

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2013

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:20 a.m. on September 26, 2013 in Riverside, California by Committee Chair Nick Hill.

CPDPC Members Present:

Craig Armstrong	Jim Gorden	Kevin Olsen*
Richard Bennett	Nick Hill	Etienne Rabe
Dan Dreyer	Mark McBroom	Kevin Severns
Bob Felts, Jr.	George McEwen	Brian Specht
John Gless	James McFarlane	

CPDPC Members Absent:

Steve Birdsall	Link Leavens
Gus Gunderson	Earl Rutz

CDFA Staff:

Cong Chan	Adrian Gonzales	Mike Pitcairn
Jason Chan	Craig Hanes	Debby Tanouye
Nick Condos*	Victoria Hornbaker	Scosha Wright
Margaret Cornell	Magally Luque-Williams	
Tina Galindo	Kevin Masuhara*	

Guests:

Bill Abel	Ken Keck	Curtis Pate
Bob Atkins	Ellen Kragh	Sylvie Robillard
Bryce Belgum*	John Krist	John Snyder
William Corkins	Leslie Leavens*	Guy Tingos*
Rick Dunn	Warren Lyall	Ernie Webb
John Gardener	Joel Nelsen	Judy Zaninovich*
Nancy Holland	Carlos Ortiz	Bob Zuckerman*

*** Participated via telephone**

Opening Comments:

Chairman, Nick Hill, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online.

Victoria Hornbaker announced that there was a change in leadership at CDFA; earlier in the week, Dr. Leavitt stepped down as Director of the Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services (PHPPS) Division. Secretary Ross has named Kevin Masuhara, Director of the Marketing Division as the interim PHPPS Director, Kevin will maintain his duties as Director of Marketing while acting as the interim PHPPS Director. Kevin introduced himself to the Committee and explained his current role at CDFA.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES

Chairman Hill reviewed the minutes from the Committee meeting which took place on August 14, 2013. No corrections were identified.

Motion: Approval of the minutes from the August 14, 2013 CPDPC meeting, which was held in Ontario, California.

First: John Gless

Second: Dan Dreyer

Motion Passes: All in favor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Chairman Hill provided a summary of the Executive/Finance Subcommittee meeting held on September 23, 2013, via conference call.

a. Projected Assessments

The Subcommittee was provided a crop estimate that was based on the California and National Agricultural Statistics Services Projections with adjustments provided by the California Citrus Mutual. Projections were provided for assessment rates of \$0.07, \$0.08 and \$0.09 per 40 pound carton at \$13,128,500, \$15,004,000 and \$16,879,500 respectively.

b. CPDPC Budget and CHRP Budget

CDFA staff presented the projected budgets, all budget displays were discussed. The Subcommittee chairs also called into the Executive/Finance Subcommittee conference call to prepare a solid budget proposal for this meeting. Both the CPDPC and CHRP budgets required edits prior to being presented at the full Committee meeting.

c. New ACP finds in the Central Valley

Maps were provided to the Committee members showing the new finds as well as the newly established quarantines in Wasco and Dinuba. CDFA is currently working on forming a quarantine for the recent ACP find near Exeter, California.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Operations Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on August 28, 2013 in Visalia, California. The meeting was essentially a workshop meeting to work on a framework for the budget. This was the last Joint CPDPC/CRB Operations Subcommittee meeting. Chairman Hill will provide guidance for the future Operations Subcommittee.

a. Regional ACP Management (Grower Liaisons)

Craig Hanes gave an update on the grower liaisons. They have responded quickly to the new finds in Wasco, Dinuba and Exeter. There is a grower liaison meeting next week on October 1, 2013, in Visalia. The meeting will allow the liaisons to meet and share information. The CASS contract is complete and all vacant grower liaison positions are now advertised the statewide coordinator positions also posted, CRB and CCM are helping to get the position advertised. The Committee discussed placing a deadline for accepting applications and decided that three weeks from the date of the meeting would allow for a sufficient amount of time for interested persons to apply. Ventura's farm bureau and task force has a contract with Bryce Belgium. Victoria suggested that CPDPC assist in paying for his position rather than having two coordinators in that area.

b. Treatment and Trapping Update (Updates and Proposed Revised Plan)

Debby Tanouye updated the Committee on the latest ACP finds and trapping. All of the recent finds in the Central Valley have been delimited and there have been no new finds to date with the exception of Exeter. Delimitation is on-going. The 800 meter urban treatment in Wasco is complete. The detection in Dinuba included all ACP life stages. Treatment is starting in Dinuba today. There was discussion about where the Dinuba ACP infestation could have come from. CDFA is still working on the trace back. CDFA staff are currently working in Wasco, Dinuba and Exeter. There was a meeting with the treatment coordinators and growers on September 24, 2013. . There were concerns from the Committee in regards to what triggers a quarantine, CDFA staff discussed that a single ACP find is evidence of a population and that alone could trigger quarantine unless the psyllid is specifically tied to what seems to be a regulatory incident.

c. HLB Survey

Magally Luque-Williams updated the Committee on the HLB high risk survey. She discussed the number of sites surveyed, numbers of plant and ACP samples taken, and the number of STR's proposed and completed. Surveying is completed in both Imperial and Riverside Counties. All samples taken have been negative for HLB. Magally also went over the Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) survey. CDFA is sampling for SOS as it has been found in Florida, Texas and Arizona. It has not yet been found in California, all samples collected have been negative for SOS.

