

**CALIFORNIA STATE APIARY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

Hyatt Regency Hotel  
24500 Town Center Drive, Valencia, CA 91355  
November 20, 2014

**Opening**

The meeting of the California State Apiary Board was called to order at 4:20 PM on November 20, 2014 in Valencia, California by Committee Chair Roger Everett.

**Board Members Present**

Bob Brandi, Los Banos, CA  
Brian Ashurst, Westmoreland, CA  
Courtney Albrecht, Board Secretary, CDFA  
David Bradshaw, Visalia CA  
Harold "Buzz" Landon, Richvale, CA  
Roger Everett, Chair, Terra Bella, CA

**Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act**

Courtney Albrecht and the Board acknowledged compliance with the Bagely-Keene Open Meeting Act, Pursuant to Government Code Section 11120-11132.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Everett asked if there were any corrections or adjustments to the minutes from the November 19, 2013 Board meeting. The Board members had no edits to the minutes.

**Motion: A motion was made to approve the minutes.**

**Motion was seconded.**

**The Board unanimously passed approval of the minutes.**

**Committee Membership**

Mr. Everett provided the following information pertaining to Apiary Board membership:

Brian Ashurst and Bob Brandi's terms will expire in 2017

Harold "Buzz" Landon, Roger Everett, and David Bradshaw's terms will expire in 2018.

Mr. Everett explained to the group that thought should be given to potential future Board members, and stated that it is helpful to provide names to the California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA) for their consideration and possible recommendation.

**Apiary Board Committee Reports**

None

## California Department of Food and Agriculture Report

### 1. Border Station Update

#### a. Water at Yermo

Ms. Albrecht reported that there is no water available for bee shipments at Yermo due to the well being dry. Ms. Albrecht reported that although there is a water tank at Yermo, the water is for facility operations and there is not enough to provide for the bee shipments. Providing water for bees at Yermo would require daily refilling of the tank at a cost of about \$1500 per refill. Ms. Albrecht stated that water availability is expected to continue at the other stations that provide water for bees.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Everett stated he would bring up the issue of no water at Yermo station at the CSBA Board meeting and would ask to use their website to post a message about the water situation at Yermo, and to encourage drivers to consider alternate stations during the day when it is hot.

Question to CDFA: Is there a policy regarding the use of the water for all bee shipments, or is it reserved solely for bee shipments that are delayed at the stations due to pending pest identifications or other agricultural quarantine issues? Ms. Albrecht stated she would find out and provide a later response to the Board.

**Update: On 12/8/14, Ms. Albrecht provided Mr. Everett the clarification from Mr. Duane Schnabel that the water is only available for bee shipments that are delayed at the stations due to pest issues.**

#### b. Pests in Bee Shipments

Ms. Albrecht provided the following data on pests found in bee shipments:

##### **2014 (January through November)**

- 2,000 total shipments
- 81 shipments rejected for pests

##### **2013 (12 months)**

- 3,321 total shipments
- 195 shipments rejected for pests

The majority of pests intercepted are red imported fire ant (RIFA) and small hive beetle (SHB). Ms. Albrecht provided clarification that shipments infested with SHB are allowed to enter if destined to a county that will accept the shipment and oversee mitigation for this pest. The Board asked for clarification regarding the

rejection policy regarding shipments found with RIFA. Ms. Albrecht stated she would find out the policy and provide a later response to the Board.

**Update: On 12/8/14, Ms. Albrecht provided Mr. Everett clarification on the rejection policy for shipments found infested with RIFA:**

- **Shipments accompanied by the Ant-Free Certificate issued by an official in another state may enter as long as fewer than five worker ants are found. If a queen RIFA or any other life stage is found, the shipment will be rejected.**
- **Shipments not accompanied by the Ant-Free Certificate will be rejected if one or more RIFA is found (any life stage.)**

**c. Availability of Laboratory Staff**

Ms. Albrecht stated that laboratory staff will be available after hours and on weekends to provide identification services for bee shipments which will allow for faster processing of shipments through the stations.

**2. California Pollinator Working Group**

Ms. Albrecht provided background regarding the Pollinator Working Group and stated that CDFA is planning to restart this working group under a new name (Healthy Pollinators), and intends to expand the group to include additional participants such as representatives from the CDFA commodity marketing boards and representatives from other state agencies such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

Through a collaborative process, the group will develop recommendations for actions that CDFA can take to improve pollinator health, such as posting information needed by stakeholders on the CDFA website, hosting small-group discussions, etc. The Healthy Pollinator Working Group meeting date will be determined after participants are identified their availability is determined.

Discussion followed.

In response to a question from the Board about whether or not CDFA manages any kind of conservation program, erosion control programs, or habitat restoration programs, Ms. Albrecht replied that CDFA does not manage lands, but manages and disseminates funds for projects that may include elements of conservation, habitat restoration, etc through the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program and the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. Ms. Albrecht stated that the application period for the Specialty Crop Block Grant program was currently open, and that Apis m. had been involved in seeking Specialty Crop Block Grants in the past.

