

# CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 10, 2018

## **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 10, 2018 in Exeter, California by Committee Chairman Nick Hill.

## **CPDPC Members Present:**

Craig Armstrong*	Jim Gorden	James McFarlane	Keith Watkins
Ed Civerolo	Nick Hill	Etienne Rabe*	
Bob Felts, Jr.	Link Leavens*	Kevin Severns	
John Gless	Mark McBroom	Brian Specht	

## **CPDPC Members Absent:**

George McEwen

## **CDFA Staff:**

Jason Chan*	Adrian Gonzales	Magally Luque-Williams*	Maegan Salinas
Nick Condos	Victoria Hornbaker	Colleen Murphy-Vierra	Scosha Wright
Tina Galindo*	Sara Khalid	Courtney Pond*	Bob Wynn
Jon Goergen*	Jason Leathers*	Andrew Richards*	

## **Guests:**

Lori Apodaca	Beth Grafton-Cardwell*	Neil McRoberts	Richard Tiffer*
Ruben Arroyo	Subhas Hajeri	Tracy Moehnke	Alan Washburn
Bob Atkins	Linda Haque*	Sandy Olkowski	Karen Westerman
Jill Barnier*	Geoffrey Hollenbeck*	Sylvie Robillard	Jack Williams
Erin Betts	Alyssa Houtby	Gary Schulz	Helene Wright
Teri Blaser	Marilyn Kinoshita	Teresa Siles	Judy Zaninovich*
Chris Boisseraric	Brett Kirkpatrick*	Cressida Silvers*	Sandra Zwaal*
Dan Dreyer	Melinda Klien	Jeff Slover	
Rick Dunn	John Krist*	Carla Thomas*	

\* Participated via Webinar

## **Opening Comments:**

Nick Hill welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online and stated that there is a quorum for the meeting. He acknowledged that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

## **Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES**

Nick Hill reviewed the consent agenda which contained the minutes from the Committee meeting that took place on November 18, 2017.

**Motion:** To approve the consent agenda which included the November 18, 2017 Committee meeting minutes.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Bob Felts, Jr.

Motion Passes: All in favor

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

### **Executive Committee Elections**

Victoria stated that the By-Laws were amended in November 2015 to cap the Executive member terms at two consecutive terms in the same office. The current Executive members were elected into office in January 2016 therefore it has been two years since the last Executive Committee member elections took place. The elections will be done by nominations and a roll call vote, being held in compliance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Mark McBroom nominated Jim Gorden as Chairman of the CPDPC. Nick Hill nominated Kevin Severns as Chairman of the CPDPC. Jim Gorden won by a majority vote of seven to four.

Jim Gorden nominated Mark McBroom as Vice Chairman of the CPDPC. John Gless nominated Kevin Severns as Vice Chairman of the CPDPC. Mark McBroom won by a majority vote of seven to three.

Mark McBroom nominated Etienne Rabe as Secretary Treasurer of the CPDPC. Link Leavens nominated Kevin Severns as Secretary Treasurer of the CPDPC for a second term. The vote was tied five to five therefore there was a revote. Etienne Rabe won by a majority vote of nine to three.

It was noted that the By-Laws apply to the Executive Committee members and not to the Chairmen of the Subcommittees.

### **Full Committee Coastal, Nursery and Tulare Member Vacancies**

There have been no applications for the Coastal vacancy. There were three applicants for the Nursery vacancy and one applicant for the Tulare vacancy.

**Motion:** To appoint Roger Smith to fill the Tulare Grower vacancy on the Committee.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

Bob Felts, Jr. recommended that Aaron Dillon be appointed to fill the nursery vacancy. James McFarlane recommended that Jose Lima be appointed to fill the nursery vacancy. Aaron won by a majority vote of seven to four.

**Motion:** To appoint Aaron Dillon to fill the Nursery vacancy on the Committee.

First: Bob Felts, Jr.

Second: Kevin Severns

The motion passed with even yays; Craig Armstrong, Ed Civerolo, John Gless, Jim Gorden, Mark McBroom, Brian Specht and Keith Watkins and four nays; Bob Felts, Jr., Nick Hill, James McFarlane, Kevin Severns and one abstention; Link Leavens

### **Review revised November 8, 2017 Post Harvest Mitigation for ACP Free Performance Standard Recommendation**

Nick Condos stated that CDFA's legal office reviewed the recommendation made at the November 8, 2017 Committee meeting regarding the ACP mitigation and have made some changes to the recommendation. The Committee stated that they have reviewed that changes were made and are willing to accept them.

