

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee  
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting  
December 13, 2023, Minutes**

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

**Executive Committee Members:**

|                 |                   |                |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Bob Felts, Jr.* | Mark McBroom*     | Keith Watkins* |
| John C. Gless*  | Dr. Etienne Rabe* |                |

**CDFA Staff:**

|                  |                  |                   |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Carl Baum*       | Sarah Kraft*     | ThuyVy Truong*    |
| Paul Figueroa*   | Keith Okasaki*   | Nilan Watmore     |
| David Gutierrez* | Alisha Rios*     | Jennifer Willems* |
| Anmol Joshi*     | Michael Soltero* | Jason Wu*         |

**Other Attendees:**

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Kevin Ball* | Natalie DeAngelo* |
|-------------|-------------------|

\*Participated via webinar

**Opening Comments:**

Mark McBroom called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcoming Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff participating. There were no public comments.

**Southern California Fruit Fly Detections:**

David Gutierrez reported that Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) staff are supporting the ongoing efforts against fruit flies in Southern California. In addition to field support, CPDPD administrative staff are executing emergency contracts to procure trapping and other services, which would allow CPDPD staff to focus solely on CPDPD duties. David reported fruit fly detections are still alarmingly high and are going up. As of the end of November 2023, there were 12 Mediterranean fruit fly detections in a 104 square mile radius in Los Angeles County. In San Bernardino and Riverside counties, David reported 574 adult Oriental fruit fly (OFF) detections and 11 larval locations that encompass a quarantine area of 330 square miles. 130 adult Tau fruit flies were detected in Los Angeles County along with two larval sites that encompass 128 square miles. Queens Landing in Ventura County reported three Queensland fruit fly detections in a 90 square mile area.

**Outreach Subcommittee Report:**

Natalie DeAngelo reported Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) wrapped up a successful media outreach effort on the Valley Center huanglongbing (HLB) detection in San Diego County and resulting quarantine area. NST's efforts resulted in 36 separate news stories and/or media mentions, with five different broadcast stations picking up the stories. Natalie reported a story was on run on three separate radio stations which helped yield 11 different mentions, and 13 digital and/or print articles. NST is also

supporting outreach efforts for Sandra Zwaal's grower liaison meeting at the end of December. Natalie advised that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is creating Citrus Yellow Vireo Clearing Virus (CYVCV) outreach materials. Specifically, the USDA is working on fliers with detailed pictures to educate the public and growers and NST is supporting as necessary.

Kevin Ball reported that he attended the Ventura County task force meeting and noted that growers are appreciative of the change in HLB protocol for moving fruit within quarantine areas. Kevin reported that growers requested additional materials for the spray and move, and area-wide treatment lists. Kevin added the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's office will give the task force up close photos of HLB symptomatic trees to create flyers to educate the public and growers on the symptoms.

### **Finance Subcommittee Report**

#### 2022/23 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob Felts, Jr. reported 2022/23 expenditures did not change. Revenue increased by \$1,645 to \$13,022,888.

#### 2023/24 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob Felts, Jr. reported that October 2023 expenditures were \$2,668,800 year to date expenditure is \$8,949,092. October 2023 revenue was \$417,000. Slightly ahead of revenue compared to prior year due to increase in the assessment rate.

### **Operations Subcommittee Report:**

John C. Gless stated most of the updates from the Operations Subcommittee were given at the start of the meeting and there is nothing further to report. John mentioned that a conversation regarding OFF requirements for packing houses will need to be had in the future.

### **Science Subcommittee Report:**

Dr. Etienne Rabe advised there is still no movement on the ethyl formate approval and no news to report on the sweet orange scab work. Etienne reminded the group that the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) approved changing the risk-based survey process to emphasize regions around commercial citrus and that CPDPC has already implemented the change. Etienne reported the Ventura County HLB quarantine elicited an appeal from growers and packing houses to revise the quarantine area but was rejected by the CDFA. Etienne stated he would like to meet with USDA regarding the five-mile radius being the default without consideration for geography and non-contiguous citrus, etc. Etienne also suggested a meeting including Committee, CDFA, and USDA be held in the beginning of 2024 to discuss these issues.

### **Other Business:**

John C. Gless asked if Kurt Metheny has been formally added to the CPDPC. David Gutierrez reported his onboarding is in process, pending required documentation.

**Closing:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.