Victoria discussed the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting with the Committee. There is a two day SAP meeting coming up to review the questions the Committee has provided. This is a public meeting, therefore some of the Committee members voiced that it might be beneficial to attend the meeting. CRB has pulled seven new suspect trees from the Hacienda Heights area approximately three weeks ago. CRB is currently testing the trees at their lab.

d. Biocontrol Program Update

Mike Pitcairn gave a PowerPoint presentation with updates on the biocontrol program. The biocontrol program is a cooperative effort between CDFA, CRB, UCR, USDA, and FAR private insectaries. Mike discussed current releases and the progress being made on mass production efforts. There has been a steady increase in releases, as more Tamarixia have been produced.. Mike presented a map of the release sites, Tamarixia collections and sites with evidence of parasitism. He noted that there have been several collections of Tamarixia made in areas where Tamarixia were not released, leading them to believe that the Tamarixia are establishing and spreading their range. There is good evidence of establishment, which is very encouraging. Mike also reported on the progress at the various rearing facilities, Mount Rubidoux and Arvin facilities are 90 percent complete and the Cal Poly agreement will be signed this week and construction will begin in approximately two weeks. Construction will take approximately six weeks; therefore occupation of the greenhouse will be in full affect December 2013.

e. Regulatory Program Update

Victoria Hornbaker updated the Committee on the regulatory program. CDFA has been very active in Tulare County with Porterville, Dinuba and now Exeter. Regulatory staff is working to get all growers, packers, haulers, and nurseries in the quarantine areas under compliance agreements. Hold notices are being issued to nurseries until they are under compliance agreements, so that nursery stock doesn't move out of the quarantine areas.

f. Laboratory Updates

Victoria Hornbaker gave an update on behalf of Susan McCarthy for the CDFA laboratories. She referred the Committee to the handout in the binder, from January through August a total of 33,553 plant samples have been analyzed for HLB and all were negative.

Cynthia LeVesque gave an update on CRB's laboratory progress. She stated that since March, 11,558 samples were received and processed, all are negative for HLB. She also discussed the Hacienda Heights tree removals, each tree removal took one day and required three laboratory personnel. Each tree was mapped and removed and a non-citrus replacement tree was planted. Samples were prepared for several scientist studying early detection technologies and for the CRB and UC Davis, sample analysis is ongoing. There was further discussion about tree removal in the future. The Committee wanted to ensure that CRB follows the same process for future tree removal.

REPORT FROM CHRP COUNCIL

Joel Nelsen gave an update on the CHRP council. The last CHRP council meeting was held on August 1, 2013. Joel provided the Committee with a summary of that meeting. The next executive CHRP council meeting with Florida, Texas, and California will be held on October 3, 2013. Two Committee members will be attending that meeting as well. The purpose of the upcoming meeting is to discuss with Secretary Vilsack, his approach to sequestration and budget cuts that are affecting the USDA CHRP program. Joel and the Committee members will also meet with senior members of USDA staff regarding support of the program.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Finance Subcommittee Chair James McFarlane provided a summary of the Subcommittee meetings that were held on August 28, 2013, in Visalia, California and September 9, 2013 in Fresno, Ca.

a. Introduction to New Financial Documents

Jason Chan and Cong Chan from CDFA introduced the updated financial documents to the Committee. Jason presented the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation to make the transition easier for the Committee members. The first updated document shown was the *Fund Condition Statement*. All amounts on this document are adjusted to the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Jason further explained that CDFA has other citrus agreements, for example the Citrus Commodity Survey, of which are not in the same agreement term as CHRP and the assessment funds. He also stated that there is no carry over with federal money.

The next document shown, *Schedule X*, is basically the same document as the *Fund Condition Statement* however this document is flipped horizontally and focuses on the funds in each spending category for one fiscal year. The documents *Schedule A – Schedule F* are fund-specific detail. They are supporting documents for the *Fund Condition Statement*, showing a detailed breakdown. There are three levels to most these documents. The first level is the largest view, the second is more fund-specific and the third level shows the most detailed breakdown. Jason also went over the projection line items in the *Fund Condition Statement*; the supporting document for the projections would be *Schedule PX*, a more detailed horizontal view. The *Schedule P-A to Schedule P-F* documents are level two documents, focusing on a specific fund for the next fiscal year. *Schedule A1 to Schedule A10* are level three documents focusing on specific projects for the current year. *Schedule P-A1 to P-A8* and *P-B1 to P-B4* are also level three documents focusing on specific projects for next year. Detailed discussion followed and Jason provided more detail about the new budget documents. The Committee was very pleased with the new documents and the higher level of transparency being provided.

b. Current Year Budget Update

Jason and Victoria briefly presented the current year budgets to the Committee. The Committee expressed concern about the amount of prorata. CDFA has offset the prorata for the current year which is displayed on *Schedule A*.

