

Citrus Research Board Office
CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting
CRB Conference Room
217 N. Encina Street
Visalia, Ca 93291
Minutes of Meeting
June 5, 2013 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
Link Leavens, V-Chairman*
Dan Dreyer
Dan Galbraith
Etienne Rabe
Kevin Olsen
Kevin Severns
Mark McBroom*
Joe Barcinas*
Earl Rutz (Ex-Officio)

CRB Staff:

Ken Keck
Ted Batkin
MaryLou Polek
Brian Taylor*
Louise Fisher
Rick Dunn
Cynthia LeVesque*
Brent Eickelberg
Marilyn Martin

Interested Parties:

Nick Hill
Robert Wagner*
Sylvie Robillard
Brett Chandler*
Marilyn Kinoshita
Paul Story
Les Wright*

CDFA Staff

Victoria Hornbaker
Art Gilbert
Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo
Craig Hanes
Susan McCarthy*
David Morgan*
Mike Pitcairn

*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. CRB Chairman Earl Rutz introduced and welcomed Ken Keck as CRB's new president and also thanked Ted Batkin for his many years of service and dedication and for his future works.

Review of Minutes

Chairman Gorden asked if anyone had any comments, questions or edits to the Joint Operations Committee meeting minutes of May 1, 2013. There were no comments, questions or edits.

05.01.2013. 1 Severns moved and Rabe seconded to approve Minutes from the May 1, 2013 Joint Operations Committee Meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Review of financial reports and approval of CRB action

a. Financial Report for CRB Operations

Louise Fisher

Fisher reported that figures shown are through April 30, 2013. We are on budget, or less, with exception of

utilities and phone at the Riverside lab and vehicle repairs. We are on track to end up less than full budget. Hill asked if there was a tracking system for vehicle rotations. Fisher responded there haven't been any vehicles rotated out; they are tracked for keeping their servicing current. Taylor reported there are a couple of vehicles approaching 100,000 miles but haven't determined when replacement would be necessary.

b. Approval of CRB Laboratory Upgrades

Cynthia LeVesque

Gorden reminded the committee that this upgrade was included in the budget but had been held off because of the lab recertification process. This purchase would come from the budget for the lab under the equipment purchases of \$129,499.00 that currently has \$0 in expenditures.

LeVesque reviewed the Executive Summary: Proposed purchase of the Qiagen BioSprint extraction robot and Integra Viaflo liquid handler handouts provided the committee. LeVesque reminded the committee that this proposal is for purchasing a QIAGEN BioSprint 96 for automation. She reviewed the background, justification and cost-saving analysis and stated they could double their output on QPCR without adding another person. The total dollar amount for purchasing is \$78,657. LeVesque went on to review the Executive Summary: Proposed SampleWare Excel Importer Upgrade for purchasing at \$15,225.00.

Rabe requested clarity on who would own this equipment. It was budgeted for on the CPDPC level in the subcontract. Hornbaker informed that committee that it would become CDFA property since it is over \$5,000. It is a matter of CDFA being able to account for inventory. It was purchased with the intent of being used for citrus activities and CDFA will not take to put into their own lab.

06.05.2013.2 Rabe motioned and Dryer seconded, to approve the proposal to upgrade the lab equipment as presented by LeVesque and would include a maximum up to \$14,000 for the Sampleware upgrade and \$78,657 for the Qiagen upgrade.

Gorden suggested that maybe CRB should purchase this and bill out services. Rutz wanted to confirm the bottom line as he understands it; everything is owned by CDFA. Rutz stated this is a topic that needs further research and clarity. Gorden suggested getting together with CRB management to figure out how that is going to work and suggested a follow-up report later.

Hill stated since they are coming up on a possible referendum, they want to make sure their accounting is proper and is done with clarity so the stakeholders can see and understand it. Hill requested a single page spreadsheet with these line items on there for the committee meeting next week so the committee can see what is being purchased. Gorden asked the committee to vote for the lab purchase motion on the table.

Motion passed with one abstention

c. CDFA Treatment Expenses vs. Budget Report

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker reviewed a new form that gives an overview accounting of all of the citrus funds. Hornbaker stated it starts from the beginning of the program in 2009-2010. Hornbaker pointed out the fund balance for expenditures reflects a negative balance for 2012-13; 2014-15 and 2015-16. Rabe suggested keeping this page as it is and then have a second page reflecting items of expenditure, showing the different places that the money comes from. Hornbaker said they are working on more details and hope to have it for the next CPDPC meeting.

