



**United Fresh Produce Association
Grower-Shipper Board Meeting
May 2, 2011
Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Meeting Summary

Board Members Participants (old and new board)

Chairman Fred Williamson, Andrew & Williamson Produce
Vice Chairman Will Steele, Frontera Produce
Mitch Ardantz, Bonipak Produce Company
Tom Deardorff, Deardorff Family Farms
Fried De Schouwer, Greenhouse Produce Company
Jose Gargia, Rene Produce
Jim Gerecke, Desert Glory
Don Held, The Produce Exchange
Phil Herbig, WES Pak Sales
David Hille, Cabbage, Inc.
Cindy Jewell, California Giant Berry Farms
Frank Maconachy, Ramsay Highlander
Keith Mathews, First Fruits of Washington
David Mixon, Seald Sweet International
Andrew Pandol, Pandol Brothers, Inc.
Gordon Robertson, Sun World International
Andrew Schwartz, Rosemont Farms
Kaari Stannard, New York Apples Sales
Kevin Searle, GPOD of Idaho
Dana Thomas, Index Fresh

Board Members Unable to Attend (old and new board)

Rick Alcocer, Duda Farm Fresh Foods
Bill Brim, Lewis Taylor Farms
Doug Kling, Village Farms
Martha Montoya, Los Kitos Produce, LLC
Doug Ranno, Colorful Harvest, LLC

United Fresh Produce Association Staff

Ray Gilmer, Vice President of Communications
Julie Manes, Director, Government Relations
Erin Grether, Coordinator, Government Relations

Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Williamson called the meeting to order at 13:30 p.m., welcomed the board members and thanked everyone for attending.

Compensation Survey Project

Ray Gilmer provided a preview of United's industry compensation and benefits survey. The survey was scheduled to launch following the conclusion of the United Fresh convention May 15), allowing one last opportunity for companies to submit salary and benefits data on 30

job positions within the industry. Companies that participate in the survey data collection can buy a survey report for \$195. The final report was scheduled to be released in July 2011.

Chairman Williamson encouraged members of the Grower-Shipper Board to submit their data, if they hadn't already.

Agricultural Labor Discussion

Chairman Williamson introduced Julie Manes, United's Director of government relations, to update the board about possible legislation that would require mandatory E-Verify (electronic verification) of employees to determine employment eligibility. Ms. Manes indicated that Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) of the House Judiciary Committee is pushing for a bill that would require all employers to use the E-Verify employment eligibility verification program. In addition to requiring all employers to use E-Verify, the legislation, subsequently entitled the "Legal Workforce Act" (H.R. 2885), makes several important changes, including limiting the number of documents employers may accept to verify employment eligibility and increasing the penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens or fail to use E-Verify.

GAPs Harmonization Discussion

Board member David Mixon of Seald Sweet raised questions about the Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative, which United Fresh is spearheading as part of a broad industry effort to drive efficiencies in audits. Mr. Mixon raised concerns about the GAPs harmonization initiative perhaps increasing costs to producers. Erin Grether, who works on the initiative with Dr. David Gombas, United's Senior V.P. of food safety and technology, gave a brief update on the program's efforts and assured the board that the initiative has already made progress in finding ways to reduce redundant standards in audits, reducing overall costs in the process. Ms. Grether invited the board to view the information on the United website about the GAPs Harmonization Initiative and to contact her or Dr. Gombas with questions.

Grower-Shipper Member Roundtable

Chairman Williamson invited the board members to briefly share updates on issues facing their operations.

United Fresh 2011 Convention Schedule Review

Ray Gilmer provided a quick summary of the upcoming educational sessions at the United convention in New Orleans. Topics at the Grower-Shipper Super Session and Learning Centers included social media marketing, locally grown marketing, empowering retail staff as ambassadors to consumers, packaging design innovations, and social responsibility.

Conclusion

Chairman Williamson reminded the board that the next meeting will be at the Washington Public Policy Conference, October 3.

With no further business, Chairman Williamson thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.