

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
October 22, 2021 Minutes**

There was a quorum of the Executive Subcommittee and the following were in attendance:

Executive Subcommittee Members Present:

Bob Felts, Jr.	Mark McBroom	Keith Watkins
Jim Gorden	Dr. Etienne Rabe	

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum	Sarah Kraft	Michael Soltero
Paul Figueroa	Betty Lee	ThuyVy Truong
Alisha Garcia	Daniel Lee	Claudia Vazquez
David Gutierrez	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems
Victoria Hornbaker	Grace Radabaugh	Jason Wu
Anmol Joshi	Lydia Rodriguez	

Other Attendees:

Holly Deniston-Sheets

Opening Comments:

Jim Gorden called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the Executive Committee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar.

Public Comments:

Victoria Hornbaker publicly recognized Holly Deniston-Sheets since she will be departing from the Citrus Research Board (CRB). Victoria expressed her appreciation for all of Holly's hard work in managing the Data Analysis Technical Operations Center (DATOC), her work with CRB, and for the support she has provided to the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC).

Review of Committee Bylaws:

Jim Gordon suggested creating a nominating committee to assemble a list of potential candidates willing to serve, for presentation to the Committee for election of new officers. Dr. Etienne Rabe and Keith Watkins both agreed it will be helpful to have a smaller committee review the candidates.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

2020/2021 Expenditure and Revenue Reports:

Alisha Garcia stated that as of early August, expenditures have increased by \$4,900,000, bringing the total expenditures to \$26,300,000. Sate fiscal year 20-21 has closed, July 2020 through June 2021. Alisha noted that CDFA finance office has closed the fiscal year in FI\$Cal, but she is waiting for July, August and September to close. Once closed, expenditures should align with the program's financial reports.

Review October National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Crop Report and Crop Projection:

Jim Gordon and Mark McBroom stated that both have seen the crop projection report. Jim stated that the report projected the lowest crop nationwide since 1964-1965, stating it was down 10% and is in line with the Committee's projections for California navel oranges.

Discuss Financial Analyst Proposal:

Alisha Garcia stated a meeting with Macias, Gini & O'Connell LLP (MGO) is pending, and will wrap up the financial analyst proposal. Alisha will meet with MGO to finalize the presentation prior to the next full Committee meeting.

Operations Subcommittee Report:

Staffing Challenges – Seasonal/Permanent:

Keith Watkins stated that the program is having trouble hiring seasonal personnel primarily in the higher income areas of California. The program is not able to meet their goals in those areas due to limited staffing. Keith stated that a possible solution is to either increase the number of permanent positions or convert the number of seasonal positions to permanent. Discussion on the issues of seasonal versus permanent will take place at the next Operations Subcommittee meeting.

Science Subcommittee Report:

Sweet Orange Scab Progress Update:

Dr. Rabe stated that the sweet orange scab (SOS) working group made a proposal to the Science Subcommittee about SOS regulations. The proposal suggests changing the quarantine borders to a smaller quarantine area.

Strategic Plan/Program Review Progress Update:

Dr. Rabe stated that the Science Subcommittee wants to create a scientific advisory panel to review the program's effectiveness. The panel would evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of current activities through scientific validation and will develop recommendations and improvements. Dr. Rabe stated that the main goal is to keep huanglongbing out of California's commercial groves. The advisory panel would review the program's activities, budgets, staff allocations and evaluate current activities and strategies statewide. The advisory panel will determine if the strategies in each district are redundant and provide methods to improve efficiency. Dr. Rabe stated the decision making process should be based on the best available science. The Science, Executive, and Full Committee were asked to submit a list of potential candidates for the advisory panel for review and appointment by Secretary Ross. Secretary Ross may then choose seven to nine to form the new advisory panel.

Outreach Subcommittee Report:

Mark McBroom had no updates from the Outreach Subcommittee.

Closing:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2021.