

CPDPC Executive Committee Webinar Meeting

September 5, 2019 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Jim Gorden at 1:00 p.m. on September 5, 2019. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance via webinar:

Executive Committee Members Present:

Bob Felts, Jr.

Jim Gorden

Dr. Etienne Rabe

Executive Committee Members Absent:

Mark McBroom

Keith Watkins

CDFA Staff:

Craig Hanes

Victoria Hornbaker

Sara Khalid

Other Attendees:

Price Adams

Holly Deniston-Sheets

Neil McRoberts

Opening Comments

Jim Gorden welcomed the Executive Committee, guests and staff participating in person and via webinar.

Science Subcommittee Report

Dr. Etienne Rabe noted that there will be a discussion of the Canine Team visit to Ventura County at the Science Subcommittee right after the Executive Committee meeting. He also noted that Holly Deniston-Sheets will give an update on the Data Analysis Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) meeting that will occur later in the month, including the items that will be covered at the Meeting. Etienne noted that he and Jim Gorden will both attend the DATOC meeting. He noted that Ethyl Formate is on track for registration toward the end of 2020.

Outreach Subcommittee Update

Victoria Hornbaker and Price Adams gave an update on the progress of the Outreach Contract. Victoria noted that the request for a one year extension was denied, so the program put together a request for proposal. Three companies applied, however, only two were responsive and scored. Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) won the contract. It will be a two-year contract and the budget is a little bit lower than past budgets. Price noted that NST was able to adjust the budget down because they have years of experience and know where they can achieve savings.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Bob Felts Jr. provided a summary of the information discussed at the September 3, 2019 Finance Subcommittee meeting. Bob stated that the expenditures through August 2109 are \$14,517,590. He noted that there is a lag in tracking the expenditures, but the program will implement a manual tracking program which should resolve this issue. Victoria noted that the FI\$Cal accounting system has only closed out expenditures through March, leaving five months that have not closed. There was discussion about ways to improve the tracking and reporting of the expenditures, including separating out the expenditures by funding source. Bob noted that there will be a follow up meeting on September 10, 2019 to go over the final budget for 2019-2020. Bob reported on the Fiscal Year 2018-19 revenue, noting that the revenue collected in August was \$619,424 and a total revenue to date of \$17,247,110, which is \$752,889 less than the total projected amount. Bob reviewed the 2019-2020 crop projection, noting that the July National Agricultural Statistics Service estimate is 193,000,000 cartons, and at \$0.09 per carton this would generate \$17,370,000 in revenue. He also noted that the program is expecting \$5,000,000 in state general funds and \$12,000,000 in federal Citrus Health Response Program funds. Victoria noted that the program has hired the Staff Services Manager, Carl Baum. Carl comes with tremendous experience and he starts September 16, 2019 and will immediately begin hiring his staff. The applications have already been vetted and interviews are scheduled. The Environmental Program Manager (EPM) II vacancy has been advertised and once the EPMII is hired, they will immediately begin hiring the EPMIs. As the Program fills the management and admin positions, Ray Leclerc and his staff will work on filling the field positions. Victoria noted that they hope to have all the positions filled by June 2020. Victoria also noted that she is looking for office space and securing fleet resources.

The group expressed concern about the budget uncertainty and the desire to have a better tracking system.

Operations Subcommittee Report

Jim Gorden provided an update on the Canine Team visit to Ventura County and he stated that an open discussion at the full Committee meeting will be needed. Etienne described the visit that occurred in Ventura, stating that the dogs alerted on 211 trees, which were removed by the growers. There are differences of opinion, but the main concerns were how the visit was communicated out, that the alerts were characterized as positive for Huanglongbing and that the tree removal was conducted without any regulatory involvement to prevent establishment of a quarantine and/or without conducting any scientific research on any of the trees.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.