

**Citrus Research Board Office**  
CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting  
CRB Conference Room  
217 N. Encina Street  
Visalia, Ca 93291  
Minutes of Meeting  
**December 5, 2012 10:00 a.m.**

A Meeting of the Citrus Research Board/Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee Joint Operations Committee was called to order by Chairman Jim Gorden at the Citrus Research Board Office, Conference Room, Visalia, California. A quorum was established with the following in attendance:

Joint Committee Members

Jim Gorden, Chairman CRB Ops  
Link Leavens, V-Chairman CRB Ops\*  
Dan Dreyer  
Dan Galbraith  
Kevin Severns  
Kevin Olsen  
Etienne Rabe  
Mark McBroom\*  
Joe Barcinas\*

CRB Staff:

Ted Batkin  
Brian Taylor  
Louise Fisher  
Rick Dunn  
Cynthia LeVesque\*  
Brent Eickelberg  
Teresa Ferguson  
Marilyn Martin

Interested Parties:

Linda Haque, Ventura County  
Helene Wright, USDA  
Brett Chandler\*  
Tom Mulholland\*  
Leslie Leavens-Crowe\*  
Monte Peckinpah  
Marilyn Kinoshita  
Joel Nelson  
Judy Zaninovich  
Tom Mulholland\*  
Craig Armstrong\*  
Sylvie Robillard

CDFA Staff:

Susan McCarthy  
Art Gilbert  
Debbie Tanouye  
Tina Galindo  
Courtney Albrecht\*  
Mike Pitcairn\*  
Robert Leavitt\*  
Duane Schnabel

\*Participated by phone and/or Webex

**Call to Order**

Chairman Gorden welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken to establish a quorum and to confirm who was attending.

**Review of Minutes**

Chairman Gorden asked if anyone had any comments, questions or edits to the Joint Operations Committee meeting minutes of November 7, 2012. Gilbert informed committee there was a comment made in the minutes that reflect he stated and it should have been Taylor. Taylor concurred; said correction noted and minutes will reflect change.

**12.05.2012. 1** Dreyer moved and Severns seconded to approve corrected Minutes from the November 7, 2012 Joint Operations Meeting.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Review of financial reports and approval of CRB action**

### **a. Financial Report for CRB Operations**

**Louise Fisher**

Fisher provided YTD October 31, 2012 operations budget and expenditures. Fisher explained the info assistance expenditure under data management, the invoices received from Valley Expetec, are received in arrears. The invoice received in October was for September of previous year. It was backdated out and additional charge will be sent to CDFA as it was not included in the final bill. The \$800.00 charge for October was received and will show in November. At yearend, journal entries will be done to move those items that were accrued into September 2013. The invoices/bills received in October or later will be backdated so that they're covered under that fiscal year's contract.

### **Regional ACP Management Programs**

**Brian Taylor/Susan McCarthy**

McCarthy reported they're still working on the emergency contract for Alan Washburn. Still in the process of working with getting people on board for Kern, Tulare and Fresno counties, to act as grower coordinator/liaison. McCarthy stated Judy Zaninovich has agreed to do it for Kern County; and hopefully Sylvie will be in Fresno County. McCarthy stated she has been in discussions with Tom Schrader for Tulare County and they're still working out the details.

Gorden confirmed it was all being handled through McCarthy's department. McCarthy stated the ag commissioner for San Diego County will be hiring through their office with federal funds. Ventura County already has a coordinator in place and they have enough funds for the current year. McCarthy stated she will be going out with a request for proposal (RFP) and once that is complete, then the committee will take over funding Dave Machlitt as well. The committee will be funding Machlitt, Washburn, the three in the central valley and possibly San Diego County.

Rutz asked how many more area coordinators or areas need to be created or finished. McCarthy stated there has been discussion about whether or not to have one in Imperial County and/or in San Bernardino County. McCarthy stated the final call is up to the committee. Once the committee decides they want to fund that position then McCarthy starts to work on it. Fisher confirmed the RFP's go out for Machlitt, Washburn and the three in central valley and asked when their start dates. McCarthy stated Washburn started October 1 under an emergency contract. There are still issues to work out for the central valley people. The emergency contract takes a while to get through the department, and then they go through the RFP process while they're already working, along with anybody else that wants to apply. The emergency contract is for up to 8 months to get through the RFP process and then the contract would be for the next year.