The Committee currently has \$18 million in spending authority, it was \$15.5 million, but was raised by \$2.5 million by the budget change proposal (BCP) earlier this spring. The spending authority will remain at \$18 million for 2 State fiscal years, 2013-14 and 2014-15. CDFA was unable to pull back the \$2.5 million BCP, as the Governor already signed the BCP and published it in the May Revised State Budget. The increased authority increases the prorata, by approximately \$85,000.

c. 2013-2014 Budget Projections.

Victoria discussed the 2013-2014 proposed budgets for CHRP and the CPDPC AB 281.

The proposed CHRP budget for the new fiscal year is \$11,570,724, and the projected contract amount from USDA is \$9,624,859, leaving a shortfall of \$1,945,865. Victoria asked for direction from the Committee in where cuts should be made to bring the budget in line with the

expected contract amount. The Committee discussed several ideas that included reducing the Gottwald high risk HLB survey, or potentially backfilling a portion of the shortfall from AB 281 funds. The Committee wanted to know if they are restricted how much funds they can use from the AB 281 funds for CHRP activities. Victoria told them that they would have to be within their budget authority and amend the budget to expend additional funds.

Victoria warned the Committee that the Federal Government is moving toward a continuing resolution, as they have not agreed on a budget, and that she has been warned to be careful expending Monies associated with a federal contract prior to receiving funding as the expenditures may not be reimbursable.

The proposed AB281 budget for 2013-2014 is \$12,036,758. Projected urban treatment cost are down from last year to approximately \$3.8 million, this is due primarily to do moving to area wide treatment in most of Southern California and stopping treatments areas where there isn't commercial citrus, such as Los Angeles and Orange Counties or in areas where area wide treatment is not feasible such as Fallbrook or Temecula. The Committee may have to increase the urban treatment budget if more areas opt into area wide treatments. The budget includes a New Area Response Contingency line to allow for increases in treatment expenditures due to new finds, this will allow for expansions into approximately four new areas. Several items such as the CRB Operations Grant and the Area wide Treatment Coordination and the Outreach budget are budgeted at the full contract amount. Several questions were raised about the Outreach contract. Victoria explained that the initial RFP was recalled and reissued due to the time frame being incorrect. The new RFP will close on October 1st and the CDFA evaluation team is scheduled to review the proposals on Oct 3rd. Kevin Olsen will be involved in that procedure as a non-voting observer. .. The Committee is concerned about supporting the Outreach budget if they are unaware of who will be engaged in the communications.

The Committee asked several questions about funding. One question was about the \$1 million in general funds that were supposed to go into the citrus program. Victoria explained that the CDFA budget office stated that the Committee would have to set its budget at the full authority amount of \$18 million dollars and spend the entire amount to receive the \$1 million. The Committee would like the Executive Committee to meet with Secretary to discuss their concerns about this issue.

Another question was raised about the Committee's ability to spend more than their authority if they needed to do so. Victoria explained that the Committee would have to put forth a BCP for additional authority and as long as they had adequate authority, a budget that is approved by the secretary, and cash on hand, then the expenditures would be allowable.

Motion: To approve the proposed 2013-2014 budget of \$12,036,758 with the understanding that the \$750,000 budgeted for the Outreach Contract will be held pending the outcome of the request for proposal process.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

Motion: To return the original budget of \$907,200 from the amended spending plan of \$784,500 for the Citrus Research Board Outreach Grant.

First: Dan Dreyer

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Passes: All in favor

d. 2013-2014 Crop Estimates

Victoria went over Crop Estimates for 2013-2014 with the Committee. The estimate was based on the California and National Agricultural Statistics Services Projections with adjustments provided by the California Citrus Mutual. Projections were provided for assessment rates of \$0.07, \$0.08 and \$0.09 per 40 pound carton at \$13,128,500, \$15,004,000 and \$16,879,500 respectively.

e. 2013-2014 Assessment Rate

The Committee suggested that they show the growers that they are not trying to go to the full extent of what we are allowed to assess them, but that they go with a cent lower just to show we are looking out for them.

Motion: To set the 2013-2014 CPDPC assessment rate at \$0.08 per carton.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

CRB REPORT

Ken Keck gave the Committee an update on the CRB staff report. On September 18, 2013 CRB passed a budget with \$0.005 assessment rate increase. CRB is funding new work, as well as continuing existing projects. CRB staff expressed their appreciation of the Committee's support.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be held in Ventura, California on November 13, 2013 at 10:00am.