

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
April 7, 2023, Minutes**

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

Executive Committee Members:

Bob Felts, Jr.*	Mark McBroom*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*
John C. Gless*		

Executive Committee Members Absent:

Keith Watkins

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum*	Victoria Hornbaker*	Keith Okasaki*
Paul Figueroa*	Anmol Joshi*	ThuyVy Truong*
Alisha Garcia	Sarah Kraft*	Jason Wu*
David Gutierrez*		

Other Attendees:

Price Adams*	Jasmine Lopez*
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*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments:

Mark McBroom called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcoming Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff participating. There were no public comments.

Outreach Report:

Price Adams of Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) updated the Committee on outreach activities, noting that they have been extremely busy since the last Committee meeting. One of the highlights is the partnership with social media targeted influencers, mainly gardening influencers, and tapping into their network. The focus has been on multi-cultural audiences, who have a keen interest in gardening. NST worked with three influencers through Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube. They met with an influencer at Citrus Clonal Protection Program (CCPP) where they walked through the CCPP process for cleaning budwood, given the history of the program and the importance of sourcing certified budwood. NST and California Department of Food and Agriculture staff will be participating in multiple events over the next three months, including California Citrus Mutual Showcase, Highlands Citrus Harvest Festival, Citrus Festival at the Riverside Historic Park, the National Orange Show in San Bernardino, then California Association of Pest Control Advisors Spring Summit in Temecula, and California Strawberry Festival in Ventura. The NST team shared in a recent outreach subcommittee meeting the priority area for outreach for remainder of current contract,

which includes ag urban interface areas in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura, with potential hot spots in Monterey and Kern counties. There will be a focus on educating pest control advisors.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

2022/2023 Expenditure and Revenue Reports:

Bob Felts, Jr. reported that the revenue for 2022/23 is in December's expenditure increases by \$4 million, January \$3.1 million and in February \$3 million, for a total of \$23,878,000.

Revenue has increased since January's subcommittee meeting by \$4.2 million, total revenue is \$5.84 million, which is about 2 million cartons ahead of last year and 45 percent of the projected production for the season.

Cal Poly Pomona Biocontrol Rent Budget:

Bob Felts, Jr. asked Victoria Hornbaker to discuss the Cal Poly Pomona Biocontrol rent budget. Victoria noted that the program was not previously being charged rent, but that Cal Poly has requested space rental at \$600.00 per month.

Fund Condition Statement:

The fund condition statement that was previously shared with the Committee was incorrect in that it showed an anticipated credit to the ag fund. After careful and exhaustive review, it was determined that under the Pest Detection/Emergency Projects (PDEP) Branch in the Plant Division, the \$10 million one-time general fund was expended. Carl Baum noted that PDEP billed directly to the one-time general fund rather than moving ag fund expenditures to the general fund. Additionally, Carl noted that in 2017 PDEP overcharged the federal agreements, and that overage was taken out of the ag fund.

Carl is in the process of disencumbering existing contracts, to free up funding in the ag fund. In July 2022 carry into the ag fund was \$9.2 million. With the disencumbrances, the ag fund will gain about \$8.5 million. Staff will work on being more efficient and making sure encumbrances are as close as possible to anticipated expenditures.

Operations Subcommittee Report:

John C. Gless reported on the joint Operations and Science Subcommittee meeting where a discussion took place on effective bulk citrus cleaning within Huanglongbing (HLB) zone. He noted that Brad Carmen is chairing a working group to review the efficacy of cleaning bulk citrus in the HLB quarantine zone.

Science Subcommittee Report:

Dr. Etienne Rabe reported that the Science Subcommittee met on November 9, 2022, to discuss five topics from the December 1, 2022, meeting in Valencia, including commercial risk surveys, no mess traps, HLB genome typing, mass grove sampling and HLB regulatory review. He also noted that the ethyl formate label is being reviewed at

the Environmental Protection Agency and they have concerns with too many treatments in one area.

Closing:

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.