Hornbaker reviewed the next budget sheet reflecting the expenditures for 2012/13 budget, as of April 30, 2013, and had a series of budget sheets for CPDP FY 2011/12 and also for 2012/13; the last budget sheet reflected treatment expenditures for 2012/13 for the different counties. Hornbaker pointed out that for the 2012/13 budget under Operating Expenses, both general expenses/supplies and communications they have overspent. The "placeholder" monies reflected in the budget for \$1.5 million will probably go to cover urban treatment, covering new or other areas with already expended funds. Gorden stated it is an appropriation for contingencies and the committee would have to act on that to appropriate the funds in whatever category they saw fit to do that, as long as it is within the expenditure limits of the total program.

Hornbaker informed the committee that their budgets department went forward with a budget change proposal to increase the spending authority for the committee. Currently they have a spending authority of the budgeted amount of \$15,034,670. They have increased that by \$2.5 million for 2013/14 and \$2.5 million for 2014/15, so if something is happening and this program needs to expend some of your reserves, you would have the authority to do so. The spending authority increase is being held in reserve and is not an increase in assessment.

Hornbaker reported on what the governor's office charges the CDFA division for admin services; all of these charges are the cost of doing business with CDFA. The pro-rata is separate. Gorden stated the pro-rata is on the spending authority and would probably go up in the future. Personnel wouldn't change with the spending authority, so overhead would stay the same.

Hornbaker asked the committee if they want the detailed spreadsheets every month. Gorden stated it is useful to see the flow of revenues.

Hornbaker referred to a budget sheet for the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center for 2012/13. It is a new revised budget with some cost savings for the lab. McCarthy stated she would have the information for the CPDPC meeting next week. Hornbaker told the committee it is a savings of about \$100,000. They looked at their supply needs and have cut back to create a savings.

Tanouye said to stay in budget, they aren't moving as quickly as they would like to in getting treatments completed, so they've put CDFA trucks out in the field and have a set amount of contractor trucks out there and know they will go through a tank a day. She projected spending at \$300,000 to \$400,000 per month for the applicator costs. Instead of adding trucks to keep up with the psyllid demand, they have put a cap on the number of trucks being put out there.

Fisher requested two additional columns on the budget sheet for the Sacramento Diagnostic Center that would reflect the original budget and the new budget. Gorden felt that would be helpful.

Rabe expressed concern that instead of doing what is necessary to suppress ACP wherever it needs to be suppressed, we are treating according to what is available in the budget for that line item. That isn't how it should be done; it is a waste of growers' money. Tanouye responded that based on the recommendation for the reductions, that is how they are making those applications. Based on those reductions, they have reduced the treating and as new detections are found, they are treating those sites and the adjacent properties. They will go ahead and do the 400 meters.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker reported that they are seeking a CASS contract which will cover the seven grower liaisons and the statewide coordinator under one contract. They are waiting for a budget from CASS right now and are going to seek a two year contract and it won't have to go through the RFP process.

Hanes reported they now have five contracted grower liaisons and they're working on the other ones. They are, under contract, currently working on San Diego County and Riverside, Kern, Tulare and Fresno. For Kern, Tulare and Fresno it is Bob Wagner, Judy Zaninovich and Sylvie Robillard for prior work and going forward through September. Everything else will go through CPDPC/CASS. Bob Atkins is the San Diego County grower liaison.

Hornbaker reported that Ventura County has a candidate through the farm bureau. John Krist is acting liaison for Ventura. Gorden referred to the letter from John Krist and asked the committee to review it.

Bio Control Program Report

Jim Gorden/Ted Batkin

Pitcairn reported on the three locations for the mass rearing. All three locations are receiving upgrades. At the Arvin facility, the upgrades have just started. At Cal Poly, they don't have the greenhouses erected yet but are

making arrangements to occupy an existing greenhouse and can move all the plants out of Mt. Rubidoux into that location. Mt. Rubidoux is going through upgrades and have submitted for a permit to rear ACP and *Tamarixia*. It is being reviewed by CDFA's permitting office now. All of the plans for each location are progressing. Another item of importance is the shifting of responsibility from UC Riverside to CDFA for making the releases in the L.A. basin area. It was decided that CRB would be the central depository for all of the different release locations and data. Hornbaker developed an MOU among the parties involved to share data with each other and still maintain privacy of the data. It is being reviewed by all of the parties.

