

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 09, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on April 09, 2014 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden.

Committee Members Present:

Dan Dreyer	Link Leavens*	Etienne Rabe*
Jim Gorden	Kevin Olsen	Kevin Severns

Committee Members Absent:

John Gless

CRB Staff:

Rick Dunn	Cynthia LeVesque*
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Interested Parties:

Bob Atkins	Leslie Leavens*	Cressida Silvers*
Erin Betts	David Morgan*	Debby Tanouye*
Tina Galindo*	Colleen Murphy*	Austin Webster*
Nancy Holland*	Mike Pitcairn*	Scosha Wright*
Victoria Hornbaker	Sylvie Robillard	Judy Zaninovich

*** Participated via telephone/webex**

Opening Comments

Chairman, Jim Gorden, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. There is a quorum for this meeting.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes

Chairman Gorden reviewed the minutes from the Operations Subcommittee meeting which took place on February 05, 2014 in Visalia, California.

Motion: Approval of the minutes with one correction from the Operations Subcommittee meeting which was held on February 05, 2014.

First: Dan Dreyer

Second: Kevin Olsen
Motion Passes: All in favor

Review of Operations Financial Reports

Victoria reported that there was a Finance Subcommittee meeting held on April 8, 2014 in Fowler, CA. There will be a summary report sent out to the full Committee soon comparing the projected expenditures for this year versus what was spent last year. Victoria is planning on sending the financial documents through March approximately a week in advance from the full Committee meeting so that everyone will be ready to discuss the report in detail at that meeting.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Bob reported that he and Victoria recently had a meeting with NST regarding Outreach. They discussed raising awareness and encouraging removal of abandoned and neglected citrus groves. Bob discussed the draft Abandoned Grove Tactical Plan developed by San Diego County Department of Agriculture; including the topics of voluntary removal, mandatory removal, and assessing irrigation and pest control fees. Victoria mentioned that the issue of abandoned groves was also discussed at both the Science Subcommittee meeting and the SAP meeting. Victoria would like to bring this discussion to the attention of the full Committee to set the definition of an abandon grove. Grower liaisons and County staff have been reporting neglected groves so CDFA can develop a mapping layer. There was a discussion about the potential for grant money and/or Farm Bill Tree Assistance Program funding for grove removal.

Bob reported that CDFA, County staff and the grower liaisons have held several meetings and progress is being made on developing areawide treatment areas in Southern California. Bob also reported that the Ad Hoc GIS/Communications group has had several meetings and a monthly situation report is under development and should be available in the next few months. The next Ad Hoc GIS/Communications meeting is scheduled for April 16th and will focus on mapping and GIS. Bob provided an update on grower liaison staffing, noting that Joanne O'Sullivan has taken over for Bryce Belgium in Ventura County. Bryce did an excellent job but has moved on to full time employment as a PCA. Bob also reported that Bob Wagner's position has not been filled, but there are hopes that the position will be filled soon.

HLB Survey Update

Debby Tanouye gave an update on the HLB Survey. Ventura, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties surveys are all 100% complete. Survey work is ongoing in San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties. Debby is waiting on new STR's from Dr. Gottwald for the completed counties. Once they are received surveys in those Counties can be restarted. Survey crews are spending no longer than fifteen minutes per property and things are moving along much faster. Everything that has been tested for HLB has been negative so far. Cynthia from the CRB lab expressed concern of the numbers of ACP in the samples coming in. There needs to be an increase in sample size in order for a larger chance of finding HLB. Debby and Tina explained that the lab is receiving single psyllids because CDFA staff is working in areas that are not heavily infested. Also, the amount of psyllid intake has decreased due to the decrease in time spent at each property. There was a question about the Central Valley being added to the risk-based survey. CDFA explained that Dr. Gottwald has developed survey protocols for the Central

Valley; however staff has been more focused on completing the Southern California area because of the heavy ACP infestation.

