



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (CCAC)
Tulare, CA
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009**

Members

Robert LoBue
David Hines
David Roberts
Ken Chipchase
James Sherwood
Etienne Rabe
Kevin Severns
John Eliot
Franco Bernardi
Brett Kirkpatrick
Ron Matik

CDFA Representatives

Rick Jensen
Nate Dechoretz
Steve Patton
Andrew Valero
Donna Weathers

Interested Parties

Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Myron Kimmel, Kern County
Nancy Holland, Kern County
Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County
Bob Blakely, CCM
Bob Salcido, CCGO

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was established. Mr. Rick Jensen announced that Dr. Amadou Ba has accepted another position with Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs, and Egg Regulatory Services and Mr. Steve Patton was promoted to Standardization Program Supervisor.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick requested nominations to elect the Committee Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Kevin Severns moved to nominate Mr. Kirkpatrick as Committee Chair. Mr. Ron Matik seconded.

Mr. Kirkpatrick requested nominations to elect the Committee Vice Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Severns moved to nominate Mr. Rob LoBue as Vice Chair. Mr. John Eliot seconded.

MOTION: Dr. Etienne Rabe moved to close the nominations. Mr. Matik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Kirkpatrick asked the committee to review the December 18, 2008 meeting minutes.

Mr. Franco Bernardi indicated that his name was spelled incorrectly on the second page of the minutes and asked that it be corrected.

MOTION: Mr. LoBue moved to approve the December 18, 2008 meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Eliot seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Mr. Kirkpatrick announced that some of the committee vacancies were filled. Ms. Donna Weathers announced the new members:

Mr. John Gless, Jr. – Navel & Valencia/Mandarin/Citrus/Lemons, Riverside and Kern County.

Mr. Gus Gunderson – Lemons, Ventura County.

Mr. Bernardi – Navel & Valencia/Mandarin/Citrus/Lemons, Kern and San Joaquin County.

ITEM 5: BUDGET APPROVAL

Mr. Patton reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10. Mr. Patton explained that the proposed budget reflects mill assessments of \$0.011 per carton for Navel oranges, \$0.005 per carton for lemons, and \$0.006 for Valencia oranges and Mandarin citrus.

MOTION: Dr. Rabe moved to approve the FY 2009/10 budget as presented. Mr. LoBue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: COUNTY CONTRACTS 2009/2010

Mr. Steve Patton provided an overview of the county contracts for FY 2009/10 with a comparison between FY 2008/09 and FY 2009/10. Mr. Patton explained that the proposed figures are usually much higher than the actual cost. Mr. Jensen highlighted historical data which generally illustrates that actual expenditures are significantly less than the proposed expenditures.

Dr. Rabe asked why there is no funding for reserves this year. Mr. Patton explained that there is no reserve because the industry is still recovering from the freeze; however, it is possible that a reserve may be built over the course of the FY.

ITEM 7: COUNTY CONTRACTS 2008/2009 SUMMARY

Mr. Patton reviewed the county activity report and the contract and expense summary for the committee.

ITEM 8: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON STANDARDIZED CONTAINERS

Dr. Rabe reviewed the proposed letter which was circulated to committee members. Dr. Rabe explained that the subcommittee, appointed by the California Citrus Advisory Committee (CCAC), convened a meeting with various organizations, including: CDFA, CRG, CCGA, and CCM to discuss various issues, including standardized containers. Dr. Rabe reviewed the resulting letter; the first two paragraphs provide background in regard to CCAC's responsibilities. The third paragraph discusses the definition of a standard container. The committee believes it can establish a 40 lb standard assessment unit for the citrus industry. The committee subsequently discussed how assessments are handled in regard to shipping containers.

Dr. Rabe reiterated his statement that he thought the assessment was based on a 40 lb. unit.

MOTION: Mr. LoBue requested that CDFA distribute the subcommittee's letter to appropriate entities in order to receive feedback on the proposed 40 lb standard assessment unit. Mr. Eliot seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 9: STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUDIT

Mr. Patton informed the committee that the Standardization Advisory Committee has agreed to fund industry audits. The audits will be conducted by CDFA's Market Enforcement Branch. On November 1, 2008, letters were mailed to the industry in order to provide information in regard to pending audits commencing on March 26, 2009; audits will be done across the board. Mr. Jensen informed the committee that the charge for these audits will be about \$600.

ITEM 10: AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

ITEM 11: ASSEMBLY BILL 281

Mr. Patton provided a copy of Assembly Bill (AB) 281 (De Leon) citrus fruit crop: California Citrus Advisory Committee. Mr. Bob Blakely indicated that as introduced, AB 281 is a placeholder and would eventually be amended.

ITEM 12: CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kirkpatrick commented that given the current economic climate, the committee should be prudent when spending the industry's money.

ITEM 13: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jensen informed the committee that the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association have sponsored an amendment to the Food and Agricultural Code language related to roadside vendors. The current language stipulates that if an individual is in possession of more than 200 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables, he or she must be able to show an enforcement officer proof of ownership; for avocados it is 40lbs. The amendment establishes 25 lbs. as the minimum weight for all commodities. Mr. Jensen further explained that if an enforcement officer sees a roadside vendor she or he can stop, take action, and even confiscate the product if proof of ownership is not presented. The committee subsequently discussed this issue in detail.

A comment was made explaining that at times product tested below 8-0 can pass Brim A testing. That at times a 7-7 can taste better than some 9-0. The point is to have a set ratio with minimum rate or a fall back of a Brim A number. Is there a way to use this on an experimental basis and allow the industry to use the Brim A as a fall back number? Mr. Patton responded that the county collected some information but regulations would have to be changed.

ITEM 14: NEXT MEETING

Mr. Kirkpatrick mentioned the next meeting would normally be scheduled in November, but the committee would like to get input on the subcommittee's letter first. Mr. Patton reminded the committee that the meeting would be strictly informational. The members decided to have a teleconference in June or July 2009.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Matik to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Severns seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Patton, Supervisor
Standardization Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch

SP/tl