**Motion:** that post-harvest treatment be added as a method to achieve the performance standards for bulk citrus movement across the regional boundaries once the appropriate recommendation is received from the University of California.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Passes: All in favor

### **Regional Quarantine Zones**

It was asked what growers in the HLB quarantine Zone 6 should be doing with their fruit since there is no packing house in the zone. There is a packing house that is located approximately a mile out of the quarantine zone which the growers in Zone 6 have used for years. Nick Condos stated that CDFA has developed a proposal for USDA's approval to allow bulk citrus with steam and leaves attached to move outside of an HLB quarantine area. It was a goal of the Committee that any movement between regions would have to have some kind of mitigation. It doesn't make sense on a risk-based level to move from a lower risk area into a higher risk area. The regulation that was put in as an emergency provides for a special permit which can be changed to allow an exemption on the movement of fruit into Zone 6 without additional mitigation but still with the tarping, preharvest spray, field cleaning or potentially fogging to move into a Zone 6 region. Instead of changing the compliance agreements again, CDFA could put out an enforcement advisory stating that any fruit moving from any zone other than Zone 6 doesn't require a mitigation to move into Zone 6. The Committee is concerned that down the road this will cause a dilemma due to mitigation costs for having to field clean fruit to take the fruit into an HLB quarantine zone. Nick Condos stated that if a grower removes their stems and leaves from the fruit and it is sprayed it can be moved out of Zone 6. For the CDFA interior quarantine the fruit must be ran through a packing shed. It was asked if a motion is needed to exempt the movement of fruit from all zones other than Zone 6 into Zone 6 and there does not need to be a motion because that is an administrative function of CDFA's regulatory power. Nick stated that if the Committee would like to make a motion, he recommends that the Committee recommend a goal and not be so prescriptive because that often doesn't work well with CDFA's legal office. Teresa stated that some of the discussions regarding high and low risk will be discussed in Scenario three of the strategic plan. Nick stated that CDFA staff will look at the Gottwald risk maps and the psyllid number and come up with a proposal about different requirements moving between different regions based upon the perceived pest risk from each region to each region.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Teresa Siles stated that the rest of the meeting will primarily be focused on the Strategic Plan. There have been several subgroup meetings held that Teresa will go into more detail about shortly. Teresa stated that she will be reviewing the Strategic Plan in sections and ask for the Committee's approval at certain times when reviewing the plan.

### **Review and Approve Strategic Plan Foundation**

Craig Armstrong stated that he is disappointed in that not all of the Committee members were involved in the Strategic Planning process. He stated that his concerns that were brought up in his interview were not included in the plan. Craig stated that nothing in the Strategic Plan is diving into a real solution and that there are a lot of opinions in the plan with no backing. Teresa thanked Craig for his feedback and stated that as the Committee goes through the plan there are some areas in which there needs to be further discussion and further direction for decision making.

So far into the Strategic Planning process interviews have been conducted as well as electronic surveys. The Strategic Planning session has been held and an update has been provided to the Committee for review and input. The post-meeting sub-groups meetings have been held and NST has developed the draft plan for Committee review and input. The next steps are to adjust the budget if needed and continually review the plan on an ongoing basis. Teresa reviewed the principles for decision making, credo for individual Committee members and the mission of the Strategic Plan. Teresa also went over the different roles of the Committee and the roles of CDFCA.

**Motion:** To support the Principles for Decisions, Credo for Members, the Mission and the Roles of the Strategic Plan

First: Jim Gorden

Second: John Gless

Motion Passes: All in favor

Teresa went over Strategic Planning scenario one with the Committee which is the best case scenario. The priority goals of scenario one is no HLB in commercial groves, to limit ACP movement around the state and to fine tune the program. The CPDPC strategies include quickly detecting and irradiating diseased trees, controlling the movement of psyllids around the state by enforcing regulations, suppressing psyllid populations, improving data technology, analysis and data sharing and continuing to conduct outreach and collaboration efforts. Teresa noted that these strategies are listed from highest priority to lower priority. She also stated that the lowest priority does not mean that they are not important but that the highest listed strategy is most important goal. It was stated by the Committee that all of the strategies are equal in priority and should all be done together. Teresa stated that the reason why there is a priority list is because the next step would be to align a budget. There was also a comment by the Committee that the number one priority is to prevent the spread of HLB in California and these strategies will help achieve that goal. There is some fine tuning to be done of the lower numbered priorities but there is agreement in the general direction of the strategies. Teresa went into more detail for each of the strategies. Strategy one is to quickly detect and eradicate HLB positive trees and activities includes continuing and improving survey and sampling, continue with the Gottwald survey and make process more efficient, calculate cost and resources needed to complete a state wide risk-