Chairman Gorden wanted to know where the directions were going to come for all these programs. Gorden stated he got a message when he came back from Spain that the CPDPC had taken action at its last meeting to defund the area wide treatment coordinator position statewide. Gorden stated Batkin informed him today that he has directed Taylor to cease any further activity in that respect. Gorden stated as the operations chairman, he hasn't had any involvement in any of this activity or any involvement in the area wide program, other than what has been publicly done here at this table. It appears that we have a bunch of things going wild out here and the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. Gorden stated we obviously have some big holes in Southern California with Taylor being gone and he would like to know who is making the calls on coordinating the whole show; we need to know as a committee where we're going here.

Severns stated since Hill isn't here, he will try to remember exactly what their action was at the last AB-281 meeting. Severns stated to some degree, Gorden and some of the others were at a bit of a disadvantage because they were in Spain during this period of time. Severns stated if he has the correct understanding, the executive committee was charged with filling positions of area wide coordinators. In regard to Alan Washburn, that action was done and has been in place. Gorden stated that was done a couple of months ago. Severns further stated we already had Machlitt in Ventura County and they realized that they needed to do something here, as well, with the recent finds in the San Joaquin Valley. They had been soliciting resumes and he doesn't think

any of that had been done in a vacuum and those resumes were presented at the Executive Committee of the CPDPC, and with the finds that came up here this last week, they decided to go ahead and act on them. Severns stated if there is anything he is missing, anybody can add to it. No one added anything.

Rutz stated there are areas like Hemet, that don't yet have coordinators in place. Rutz recommended there should be a review of what is needed to get the job done; and the direction should start with this committee. Rutz further stated that Southern California is in need of additional help soon.

Gorden stated he was still a bit at loss to understand exactly where we're going to go with regard to the coordination of this; it seems like it's the CPDPC Executive Committee that is going to run this program and until it changes, his assumption would be that this committee not be much concerned about the regional ACP management programs. Gorden asked if that was correct and Severns stated he didn't think so. Severns stated that with Dave Machlitt and Alan Washburn, those decisions were made some time ago and none of that had been brought under scrutiny by this committee prior to that. Gorden stated they were discussed in public meetings though; those were decisions that have been long standing. It's not a secret that we have the intention of covering each of the areas where there are significant issues with area wide coordinators. This goes back to the debate that was had as to how we make that happen without going through any undue red tape; and part of this has to do with the emergency nature of this and that is the way they were able to make it happen.

Rabe stated he was still at a loss and expressed concern about what role the Operations Committee plays in moving forward. The Operations Committee deals with ACP, compliance, control, etc. and area wide coordination is part of that. Since Taylor has been the one to give updates on the commercial treatments; will it be the area wide coordinators reporting on this to this committee or does the AB281 CPDPC want to keep it separate. Gorden stated he would take up any discussions that need to be taken with regard to organizational matters with Hill and the Executive Committee.

### **Bio Control Program Report**

**Ted Batkin**

Batkin stated the bio control program as it relates to the CPDPC operations part of the program. Batkin stated there is the Stouthamer project that is funded and his SRA has reported that they do have some field cages that they're preparing to deploy. Batkin stated tomorrow he is going out in the field with Stouthamer and his team, along with Greg Simmons from USDA. There is a trickling of *Tamarixia* coming out of the university at this point. Batkin stated he received an encouraging report; they found results of some parasitism of the *Tamarixia* 3-1/2 miles away from the closest release point. That tells us that the *Tamarixia* is moving and they are getting a wider distribution pattern than originally thought. It was confirmed by DNA that the *Tamarixia* found was of the Pakistani strain that was released.

Pitcairn was unavailable to report on Cal Poly. Batkin stated the latest report he had from Pitcairn and Cal Poly is that they're working to get the campus structure up on the greenhouse facility and are on target for being up and starting to produce *Tamarixia* by the middle of March. There will be a more complete report at the next Operations meeting in January. Pitcairn, Nate Dechoretz and the CDFA team are now working directly with Cal Poly on this.

Batkin stated on the USDA side, he would be going down to meet with Greg Simmons and an engineer from Phoenix to work on the other part of the program which is to get field rearing programs up and running and retro fitting other facilities; it is all being funded out of the USDA cooperative agreement. These are running and coordinated together, but in parallel.