Pitcairn reported that one of the advantages to the MOU. Gorden asked if Pitcairn knew how long the upgrades to Rubidoux were going to take before producing *Tamarixia*; and how long it is going to take to get into the Cal Poly greenhouse that they are providing. Pitcairn stated they are hoping to begin production by August 1st at Mt. Rubidoux for the parasites. For Cal Poly, they have the bureaucracy and there is a facilities management unit that reviews where the greenhouses fit into their multi-year plan. It delays the construction a few weeks. They are going to temporarily loan an existing greenhouse and a MOU is written up for that. It has been submitted to the CDFA facilities unit and they are reviewing it now.

Batkin reported on the Cal Poly Pomona Field Cage Program through a powerpoint presentation. Their plan is to start introducing psyllids into those cages next Monday. Batkin stated there will probably be more than 4 million per year in production.

VOC Program Update

Ted Batkin

Batkin reported on the VOC sensor that was in Texas. They are field testing in a five mile radius around the HLB detection area, testing 60 trees per month at this site, using two units in testing. They have completed two months of data gathering. Texas A&M is running the PCR samples on all of the testing to match up what they are doing. The samples are also being sent to the Metabolomics Lab at UC Davis to compare the results. They are going to have VOC signals read on that and will get a confirmation with Metabolomics and will then be tested by PCR.

Batkin reviewed the *Tamarixia* release locations powerpoint which reflected HLB highly suspect psyllids, and tested out highly positive by PCR. There is going to be a need to expand testing for HLB in South Texas. This is the model that we will have to look at as HLB moves its way north through Mexico and could be looking at our borders along Southern California in Baja. They hope to develop a predictive model of what will happen in California and what is the potential of movement of HLB from an area when we find it in California.

Signal Confirmation Verification Program

MaryLou Polek

Polek reported that CRB has been funding research projects to detect HLB much sooner than symptom development or QPCR, with several methods that are promising. There is a research team at UC Davis, with all of the methods that CRB proposed, inclusive of volatile organic compounds, metabolomics compounds by Carolyn Slupsky; small RNAs by Hi Ling Jen; and secreted proteins Wenbo Ma has found that are unique. Also, reflective properties of host plants that would be picked up through spectroscopy that JPL is doing the science on. All of those will be on a time course experiment, including PCR. All plans are tested Day 0 and then every few weeks all of these methods will be tested and then they are going to record when positive results are ensued. Kris Godfrey is head of the containment facility at UC Davis and we've hired a person who is also doing some pesticide work there and they're working on the psyllid colonies that are already established there. They are finishing up on the last documentation that needs to go in for the permit to maintain an HLB isolate there. The isolate to be used is coming from Beltsville, MD and is the isolate collected at Hacienda Heights.

Future Deployment Strategies/Partnership Discussion

Ted Batkin

Batkin said we are going to be able to give a high level of assurance that the signal that comes off the VOC sensor is accurate and is truly the indication of HLB being in the tree and is a tool that we can use for rapid detection and discovery of HLB in California.

Batkin stated this will be the first test on these early detection systems that will tell us how soon, from the time the tree is infected, we can pick it up with this detection system; we have to know what these signals mean in terms of real time.

The Gottwald study is pulling leaf samples on trees that look to be positive and they are tested by PCR. That tree can be infected up to 3 or 5 years before you see it with that PCR. We need to be using these VOC sensors now to find the trees so they can be dealt with before it is an epidemic and spreads into the commercial groves.

Detection Updates

Report on Any New ACP Detections

Tina Galindo

Galindo reviewed the Current Treatment Areas handout. Galindo reported they have a meeting in Valley Center and next week in Fallbrook. There were over 2,000 notices sent out for the Fallbrook area.

Galindo reviewed the different counties where there were finds in 2013 and reported on San Diego County, Imperial County, Riverside County and Ventura County. There was one detection in Winter Haven and was treated on 6/3/13. In Riverside County they are working in North Shore. They need to have a meeting set for Indio and LaQuinta. They are finishing up in parts of Coachella and some trucks were moved from Fillmore and Ventura to help out in Riverside. Leavens asked Galindo if the growers were getting notifications for all of the detections in Ventura County. Galindo responded, yes.

There was discussion of treatments rapidly exhausting the budget. It was agreed that this needs to be debated by the new science advisory panel. Galindo said they did cut down the treatment boundary from 800 to 400 meters. Rutz questioned if the letters sent out in Ventura reflected treatment at 800 meters. Galindo stated the coordinators still enforce 800 meter treatments to the growers but CDFA treats 400 meters.

