

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee  
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting  
February 17, 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*		

**Executive Committee Members Absent:**

Dr. Etienne Rabe

**CDFA Staff:**

Carl Baum*	Victoria Hornbaker*	Jana Miscevic*
Paul Figueroa*	Laura Irons*	Alex Muniz*
Jim Gorden*	Anmol Joshi*	Keith Okasaki*
David Gutierrez*	Sarah Kraft*	Michael Soltero*

**Other Attendees:**

Kevin Ball*	Dr. Subhas Hajeri*	Jasmine Lopez*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Geoffrey Hollenbeck*	Mia Neunzig*

\*Participated via webinar

**Opening Comments:**

Mark McBroom called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcoming the Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff. There were no public comments.

**Committee Member Elections**

Mark McBroom reported that Dr. Etienne Rabe expressed his desire to resign from his role as Vice Chairman of the Committee and move into Keith Watkins' Secretary Treasurer role. Victoria Hornbaker reported the Committee's by-laws do not allow for such a swap and that the standard election process would be required. Victoria clarified that Dr. Rabe would have to step down from his current Vice Chairman role, with a nomination and vote process following to elect the next Vice Chairman. Should Keith Watkins be elected Vice Chairman, the Secretary Treasurer role would be vacant, thus requiring another nomination and vote to fill the vacancy. Keith Watkins advised that he is happy to work on the Committee, whether as the Secretary Treasurer or the Vice Chairman. The matter will be discussed further when Dr. Rabe can provide input.

**Science Advisory Panel Report – Assignments**

Victoria Hornbaker reported that following the Science Advisory Panel report, the Committee created a matrix comprised of specific assignments and their responsible parties. She added that a joint Operations and Science Committee meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and that Dr. Weiqi Luo from the United States Department of

Agriculture--Agricultural Research Service will attend to speak about risk surveys. Victoria reported the next steps for risk survey procedures will be discussed further at the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Committee (CPDPC) meeting.

## **Grower Non-Compliance**

### Pre-Harvest Treatments

Mark McBroom asked the group to revisit current pre-harvest treatment methods for minimizing the spread of Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), specifically when moving fruit from heavily infested zones to lower risk zones.

Kevin Ball reported some counties are reporting issues with non-compliance, often with trucks coming in late at night with dirty or untreated fruit. He feels all mitigation and compliance enforcement methods should continue to be used and expanded upon. These concerns will be discussed at the next CPDPC meeting.

### Grate Cleaning Devices

John C. Gless reported that Riverside County deemed his staff were insufficiently trained to operate the grate cleaning device and ordered him to stop use. John asked for the Committee to work on a more uniform process for grate cleaning. Mark McBroom asked Victoria Hornbaker to comment on the current processes and if grate cleaning can be removed as an option.

Victoria Hornbaker summarized the current huanglongbing (HLB) mitigation requirements: 1) one mitigation method is required to move fruit within a contiguous HLB quarantine; 2) either a wet wash or two mitigation methods are required to move fruit outside of the HLB quarantine. Keith Okasaki added that the mitigation is a performance standard and as such, a specific mitigation method is not required. Current mitigation options include a wet wash, field cleaning by machine, grate cleaning, and a pre-harvest insecticide application. He noted that he is establishing a working group to explore HLB quarantine mitigation methods. Kevin Ball reported the grate cleaning option was initially added to help growers in areas without packing houses or field-wash options.

John C. Gless questioned the efficacy of grate cleaning and would prefer if it was not one of the approved methods. John stated he believes growers wanting to move fruit within an HLB quarantine zone should be able to do so without mitigation. John also relayed having difficulties with Riverside County and their grate cleaning requirements, which hindered his operations. Kevin Ball cautioned against removing mitigation methods but acknowledged that grate cleaning requirements/options should be revisited.

Mark McBroom and other committee members are concerned that County inspections of grate cleaning devices are inconsistent, resulting in unnecessary scrutiny of large and compliant growers, while violators are missed.

**Finance Subcommittee Report:**2021/2022 Expenditure and Revenue Reports:

Bob Felts, Jr. reported that the revenue for 2021/22 is \$1,554,113, which is slightly ahead of last year's revenue at this point. Expenditures through November 2022 are \$13,762,779, approximately \$2,500,000 more in expenditures than the prior year. Bob advised that Victoria has requested an increase in Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) funding, from \$12,500,000 to \$14,500,000, as well as requesting \$450,000 in funding from Citrus Commodity Survey.

Victoria reported that CPDPC did not get Citrus Commodity Survey funding for the second year in a row and that there is no update on the status of the CHRP fund increase request.

**Operations Subcommittee Report:**

John C. Gless stated that the bulk of the Operations Subcommittee report was already covered in the earlier discussion about grate cleaning and ACP mitigation methods. He added there is an upcoming Operations and Science Subcommittee meeting where more will be covered.

Mark McBroom asked for an update on the labor contractor compliance agreements. Keith Okasaki advised he received feedback from counties and will provide the updated agreements to the Committee for review when they are ready.

**Science Subcommittee Report:**

The Science Subcommittee report will be provided at the next meeting.

**Other Items:**

Mark McBroom asked Kevin Ball and/or Natalie DeAngelo to provide an update on Outreach activities. Natalie DeAngelo reported that Nuffer, Smith, Tucker (NST) is preparing for booths at events such as California Citrus Mutual Citrus Showcase and the California Association of Pest Control Advisers Spring Summit. Natalie advised that the Rancho Bernardo HLB detection and subsequent quarantine establishment led to a large amount of media interest, resulting in NST securing coverage in almost every broadcast station in San Diego County. Natalie reported there were 46 earned media stories, with 30 stories airing across five broadcast stations throughout the county, and 14 earned media stories with print publications or digital platforms. Natalie added that a media story aired on Fox Weather, which is a streaming platform, and that a media story was generated with yahoo.com. Natalie added that Victoria Hornbaker and Alex Muniz have both done media interviews and more outreach activities are planned and will be reported on at the next CPDPC meeting.

**Closing:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.