### **Detection and Treatment Update**

#### **a. Report on Tulare County ACP Detection**

**Art Gilbert**

Gilbert reported on the 3 finds of ACP in Tulare County. Gilbert reviewed the map that reflected the delimitation trapping put out for the two finds that were in Lindsay/Strathmore. Traps were already in the

delimitation area and they expanded it to include the extra six miles to the west and south. They've been servicing the traps in the core miles daily for the last week but have stopped that now. The areas around the core area have been serviced every other week and have gone to a once-a-week servicing of those traps. Gilbert reported all traps were negative; 784 were CDFA and 94 commercial were CRB.

Gilbert reviewed the map that reflected the third find in Terra Bella. They have a nine square mile area. The core find is in a little tangerine/mandarin orchard and is an organic grower. They have 100 traps per square mile in the core and 50 in the buffer area around them, totaling 396 traps plus 61 commercial traps that were in the orchards before CDFA started this. Gilbert reported last Saturday they finished the daily and the every-other-day servicing. They are now into servicing them once a week with no additional finds in this area.

Gilbert reported that they've started the transect grid, one mile in all directions from the find sites. There were 251 grids in those areas and they're guessing it will be a maximum of 844 more traps placed. They started this on Monday and they've got 269 traps out in 81 of the square miles and are being serviced by their Shafter and Fresno crews. Gilbert stated, not including those transect traps, there are 3,517 traps in Tulare County; including the transect traps there are 4,200 to 4,500 traps. All of these are going to be serviced on a one week interval. Polek asked where the traps will be sent for reading. Gilbert stated the ones being checked by the commercial grove trappers that were in the area prior to this will be brought to Visalia readers and the rest are coming to the Fresno group to be screened.

Gilbert was asked about the GWSS traps and where they go to be read. Gilbert stated if Fresno has a heavy workload, they don't want traps sitting there longer than a week and not being looked at, so they will send some down to Los Alamitos. Gilbert stated right now, all the traps are coming in from the delimitation areas, San Luis Obispo and Monterey and they're double screening, so it is doubling up the work on trap reading.

Gilbert reported that treatment will start tomorrow on the residential properties starting in Strathmore. Tanouye stated they will finish Strathmore tomorrow and will start Terra Bella tomorrow also and should be able to finish treatment by Friday. Taylor asked if that was an 800 meter treatment area and Gilbert stated yes. Taylor asked about how many residential properties are involved. Gilbert stated that Lindsay has 54 and Strathmore has about 27 and about 18 have citrus in there; Terra Bella has about 32 and only 20 with citrus. Treatment should go pretty fast. Gilbert stated that they are also doing visual survey on all the citrus in the 800 meter area orchards and residential properties. Olsen asked if the treatments by CDFA were both drench and topical. Gilbert stated they are putting Merit on the ground and Tempo on the foliage.

Rabe inquired about the delimitation process. Rabe questioned having a trap with one psyllid as being evidence of an established population. Why are we doing delimitation if they're not going to make any changes to what we eventually decide on? Tanouye stated they are doing the delimitation so that they can figure out where else in Tulare County the psyllid may be. They are doing a transect survey out to the county lines and are looking for ACP in those areas because if there are other pockets of ACP they need to treat right away. They don't test the psyllids that are trapped for HLB, so they need to find either nymphs or adults to test for HLB.

Leavitt stated in addition, if both CDFA and USDA scientists believed there is an established psyllid population in Tulare County, we would then have the 20 mile quarantine or a full county quarantine. There is not yet total concurrence from the USDA and CDFA scientists that we have an established population; that is why they're taking this interim step. However, if they find a nymph or eggs, anything that is obvious proof of a breeding or a reproducing population, then they will go to a 20 mile quarantine. It is decided by asking the CDFA scientists and Helen Wright as the USDA scientist, and when they're in agreement then they move forward.

Galbraith asked Leavitt how long will the restrictive zones stay in place if there are no additional ACP finds. Leavitt stated that right now, the restricted zone will be re-evaluated every six months if no further ACP is found. The delimitations will stay a minimum of two years; neither CDFA or USDA have decided exactly what they'll do in six months, but there will be an evaluation.

## **b. Trapping Program Report**

Gilbert stated in the process of setting up the grids for putting out the transects, they got the citrus layers and plotted the current traps in a square mile so they can add to them. Gilbert reviewed the maps with grids and stated there is citrus out there without traps or that is undertrapped. Gilbert stated it was set-up under the guidelines that this committee developed. With the current situation, does this committee want to reassess the trapping down in Southern California and in the San Joaquin Valley and maybe relocate some assets to a different area?