based survey with a 95 percent confidence level and to continue mandatory tree removal. There was a question regarding continuing with Gottwald's survey and CDFA has determined that based on some changes at CDFA it would be more beneficial to work on a process improvement with Gottwald and put him in contact with CDFA's key staff but having Gottwald in the lead of developing the risk-based survey. Strategy two is to control the movement of psyllids around the state and to enforce regulations which includes enforcing bulk citrus and nursery regulations and quarantines and moving forward with regional quarantine approval and implementation with performance standards. Strategy three is to suppress ACP populations which includes promoting grower participation, continue in short term with the current treatment protocol, conduct research on how effective current mandatory treatment is and how long it prevents the return of ACP, continue buffer treatments, require packing houses to only pack fruit that has been treated, conduct short term research on efficacy of buffer treatments, continue biocontrol as is and to remove uncared for host plants and abandoned groves. There was discussion regarding packing house compliance agreements. It was noted that CDFA is not only enforcing compliance on the packing houses but on the growers as well. As post-harvest treatments become more available, for example fogging, it was noted to consider requiring packing houses to only pack fruit that has been treated as a part of their compliance agreements. The issue of verification of pesticide use reports was discussed. The Committee reiterated the ongoing challenge with access to the pesticide use reports. There was also discussion regarding biocontrol and other possible biocontrol agents other than Tamarixia. Strategy four is to improve data technology, analysis and sharing which includes analyzing available data to determine ways to improve program efficiency, share data with trusted researchers and explore new solutions for data capture and digitization of existing paper records, for example pesticide use reports. Strategy five is outreach and collaboration which includes fostering support for program activities from local government and elected officials, engage homeowner participation in program efforts, and encourage industry participation in program efforts.

**Motion:** To approve scenario one of the strategic plan as amended

First: John Gless

Second: James McFarlane

Motion Passes: All in favor

Teresa went over Strategic Planning scenario two with the Committee which is the worst case scenario. The priority goals of scenario two is slow spread of HLB in commercial groves, support long term solutions for example resistant rootstock, tolerant varieties, and prolonged productivity of the groves. The CPDPC strategies include quickly detecting and removing HLB positive trees, controlling the movement of psyllids in groves, supporting the availability of clean nursery stock and industry outreach. The difference between scenario one and two is that two includes no residential control activity, no homeowner outreach, less emphasis on regulatory compliance, no CPDPC biocontrol efforts, aim to find HLB only in commercial settings, activate tools to help growers live with the disease, and increase speed capacity at labs. Teresa asked the Committee if these are the right goals and strategies for the worst case scenario. It was stated that homeowner outreach should continue to inform homeowners of the risk of HLB and how devastating it is. Teresa went into more detail of each of the strategies. Strategy one is to detect and remove diseased commercial trees which includes stopping regulatory tree removal, support increase availability of EDT's for non-regulatory detection, enforce removal of abandoned groves, increase speed and capacity for grower-submitted samples at labs, encourage voluntary actions among growers if HLB is detected in their commercial grove, and evaluate current

recommendations outlined in the action plan for ACP and HLB in California. Jim Gorden stated that he does not believe that a grower will voluntarily remove their grove if HLB is detected in more than 2 percent of their grove. Jim stated that it may be the right thing to do epidemiologically but CDFA and the Committee needs to be practical about this. Psyllid suppression and additional testing was suggested instead of voluntary tree removal. It was recommended to encourage growers to check their groves frequently and immediately remove symptomatic trees. Strategy two is to control movement of psyllids in commercial groves and promote grower participation in areawide and coordinate treatment programs. Strategy three is to support availability of clean nursery stock and to protect clean nursery stock through regulations. There was further discussion regarding nursery stock. It was stated that growers should only should purchase and plant trees from clean nursery stock. Strategy four is outreach and collaboration in which CPDPC, CDFA and NST should encourage industry participation in program efforts and foster support for program activities from local government and elected officials and collaborate with local pest control districts on areawide treatments. Teresa summarized the changes that were discussed in scenario two which was no regulatory tree removal, more emphasis on grower responsibility with some voluntary recommendations, striking out the note about removing blocks at a 2 percent infection rate. It was noted to also include recommendation to others that the role of psyllid suppression is adequate and meets industry standards and some direction to the UC to develop these standards.

