- III. Approval of By Laws and Internal Controls
  - By Laws and Internal Controls (no changes)

➤ **Motion to approve the 2025-2026 By Laws and Internal Controls made by Bret Erickson; seconded by Dennis Holbrook. Unanimously approved.**
- IV. Approval of Budget and Administrative Agreement
  - Manager Galeazzi mentioned that the rent was increased (doubled) that there had not been an increase from \$0.66 to \$1.32
  - Projected Reserves (07/31/2025) \$66,000
  - Shipped bags as of 06/03/2025 - 3,281,287
  - Projected Revenue \$250,000 – \$260,000
  - Operational expenses \$287,422

➤ **Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Budget with expenses at \$287,422 made by Mike Davis; seconded by Bret Erickson. Unanimously approved.**

➤ **Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Texas International Produce Association and the South Texas Onion Committee made by Bret Erickson; seconded by J Allen Carnes. Unanimously approved.**

✓ **ACTION ITEM: Committee discussed forming a Compliance Subcommittee and set up a meeting to discuss how to outline task and provide progress updates to send the Compliance Investigator to check on. Invite Tommy Hanka, Will Beckwith, Tony Martinez, and Steve Cargil**

✓ **ACTION ITEM: FSA recorded acreage by City, Dante Galeazzi and Noe Carreon to look into**

✓ **ACTION ITEM: Get permission from CBP or TX Dot to set up and make random checks, Dante Galeazzi to look into**

V. Marketing Efforts

- “Restaurant Week”
    - Outreach to 24 restaurants
    - Minimal participation; postponed to March 2026
    - \$5,500 in funds will be carried over
    - Cancelled due to not enough time – Look into it 6mos to a year
  - Recipe card (red, yellow and white)
    - Targeted for distribution before Father’s Day
  - Customer Survey (share results with Committee)
    - Launched to assess interest in featuring Texas 1015 onions in fast casual restaurants
  - Onion statue in Weslaco proposal only one received
- ✓ **ACTION ITEM: Sabrina Wilson to find out if land is being donated for the Onion statue and revisit giant onion proposal.**

VI. New/Old Business

- Mechanical Harvesting & Research
    - Texas A&M project experiencing weather delays
    - TDA providing financial support
    - Broader research scope (soil & petiole sampling) recommended due to challenges, with plans for a detailed best practice guide
- ✓ **ACTION ITEM: Dante will invite/call to meet with the Research Subcommittee and invite others to join.**
- Grower Compilation Rule
    - Informal rule recommended requiring handlers to report grower names, addresses, acreage, and geographic location.
- **Motion to move forward with an informal rule to begin the requirement that handlers must report their growers with accurate and current contact information along with their acreage and location of acres made by Tommy Hanka; seconded by Wayne Reavis. Unanimously approved.**
- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training
    - Scheduled to enhance grower knowledge and ensure compliance with produce safety standards, Thursday – Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 8am-12:30pm

VII. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn made by Bret Erickson; seconded by Wayne Reavis. Unanimously approved.**