Taylor stated in the Redlands area there are 131 commercial traps and 118 of them have captured psyllids this year; about 90% have captured psyllids 8 or 9 times. Taylor stated it is the same in Riverside and Hemet and questioned what is being gained by continuing to trap at locations where they know it is infested. Taylor stated having the trapper take a tap sample to collect psyllids for testing or do a visual survey; this way there will be a cycle for HLB testing of psyllids, as a survey tool. Gilbert concurred with Taylor and stated the trappers could be doing the high risk survey in the urban situations near the orchard.

Gorden stated maybe this should be reevaluated for changing the way we're deploying our resources here. Gorden suggested that Gilbert and 3 or 4 others from this committee get together to come up with a concrete proposal. Gorden asked Gilbert if he would head that up and bring a proposal to this committee in January for approval and a recommendation that could go to the CPDPC's mid-January meeting for their approval.

Severns asked if this was going to be a protocol that we do every time we get into a significant amount of psyllids or would we evaluate that on an area-by-area basis. Severns stated his concern is if we move completely away from the traps, we won't have a standard for the level of psyllids in that area. We need to think about having a standard approach to it. Gorden said this is something we're going to face going forward and it doesn't make sense to be looking through these traps and spending a lot of time and effort where we know we have psyllids. In forming a concrete recommendation, it may be something we can base future movements on.

Barcinas stated putting the traps in strategic locations to monitor; also PCA's and growers may be putting their own traps up and could be part of the equation. Rutz stated if you look at all the maps that have been shown, he is getting less concerned with where the psyllids are, because they are everywhere; he is more concerned with seeing if there is HLB out near his groves in Southern California. Rutz stated looking and testing samples from all over California, not just in the Gottwald map area, is exceedingly important.

Batkin stated this trapping grid will give us a read as to the efficacy of the growers' applications. That was part of the reasoning and the drive behind having this whole detection system; not only to find populations but to evaluate efficacy of treatment. If we're not trapping and you pull that out, then you have no guideline or reference point whatsoever to the efficacy of the treatments. Tanouye stated those trappers would be converted into surveyors, so they would be routinely surveying the grove and collecting live psyllids, as well as looking for symptomatic plant tissues.

Gorden stated he would like to have a little more pointed discussion at the next meeting as to where we're going with this trapping program. Gilbert will coordinate getting together with a few others to come up with a suggested direction to move and hopefully we can come up with a firm recommendation to take to the CPDPC for ratification.

## **c. ACP Detections in Retail Nurseries**

McCarthy stated Courtney Albrecht's staff manages the nursery program. Albrecht stated that as far as the program goes, it is the same as they reported on the last time. They basically go into nurseries, both production and retail. If they find ACP they put the plants on hold. At this point they're putting all hosts at the location on hold and the plants will not be released until they are treated, tested for HLB and re-inspected. Currently, there

are 30,432 plants on hold, primarily at retail outlets within the ACP quarantine area in Southern California. That number has slightly increased since the last time she reported; there are about 5,000 more on hold. Albrecht stated they do have some treatments going on at retail locations by one of their supplying nurseries. Out of the 324 positive nurseries, approximately 20 are Lowes and Home Depots that are getting their plants treated by the supplying nursery.

#### **d. HLB Survey**

##### **1. Risk-Based HLB Survey (Gottwald)**

Tanouye reviewed the Risk Survey for ACP & HLB in Los Angeles and for Riverside. Tanouye stated the red dots represent all the locations that they've been surveying in. So far, everything has been negative. The third map represents the Risk Survey for the total area of California.

Tanouye stated the risk is in the legend area of map which reflects the deep red and is the highest risk area which is where they're trying to focus on. Taylor made reference to the dots on the maps in which each dot represents a site that was looked at. Taylor asked Tanouye how long it's going to take to cover the area. Tanouye stated they're moving some people from trapping into the surveying and had to divert some of the people from L.A. to Tulare to do the visual survey. Gorden asked how many staff they've had involved up until they had to move some out. Galindo answered 20, sometimes higher; they borrow people from other projects. Gorden stated he thought Gottwald built this model on 30 to 35 people. Galindo stated she thought they may have that now between Magally in Riverside and in L.A.. Tanouye concurred that between the two they have 35, but as they have transitioned into removing the urban trapping in the areas they are treating, they are moving those people into surveying. Gorden stated this is how it was discussed previously; transition out of one program and more emphasis on the other.

