

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE BOARD
BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2023

Via Video Conference

Welcome and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. Eastern Standard Time by Chairman, Derek Ahl.

Board Members in Attendance: Bob Schaefer, Roger Beyer, Mark Schmidlin, Mike Cocco, Renee Beutell, Derek Ahl, Gary Westlake, Larry Downey, and Jane Neubauer. Mike Jones joined the meeting in progress.

Board Members Not in Attendance: Chuck Berry and Charles Fowler

USDA Representative(s) in Attendance: George Webster

Staff in Attendance: Marsha Gray and Jenny Tomaszewski

Presentation of 2023-24 Proposed Budget - Bob Schaefer provided an overview of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

- Question was raised regarding line item 57000: Special Projects TBD – Marsha Gray shared that the Special Projects account has existed since the beginning of the program. The first item funded from this line item was the first Seedling Survey. The current amount, \$36,000, is designated for the new online reporting system and database.

It was **MOVED** by Roger Beyer and **SECONDED** by Gary Westlake to approve the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget as presented. **MOTION APPROVED.**

- Derek Ahl and Bob Schaefer thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work in putting together the budget for the year.
- Marsha Gray shared that there are limits in the Order limiting administrative expenses to 10% of assessment and other income received by the Board. The 10% is everything under the operating section of the budget. USDA does limit Research and Promotion programs to a maximum of 15% for administrative costs, but because it is in the RCTB's Order, the Board cannot exceed 10% without changing the Order. The Board will discuss this item at the next meeting on April 20th.

For the Good of the Order/Announcements: No new items to report.

Meeting Schedule:

Next Meeting - The next RCTB meetings will be held on April 20, May 18, and June 15 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Adjourn:

It was **MOVED** by Bob Schaefer and **SECONDED** by Renee Beutell to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Chairman Derek Ahl adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Tomaszewski for Chuck Berry
Secretary