Tina Galindo gave an update on the Hacienda Heights area. There was a Tempo application made in the 800 meter area. A Merit application is due this month however due to the recommendations from the SAP, staff has decided to wait until summer to make that application. There will be further discussion with USDA and the SAP to make a final decision. Zone 1 was last surveyed in January/February and there were 5 adults and 40 nymphs collected and tested. The 12th round of survey is in progress right now in zone 1, there have been 0 ACP collected so far. In zone 2, the 6th round of survey was completed in November/December and there were 83 adults and 159 nymphs collected and analyzed. Currently the survey crew is conducting the 7th round of survey work and 29 adults and 2 nymphs have been collected so far. In zone 3, round 4 was completed in December 2013 and there were 733 adults tested and 10 nymphs. Round 5 will be completed in zone 3 in June 2014.

Biocontrol Program Update

Mike Pitcairn gave a presentation on updates regarding the Biocontrol program. Tamarixia releases have increased due to the warmer weather. In February there were 17,000 wasps released and in March there were 24,000 Tamarixia released. The new grid release strategy has been implemented in all of Southern California. Orange and Imperial Counties are 100% completed. The grid release strategy system has been working well. David reported that there have been a few commercial releases in organic groves. Bob Atkins has put in a request for information about abandoned organic production so that staff can know where they can do releases in commercial production which has not been managed with conventional treatments. Mike Pitcairn also went over production estimates for the Mt. Rubidoux and Cal Poly Pomona locations, noting that the Cal Poly greenhouses should be completed by August 2014, which will increase production. Foothill Agricultural Research has just delivered their first shipment of Tamarixia which will increase annual production as well. There was discussion about the male versus female ratio. There is over 60% female Tamarixia produced in each batch. In regards to releases in Mexico, CDFA is funded to support production and releases in California only, if staff were to do any work in Mexico there would need to be additional financial support. USDA and Texas are becoming involved in making releases south of California. More information should be available after May 28th Biocontrol Task Force meeting. Initially there was a concern that Diaphorencyrtus' permit would have to be reviewed by NAPPO. This agency reviews releases for all of North America, Mexico and Canada. Fortunately, NAPPO does not need to review Diaphorencyrtus therefore things should speed up rather quickly.

Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque gave an update on CRB's current lab activities. There have been 25,569 samples tested since March 2013. 6,420 subsamples have been tested since the last meeting and all subsamples came back negative for HLB. There have been 5,546 nursery samples tested, 2,501 since last meeting all of which are negative for HLB as well. Current CRB staff remains the same. CRB is currently assisting with processing Hacienda Heights transect samples. They are also testing high throughput protocol for the siRNA protocol with HLB samples from Florida. The lab is currently working with Dr. Slusky to develop a high throughput version of

the metabolomics extraction, and testing for the UCD containment facility early detection experiments. The percentage of single insect samples has decreased from a high of 46% to 32%. Testing has been completed on the trees that were removed from the Hacienda Heights area and everything has come back negative. There was a handout provided to the Committee in their packets for the CDFA lab activities.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reviewed the data management report from February 2013 – March 2014 with the Committee. Rick is still in cooperating with the University of California's Kern Ag Center GIS facility. The Ag center has hired three part time interns to work on the citrus layer project. They have finished updating San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. They are now working on Kern, San Diego and Santa Barbara Counties. Rick is continuing to work on the Statewide Citrus Layer as time allows. He is making some changes in the HLB/ACP detection maps, the Biocontrol Workgroup activity maps, and the CPDPC trapping/sampling activities. Rick has assisted with the ACP trapping protocol study data analysis and is assisting with the Hacienda Heights HLB transect sampling study. Rick has also been working with the San Joaquin Valley grower liaisons on defining some proposed psyllid management areas (PMA)'s, 58 PMA's have been mapped in the Central Valley. There is a link to Beth Grafton-Cardwell's interactive map on CRB's website which shows the ACP/HLB quarantine and the locations where Tamarixia have been released and recovered. The map also shows where ACP has been detected as well as the current status of the Citrus layer. Rick went over what changes to the maps in terms of the symbols used and what they represent and he will be presenting the Grower Liaisons with map codes.

Chairman Report

Jim had nothing additional to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 07, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.