Taylor asked Tanouye if the map reflects the entire survey for the year or will they go back and repeat. Tanouye stated their goal is to try and get through the whole thing and then go back. Tanouye stated every couple of weeks she sends the data to Helene Wright and she forwards it to Gottwald. Tanouye feels as it goes along Gottwald will make modifications. Wright concurred. Tanouye said Gottwald will sometimes ask them to go survey in another location just so he can make those modifications. Because of this, they may not always be in the red hot areas; it just depends on Dr. Gottwald's analysis of the data and he may ask that we go check out one that was lower risk and see what is going on there.

Gorden thanked Tanouye and said we don't want to pull too much off of this because this is a real important aspect of our program. Polek commented that either this committee or the CPDPC needs to really think about as we review Gilbert's proposal on trapping. She thinks it would be in the best interest to decrease the trapping and move people into collecting samples for this risk survey. Gorden stated that hopefully we get another month or so and down the line we will get an actual report as to where we are and what the anticipated time will be to get through one whole cycle of this. The objective was to get through a cycle in less than a year.

##### **2. Hacienda Heights HLB Survey**

Galindo stated they are finishing up the survey in zone 3 right now; they're continuing to test the sniffer sites monthly.

#### **Treatment Update**

##### **a. Residential**

**Tina Galindo**

Galindo reported on the current areas of treatment. In San Diego there are 14 areas and the detections are really picking up. Galindo stated she searched the database and since November 1<sup>st</sup> to last week, they've had 97 detections in San Diego. They've cut their treatment per the request in September down to 35 trucks and are struggling. Tanouye had told her that last month they hit \$1.1 million; Galindo stated she didn't know if the committee wants to increase trucks. They are having a difficult time keeping up in all these areas.

Olsen asked if the table Galindo was reviewing were all new detections since last month and Galindo said yes. Olsen asked for a definition of an area. Galindo stated 400 or 200 meter areas, some overlapping, some separate. Some don't need meetings; they're going in and just trying to knock them out. There are 10 trucks in San Diego. In Imperial it's the same story; since November 1<sup>st</sup> there's been 202 detections. It is busy in Salton City with a lot of treatment going on. There are a lot of areas where there aren't a lot of properties, so they're going in where they can, without meetings. Galindo stated Tanouye is setting up meetings for the residential areas where necessary. They have 5 trucks in Imperial and Galindo stated in Los Angeles County, they are working in Valencia with 2 trucks and will probably be done next week. In Orange County, San Juan Capistrano just had a detection. Taylor stated the grower is treating and there is nothing for CDFA to treat.

Galindo stated they're in the process of removing their traps in Riverside County. In searching the database for what is still out there, they've had 1,050 detections in Riverside since November 1<sup>st</sup>. These are areas around groves where they're still treating.

In Ventura County, the detections are increasing as well. They are actually finishing up in Camarillo and Oxnard and Ventura should be complete this week. They had a couple suspects last night in new areas and after getting those confirmed, will have a couple new areas to treat.

Olsen asked how much this past month's treatments cost; Galindo stated \$1.1 million.

Rabe asked when was the last time we looked for re-infestation where we have treated to see how effective we are and if we have a benchmark as to what levels of infestation we may have in areas where we've already treated to know if we've lost the battle there or not. We cannot every month or six weeks come here and say we've burned another \$1.5 million. There should be a weekly kind of call or a group saying we're good or we're out of control here. Gorden stated they talked about having these local groups and there's one working in San Diego that Warren Lyall is chairing, to look at how to direct the treatments in those local areas and keep within the budget parameters; it is working in San Diego.

Rabe asked how far we are from implementing that approach. Rutz asked who Lyall is reporting to, to suggest where to treat and not treat in residential areas; what is the chain of communication and to whom and how is it functioning right now? Gorden stated they did have some basic parameters for buffer zone treatments in the areas that were used in the budgeting process. It was basically around commercial citrus like in Riverside. That is a moving target; we didn't quite get to the point in San Diego that we did in Riverside. Gorden asked Tanouye if she could shed some light on where we are with that.

