

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
July 17, 2024, Minutes**

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

Executive Committee Members:

Kevin Ball*	Mark McBroom*	Keith Watkins*
Bob Felts, Jr.*		

Executive Committee Members Absent:

John C. Gless

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum*	Anmol Joshi*	Nathan Rosenblum*
Amelia Everett*	Alex Muniz*	Michael Soltero*
David Gutierrez*	Keith Okasaki*	Jennifer Willems*

Other Attendees:

Price Adams*	Aaron Dillion*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Sara Kraft*	Nilan Watmore*

*Participated via Webinar

Opening Comments:

Keith Watkins called the meeting to order at 11:03 am., welcoming the Executive Committee, guests, and staff participating. There were no public comments.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

a. 2023/2024 Expenditure and Revenue Report:

Bob Felts, Jr. noted April expenditures increased by \$3,400,000, bringing the total year-to-date expenditures to approximately \$29,000,000. Most of the budget was used for Southern California treatment and Statewide regulatory. Keith Okasaki clarified that the increase was due to incorrect charges to the regulatory budget. The errors will be corrected and re-calculated. May expenditures totaled \$2,700,000, bringing the year-to-date to approximately \$32,000,000. Southern California treatment totaled \$57,700, and Statewide regulatory totaled \$41,000. Total year-to-date revenue is \$15,500,000, which is an \$8,000,000 increase.

b. 2024/2025 Budget Implications:

David Gutierrez stated that the state budget has passed and includes an eight percent reduction that will impact the Citrus Division's budget. Carl Baum explained the Governor's budget also includes approximately 10,000 statewide vacant positions to be

swept. To avoid permanently losing the vacant positions within the division, up to five positions were identified to be loaned out to the Plant Division for two years. This would allow the division to keep those vacant positions and maintain its associated funding. Additionally, David provided possible scenarios for operational reductions to better allow for a long-term sustainable budget. It was explained that there are three main funding sources, the general fund, grower assessments, and federal funding. Every year the program spends more than what is generated, approximately \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 deficit annually. David suggested realigning the operations with the committee's priorities and industry needs, including shifting resources. Bob Felts, Jr. recommended maintaining the assessment and propose it to the full committee. Kevin Ball seconded the motion, and it was unanimous.

A Strategic Planning meeting was to be held in late August, but committee members requested it be postponed to later in the fall.

Operations Subcommittee Report:

Kevin Ball noted they had a similar budget discussion during the operations subcommittee meeting. He also noted in Santa Clara County that there was a high participation rate during treatment activities.

Science Subcommittee Report:

Dr. Etienne Rabe noted there is nothing new to report.

Outreach Subcommittee Report:

Aaron Dillon noted that with the recent budget discussions, a realignment will see a reduction in the outreach budget. He stated that the grower liaison activities may also be impacted. He feels that grower liaisons are important in communicating new ACP finds. Budget options will be presented to the full committee before any reductions are made.

Member Attendance:

David Gutierrez noted that some committee members have not been active and/or been absent from multiple committee meetings and will send attendance list to the Chairman.

Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Closing:

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2024.