

## Steering Committee Meeting – 2019

Report prepared by:

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Present: Eric Hatcher, Bob Cartwright, Nolan Jeske

Absent: Jim Berry

### Introduction

A steering committee meeting was held on September 24, 2019 online (using Zoom) to advise the Extension Program Specialist in IPM position (Erfan Vafaie) with industry needs and priorities. The meeting was held from 10 am – 11 am and started with a short presentation on current IPM program specialist job description & responsibilities and past & current projects. Growers were then asked to provide input on steering committee reformation, annual greenhouse & nursery program in Overton, and program priorities for 2020.

### Meeting Summary

Erfan – Steering committee is down to four members, due to retirement of two past members. Asked committee whether committee should be split into two groups: Greenhouse/Annuals and Nursery/Perennials, in order to address needs and priorities of the two groups separately.

Committee Census – No need to split the committee. Both groups relate to each other and don't see a need for splitting the groups. Erfan to find 3 new committee members to join the group.

Erfan – Currently steering committee meets annually. Asked whether there is a need for increased frequency of meeting

Committee Census – Depends on kind of guidance/help needed. Meeting twice a year would be fine, especially to hear more trial updates. Push updates more regularly and/or through more mediums (i.e. Newsletter and podcast?)

Erfan – Asked for feedback on fifth presentation at the annual program in Overton; currently considering a grower panel to get feedback from peers.

Committee Census – Grower panel may not be the most effective choice. Consider inviting someone to speak about the use of drones and other remote sensing technologies, or technologies to make growing easier/more efficient (i.e. scouting/recording-keeping database)

Erfan – Could use feedback on how to reach more growers for the annual program in Overton

Committee Census – use vendors! Ask vendors to call their growers and invite them personally.

#### 2019 Program Priorities

#	Title	Description
1	Pesticide Safety	Pesticide safety education and employee compliance of safety regulations
2	Ambrosia beetle	Loss of some very large trees. How to prevent. Doesn't occur every year
3	Leaf blister/galls & stem galls	Live oaks. Not every year. Hard to prevent and need more research.
4	Pine beetle	Bigger problem more recently. On pines and conifers.
5	Recruitment	Need to recruit more people into the nursery/greenhouse industry.