Tanouye stated in San Diego County, this committee decided to go 200 meters in the residential areas due to the proximity of Mexico and HLB; we would go 400 meters around any of the groves where the growers were treating. With this task force, CDFA has not been brought into that loop at all; they're aware of it, but have not been invited to any of the meetings or asked to contribute to them. In Riverside County they've stopped all urban treatments except 400 meters around any grower that is treating. McCarthy stated that so far in Tulare County, they're not looking at a big residential treatment program; when this budget was passed they weren't looking at treatments outside of those counties where they already were. Tanouye concurred and said when the budget was developed she did not anticipate the number of psyllids they would find in Ventura County, so that wasn't included in any of the budgeting. This might need to be something that is revisited.

McCarthy stated that moneywise, the committee approved \$7,431,809 for the year for residential treatment; to split that up evenly over 12 months, it is \$619,000 per month. In October they spent a little over \$967,000. In November they've spent \$1.1 million. and are well above the \$619,000 per month. Gorden stated we're at a little over \$2 million in 2 months for this year; McCarthy concurred.

Severns asked if there is any means by which we're checking whether or not we may be running into resistance

problems with the pesticides we're using? Tanouye stated they don't go back and retreat. Batkin stated they've talked to the Florida people about resistance. Where there's been resistance they've been consistently multiple treating, 6 to 12 times per year with the same product and over a 2 to 3 year period. We are treating once or twice a year; there's not a risk of developing resistance. Tanouye stated she wasn't sure what the growers are using and whether they've made multiple applications; she can only speak for the residential.

Rutz asked if Tanouye would be available to come to a task force meeting in San Diego. Tanouye said she could come or call in. Rutz asked if there was a person in San Diego from the CDFA team that can become the person to be at that meeting. Gorden stated it was important to make that happen. Tanouye said they weren't really familiar with the objectives for that task force; but if it's to make those decisions, they would participate. Gorden stated it was also to get feedback to this committee so that if broader based decisions need to be made, we can get the process going.

McCarthy stated that dealing with a local task force isn't going to address the overall issue; we have a set budget for treatment and we're going through it fast. Gorden stated we'll need to keep a close view on that issue, particularly with the Central Valley now being involved. Gorden stated we were aware of those possibilities when we set the budget; that is something we're going to have to live with.

#### **b. Commercial**

#### **Brian Taylor**

Taylor stated in regard to treatment in commercial zones, Washburn has been conducting treatments in Riverside, Hemet and Coachella. There has been some crossover liaison between him and Larry Jacinto Farming, as far as coordinating treatments in Redlands. Taylor told McCarthy there is probably a need for a coordinator in Redlands. The work in Temecula and Deluz, he has been covering; there is a grower's group that has been meeting for those two areas since the last ops meeting; they meet in Temecula at the Calavo Packing House.

Taylor stated he has been attending the San Diego task force meetings. They have been primarily identifying a regional coordinator for that area to work and coordinate treatments and suggestions have been passed on to the ag commissioner's office, who will be selecting the regional coordinator, with input from the task force and himself.

In Imperial County, most of the coordination there has been done through the ag commissioner's office. With a recommendation from one PCA, a lot of the growers are doing fall dormant treatments along with pesticide, gibberellin treatments. There has been some resistance with second treatment from growers who already did a platinum treatment.

Barcinas stated all the treatment that he did would coincide with the coordinated spray in fall. He puts the platinum on in October, so the activation of this material is now activating and all the nymphs that he treated are being killed. His plan is to do a foliar spray the end of January, early February; it can be pyrethroid or other materials.

Gorden stated one of the challenges with this whole picture is communication, openness, transparency and cooperation. The more we can encourage and develop among ourselves, the easier it will be to be to create a cooperative spirit and he encourages everyone to work towards that end individually, as a group and as an industry.

Gorden asked Craig Armstrong to speak about what they would like to do in the Indio area. Armstrong stated at the last CPDPC meeting they went over this and he was not comfortable with how the lines have been drawn in Riverside County. He feels it should be drawn as a western and eastern Riverside County because where they are in the Coachella Valley and down into Imperial, they're separated by the San Jacinto and San Gorgonio mountains. They're working with their local ag commissioner; there are 125 registered golf courses, country clubs and communities down there registered with the ag commissioner. They have permits and would be