**Motion:** To approve scenario two of the strategic plan as amended

First: Keith Watkins

Second: John Gless

Motion Passes: All in favor

Teresa went over Strategic Planning scenario three with the Committee which is the partial HLB infestation scenario. The priority goals of scenario three is to contain HLB and limit ACP moving around the state. The CPDPC strategies include quickly detecting and removing diseased trees, control movement of psyllids around the state and enforce regulations, suppress psyllids in areas at risk for HLB and in commercial groves as well as outreach and collaboration. The big question with this scenario is to evaluate whether or not to continue to focus on urban areas or shift resources to commercial protection. It was asked if the Committee feels that psyllid suppression in general is important or should the focus be exclusively in high risk areas and commercial groves. It was stated that the focus would likely be exclusively in commercial groves due to funding restrictions. There is agreement that psyllid suppression would happen in residential areas that are at risk for HLB and in commercial groves. It was asked if CDFA should stop urban treatments with the exception of those at high risk of HLB. Teresa went into more detail of each of the strategies. Strategy one is to quickly detect and remove diseased trees which includes continuing and improving surveying and sampling, evaluate survey methodologies, continue quick mandatory tree removal and investigate more efficient methods of tree removal. The strategic planning committee recommends that CDFA move forward with tree removal for residential and commercial trees that are determined to be HLB positive until a certain trigger point is reached. It was asked at which point growers will be responsible for their own tree removal. It was stated that when the tree removal costs reaches a certain amount there will be a point where the Committee and CDFA will no longer be able to remove trees. It was recommended that growers be held accountable to remove their own HLB infected trees and if they don't, CDFA will then remove the tree(s) and invoice the property for reimbursement. Nick stated that CDFA has the authority to lien the property but can only get the money back when the

homeowner/grower sells the property. The Committee would like to amend the document to state that commercial growers are expected to remove trees at their own cost with the caveat that if CDFA has to remove the tree, the grower will be charged. The Committee would like CDFA to continue to remove residential trees until the Committee can no longer afford to do so however there are areas that CDFA may need to walk away from. Strategy two is to suppress psyllids in areas at risk for HLB which includes continuing and improving ACP treatments in HLB quarantine areas until a designated trigger point is reached. It was noted that the Committee needs to develop a recommendation on a trigger point and subsequent strategies. Strategy two also includes encouraging voluntary actions among growers if HLB is found in their commercial grove, evaluate current recommendations outlined in the Action Plan for ACP and HLB in California, remove uncared for host plants and abandoned groves, evaluate buffer treatments and require packinghouses to only pack fruit that has been treated as a part of their compliance agreements which CDFA has confirmed is possible to do under current authority. Strategy three is to control the movement of psyllids around the state and enforce regulations which includes enforcing bulk citrus regulations and quarantines, moving forward with regional quarantine approval and implementation and allowing bulk citrus movement outside of an HLB quarantine area if it follows certain performance standards that result in no live ACP in the load, promote grower participation in area wide and coordinated treatment programs and evaluate beneficials. The fourth strategy is outreach and collaboration which includes encouraging homeowner participation in program efforts, encourage industry participation in efforts and educating industry on disease detection and sampling strategies.

**Motion:** To approve scenario three of the strategic plan as amended

First: John Gless

Second: Keith Watkins

Motion Passes: All in favor

There was discussion regarding the coordinated treatment programs. The strategic planning draft states that all coordinated treatment programs including formalized PCDs, task force groups and others organizing area-wide programs should work cooperatively with the CPDPC, county agricultural commissioners, CCM, Sunkist and others with a shared interest in fighting HLB. Communication and information between these groups is critical to maximizing reach and effectiveness. Coordinated treatment programs are an effective and critical strategy and the sub-group recommended a tiered approach for coordinated treatment programs. The Committee would like to work with the counties in the future on cost sharing. The next step of the strategic planning process will be ensuring the budget is in alignment with the priorities as outlined. It was suggested that there be an interim Committee meeting held in March 2018 to discuss the budget for the strategic plan.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT**

Nick Condos reported that the Secretary was able to get \$2.5 million of general fund ongoing into the Governor's budget for the Citrus Program.

Nick Condos also stated that CDFA's Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was sued and the judge has ruled against CDFA. At the moment CDFA does not know what that means for the activities being done under the PEIR. CDFA's legal office is working with the Attorney General's office to find out what that means for the Citrus Program and the Pest Prevention System.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be an interim Committee meeting held in Exeter, California on February 22, 2018 at 9:00am. The following meeting will be held in San Bernardino, California on March 14, 2018 at 10:00am.