### 3. Current Apiary Issues

#### a. Assembly Bill 2185

Ms. Albrecht stated that this assembly bill mandates the DFW to consider apiculture on state-owned lands if apiculture is consistent with the goals and objectives of the particular property. Mr. Everett stated that the mandate also applies to land trusts and conservancy trusts, and that the bill was a CSBA bill.

#### b. EPA Pollinator-Labeling Initiative

Ms. Albrecht stated that she spoke with Mr. George Farnsworth at CDPR about this topic. Mr. Farnsworth indicated there was movement on this issue, but did not provide further details. Ms. Albrecht and Mr. Everett informed the Board that representatives from DPR were invited to this board meeting but were unable to attend. However, Mr. Farnsworth of DPR had indicated a willingness to meet with the board on a later date in Sacramento. Mr. Everett suggested that a second Apiary Board meeting could be scheduled to facilitate the discussion with DPR. Mr. Everett suggested that the second Apiary Board meeting be scheduled on the afternoon of January 22, 2015 as it coincides with the next CSBA Board meeting, as well as the CSBF advisory committee.

Ms. Albrecht stated she would inform Mr. Farnsworth of the board's desire to have a second Apiary Board meeting to discuss pesticide-related topics with DPR on January 22, 2015 at 3 PM.

**Motion: The Apiary Board members approved a motion to make a formal recommendation to the Secretary that a second Apiary Board meeting be scheduled in Sacramento on January 22, 2014 for the purpose of having a discussion with DPR on the pesticide-related agenda items.**

**Update: On 12/4/14, Mr. Farnsworth of CDPR confirmed his availability for this date; meeting agenda to be developed.**

#### c. Pollinator Best-Management Practices (BMP'S)

Mr. Everett stated that the CSBA convention allowed the board members to become aware of the Best Management Practices developed by the Almond Board of California, and that the BMP's are highly valuable and provide an opportunity for good discussions.

#### d. Neonicotinoid Data

Ms. Albrecht stated that Mr. Farnsworth stated that he wanted to share the latest information from DPR with the board, and Mr. Everett stated that this agenda topic could be postponed to the proposed January Apiary Board meeting.

**e. NASDA/ Managed Pollinator Protection Plans**

Ms. Albrecht shared her understanding of the NASDA Pollinator Working Group and the role of CDFA in developing the state's Managed Pollinator Protection Plan as follows: The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) held their 2014 Tri-National Accord in Chicago. An action item from that meeting was for interested State Departments of Agriculture to look for ways to work more closely together on bee/pollinator issues. As a result, the NASDA Pollinator Working Group was developed with the objective being to develop a national guidance document for individual state lead pesticide regulatory agencies to use to develop their own Managed Pollinator Protection Plans, primarily for the purpose of minimizing exposure of managed bees to pesticides applied to commercial crops.

As part of the development of the state's Managed Pollinator Protection Plan, the Department of Pesticide Regulation teamed with the Almond Board of California to develop Best Management Practices for Bees in Almonds, which clarify and expand on activities for beekeepers, applicators, growers, and pesticide enforcement officials when following and enforcing existing state laws and regulations for protection of bees, and can be generalized for all crops.

CDFA's role in the development of the State Managed Pollinator Plan is to provide opportunities for discussion and collaboration among the various stakeholders on issues affecting pollinator health, such as the need for nutritious foraging opportunities, to promote overall pollinator health in California. The Healthy Pollinators Working Group will provide the opportunity for collaboration.

The Board was particularly concerned whether or not the development of the state managed pollinator plans would affect international movement of hives, particularly movement of shipments from Mexico.

**f. Presidential Memorandum**

Ms. Albrecht stated that the presidential memorandum is an extensive, comprehensive, wide-ranging set of mandates on federal agencies to take actions to protect pollinators.

Ms. Albrecht stated that the awareness of pollinator issues at the national level is helping to create awareness and momentum on the issues at the state level. CDFA is in a position to help provide opportunities for collaboration and partnership between stakeholders through the Healthy Pollinators Working Group.

Discussion followed.

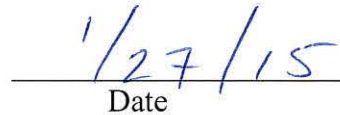
The Board was particularly concerned about whether or not the presidential memorandum restricts the use of pesticides. Mr. Everett indicated a need for good communication between stakeholders and regulatory agencies, particularly those that develop and apply new testing protocols. Good communication can help promote an understanding among growers, bee keepers, and regulatory agencies of the important role of pesticides in agricultural production and the need for updated pesticide testing protocols to ensure protection for bees.

### **Next Meeting Schedule**

The Board agreed to hold a second Apiary Board Meeting on January 22, 2015 at 3 PM in Sacramento.

Meeting Adjourn-Approximately 6:00 PM

  
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Courtney Albrecht, Secretary

  
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Date