considered commercial growers with well over 25 trees. He is trying to work with their ag commissioner in getting those areas treated; it encompasses a little over 60,000 acres of the valley and would require possibly less backyard treatments by CDFA. If they could expand this up to either Indian Canyon Drive or Gene Autry/Palm Drive, where Desert Hot Springs is and the start of the valley. They had their first finds in residential areas and weren't even given a chance to treat and the commercial groves are right in their backyard. Their growers down there have successfully treated about 9,600 out of 10,000 commercial acres. The growers did the best they could for an area-wide commercial treatment and are trying to create more of a buffer here to some of the other co-communities; basically from Palm Springs to Oasis in their valley. Armstrong suggested the committee look at this; look at treatments that Tanouye or Galindo may be doing, along with a budget that they could look at for the next CPDPC meeting. Armstrong stated he had a google map he could email to Tanouye or Galindo, with some of the different lines where it currently is in Indio and would be moving it back up to Palm Springs, either Indian or Date Palm.

Tanouye stated if she got the map then she could look at what Armstrong had in mind, looking at where the detections are and how many treatment areas are involved. Gorden stated the idea would be that we could get a lot more treatments out of the country clubs and golf courses. Armstrong concurred and stated those cover such a large area of the valley; treating those is one area, as a commercial treatment. Armstrong stated their ag commissioner down there will have to work on that enforcement. There are homes in gated communities, but it's not quite the same interface. Their open faced population is very low; they can do a lot more applications with their backyard treatments over a larger area than a real super dense area like Riverside, L.A., Orange County and other places. Tanouye said since they are considered commercial, she would recommend that we follow the same guidelines for the golf courses. Tanouye stated if they're treating those golf courses then CDFA can treat the residential areas; but if they're not going to treat then it wouldn't be advantageous for CDFA to go into a backyard and make that application.

Gorden asked Tanouye if she would pull something together and make contact with Armstrong; Tanouye concurred. Gorden asked for a concrete proposal that this committee could consider at the next Ops meeting. Both Tanouye and Armstrong agreed.

Rabe confirmed from his previous concern that report or discussion they will have, will deal with what our whole burn rate on money is and the criteria for continuing to treat in certain areas. Gorden stated that hopefully we'll have a better presentation on that for the next meeting. Rabe expressed concerned that at this rate, by the end of March or April, we may not have any more money instead of targeting in certain areas. Gorden said this committee has to have more discussion on this at the next Ops meeting; it will be about one week ahead of the CPDPC meeting and they will be able to have an agenda item to consider any issues that come from this committee.

## **Laboratory Activities**

### **a. Riverside Laboratory Activities**

**Cynthia LeVesque**

LeVesque reported this last month they didn't have any CDFA ACP samples. They're still awaiting the APHIS report. They have 400 samples that were extracted and analyzed for the pooling experiments.

The ones being done are in conjunction with the CDFA lab; the Texas lab; Hong Lin's lab and Manjunath Keramane. They processed 50 plant samples to practice for the PT sample; over 900 traps were read. LeVesque stated current staff was 2 permanent full time, 1 lead trap reader and 5 part time trap readers. LeVesque reviewed the lab activities for November 7 – December 5, 2012. LeVesque stated in the Lab TAC meeting she got input on automation and upgrade options; their conclusions were that they should proceed with getting the extraction robot and liquid handler but hold off on upgrading the PCR machine at this time. LeVesque finished reviewing the lab time frame for goals handout.

### **b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities**

**Duane Schnabel**

Duane Schnabel introduced himself as the manager of the Diagnostic Center in South Sacramento. Schnabel stated they have five laboratories; two of them are dedicated to the ACP/HLB project, entomology and plant

pathology. They have approximately 12 employees both part and full time, that work on the project in various classifications. Some are seasonal, some ag-biotech and some permanent scientific staff; five of those are USDA accredited for the molecular diagnostics testing and their entomologist is also certified as the USDA primary identifier.

Schnabel stated they operate on a budget that is supplied through CHRP money. Last year it was approximately \$930,000. They do have a budget in for this year, although they do not know the exact amount; they have applied for some funds for this year.

About 40% of their plant pathology laboratory capacity is dedicated to the HLB/ACP project. In 2009, when they first started, they were doing about 5,000 samples for the full year. Through November 2012, they're right now at 44,590 samples. Looking at average samples, prior to January 2012, their capacity was 1,600 samples a month; they also had capacity at the CRB laboratory to handle all of the samples. Once the detection happened in March, those samples sky rocketed; they've been processing approximately 4,000 samples per month from March through September; since September that has gone up to 6,000 samples per month. It is split approximately 2,500 plant samples a month and 3,500 ACP samples per month. About 80% of the samples come from residential; about 14% from nursery and about 6% from commercial orchards.