Olsen stated if we know we are in a spot where we can't defend it, then there's no point in spending any more money on a battle where you know we can't defend it. Gorden concurred and stated that at some point science is going to be trumped by economics. Rutz stated where HLB is, that is the defensible spot. Spend every dime looking for HLB in perimeter near groves and if found, that becomes the war zone and throw everything at it.

Trapping Program Report

Art Gilbert

Gilbert stated Tulare County, Terra Bella, Stratford and Lindsay continue to be negative, with trapping still going on a weekly basis. They have removed the transect traps that were placed in the urban areas by the county. They just completed a visual survey in Stratford, Lindsay, Terra Bella areas with no symptoms or ACP. SLO continues to be negative in both urban and commercial.

Gilbert reported they are losing another trapper down south and are working on getting a replacement. Gilbert reviewed an ACP sampling submission log. They are sampling every site that had a trap added and are going back to these sites every 3 months instead of every 2 weeks. He is working with Dunn on keeping track of which sites are heavily infested and would be good sites for *Tamarixia* releases.

HLB Survey

Debby Tanouye

1. Risk-Based HLB Survey (Gottwald)

Tanouye reported that the survey continues in the counties reflected in her chart. So far, everything has been negative. Leavens questioned why the ACP populations aren't showing up in Ventura County. Batkin responded that he thinks they're seeing a coastal effect. They saw the same coastal effect along the coastal areas of Los Angeles. Gorden stated Ventura is one area they're staying on top of and respond to treatment requirements in a very timely manner. Galindo stated they're only tracking a 1.5 mile buffer around the groves; the areas that were heavily infested they aren't trapping any more. It isn't heavily infested in the grove areas, but they're keeping on top of it. Galindo stated everywhere in Ventura County is 1.5 mile around the groves; so they removed outside of that and they're now doing the risk survey in the county.

Olsen expressed concerns about air sprays not being totally effective because not all of the flush exists on outside of the tree, sometimes there is flush inside which you can't get through air spray.

Regulatory Activities

Victoria Hornbaker

a. Detailed Workplan

Hornbaker deferred the workplan until CPDPC meeting. Hornbaker informed the committee that they have scheduled the public hearings required by the Food and Ag code. A public hearing is scheduled for June 19th at the Visalia Convention Center from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Also scheduled is one for June 25th in Oxnard and on June 26th in Ontario. It will be posted by this Friday, June 7th, and she will send out to the committee also.

b. Description of Areas of Risk Within Quarantine Area

They completed the visual survey and still have traps out. A letter will be going out to all the people under compliance agreements stating if we don't have a subsequent ACP find, they will be pulling those compliance agreements June 17th and will not be considered a restricted area, but will trap with two week servicing.

Laboratory Activities

a. Riverside Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque

LeVesque reviewed her powerpoint for Samples Received and Processed from CDFA; also Time Frame for Goals. LeVesque reported that USDA has officially changed the pooling guidelines as of 5-28-13 and they can now pool 25 adults and 75 nymphs. LeVesque reviewed her Time Frame for Goals handout and there were no questions.

b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities

Susan McCarthy

McCarthy wasn't available to review her handout she provided and will field any questions this committee may have at next week's CPDPC meeting.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn

Dunn reviewed the data information for the citrus layer production activity for May 2013. They are working with connecting old data sets to their layer. He continues to make progress on the attribution status. The grower liaisons are getting information they require in a timely manner. They are tracking the progress of the trappers and are now converting the tracking progress of the sampling program. They are adding the density of ACP in those locations where they pull samples.

There is a draft of the MOU for data sharing and is anxious to get that completed so he can include CDFA in his product. Dunn gave a short presentation as to what his product looks like in the Google Earth environment. Any grower or grower liaisons can go to Google Earth and look around the areas of their particular interest and format the data to see it better. It is strictly buffered information. Dunn informed the committee members that Google Earth and the citrus layer are available through Sharepoint. Gorden told the committee that a password is necessary to be able to get into Sharepoint and either Dunn or Eickelberg could help set-up.

Rabe requested that Dunn contact Victor Tolomeo in Sacramento about their survey, because there is a discrepancy of 60,000 acres from what the official statistics show to come up with an explanation as to why there may be that big of a discrepancy. Gorden requested Dunn provide a table of the citrus layer development be available to the committee. Dunn concurred.

Chairman's Report

Jim Gorden

Gorden had nothing more to report.

Adjournment

Gorden thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The next meeting will be on July 3, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Certification

I, Ken Keck, 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 June 5, 2013.

Date

Ken Keck, President