Schnabel addressed how they got from 1,600 samples to where they are today. As of this month their capacity is 11,000 samples per month. About a year ago CDFA thought there might be a detection of HLB in California and thought they should increase their capacity. They went out and applied for farm bill grants and obtained a \$36,000 farm bill grant and \$198,000 from the specialty crop block grant. They developed new methods for high throughput, which they've been doing since about January and they also went out and obtained new high throughput equipment. All of that was acquired; the new throughput format in place since about June and they've steadily increased their capacity since April. They are running at about 6,000 total; so they're a little over 60% capacity at this time.

Gorden asked if they were completely caught up with running the samples or do they have any backlog? Schnabel stated they have no backlog. Tom Mulholland asked if any of those were nursery inspection samples. Schnabel stated that about 14% of their samples come from nursery and the majority of them come from nursery sampling over a period of time from nursery field staff going to nurseries and seeing symptomatic plants. Since September they've also been taking over the nursery sampling for the mother trees. About 1,400 or 1,500 samples that have come into them have been from the nursery sampling program that CDFA runs. The rest of the nursery samples have just been from general nursery sampling.

LeVesque asked Schnabel if they're still pooling 25 insects per sample when they do the ACP; Schnabel answered, yes. Gorden asked if Schnabel's level of confidence on 25 psyllids per sample is high; Schnabel stated yes, they've run multiple tests and have a high confidence in that number. The pooling experiment that they're running right now will show us and provide an additional level of comfort. Gorden thanked Schnabel for the informative report.

#### **CPDPC Report**

**Susan McCarthy**

McCarthy stated she covered what was going on with the treatment coordinators earlier and had nothing more to report.

Fisher questioned if we will have regional coordinators but no longer have the statewide coordinator. Gorden stated that was his understanding. Fisher asked if each county was going to be on its own? Hill stated we're going to have regional coordinators, not necessarily county and if the need arises to have a statewide coordinator, we'll have that later on. Right now we'll focus on the counties and see how that is going to work. Fisher asked if those counties that don't have anyone in place are just on their own. Hill asked which counties those were? Fisher stated Temecula needed help. Rutz stated it's not a county, but an area and they don't have a coordinator assigned to them to the best of his knowledge. Hill stated that recommendations need to come from those areas and they can look into putting someone into place. Rutz stated you can look at maps and see

what areas need coordinating; he is getting frustrated about these areas needing to have their own coordinators. Rutz stated if the same thing were happening in the central valley, there would be a very different response. Severns stated he took issue to that; it is not true. Gorden stated he will get together with Hill and the CPDPC Executive Committee to work out a better understanding as to how this whole communications network is going to work.

Galbraith commented on the 5 mile restricted zones. He is a proponent of this smaller restriction or quarantine area. It is important that when these things are considered, whoever is making these decisions, look at the potential impact to whoever is caught inside that zone, as the zone comes down, so does their opportunity to clean their fruit. In the Terra Bella zone, there are only three packinghouses. Whether they will consider cleaning the fruit of the growers within that zone, he doesn't know. He doesn't know of any packinghouses that would want to go out and spend \$100,000 on a mobile cleaning device and then a couple months later, we go into a general quarantine. It is important to take those things into consideration when these things are set. Hill stated there is a recommendation that they spray when they're within the restricted or eradication zone; that they shouldn't move their fruit without brushing it. McCarthy stated it wasn't approved yet. Tanouye stated USDA needs to agree on that as well. Hill stated he understood that; but it is on the table to try and work through the issues.

Gorden stated everyone is concerned about the situation in Tulare County, especially those that are here in Tulare County, just as Rutz is about San Diego County and as Armstrong is about East Riverside. We all have our concerns about our own areas. We need to work through these and keep our emotions under control and deal with the facts in working through the situation.

Gorden reminded the committee that clarity, communication and cooperation are three big challenges that everyone has to face. Gorden thanked everyone for their participation.

#### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held at the CRB Conference Room in Visalia on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

#### **Certification**

I, Ted A. Batkin, President of the Citrus Research Board, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting held on December 5, 2012.

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Date

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Ted A. Batkin, President

