

CPDPC Executive Committee Webinar Meeting

February 7, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Jim Gorden at 2:00 p.m. on February 7, 2020. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance via webinar:

Executive Committee Members Present:

Bob Felts*
Jim Gorden*

Mark McBroom*
Dr. Etienne Rabe*

Keith Watkins*

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum
Alisha Garcia
David Gutierrez
Ryan Fong

Amelia Hicks
Victoria Hornbaker
Gavin Iacono*
Anmol Joshi*

Sara Khalid
Jennifer Willems*

Other Attendees:

Michael Kulis*

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments

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

Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Update

Staffing

Carl announced the hiring of nine Senior Environmental Scientists (SES) Supervisors for all the Citrus Division district offices. Carl stated that the Pest Prevention Assistants and Environmental Scientist positions are in the process of being advertised. Statewide staffing is ongoing and vacancies from Pest Detection/Emergency Projects (PD/EP) are almost all filled. Mark McBroom asked if the Committee will be provided an Organization Chart with names, locations, and contact information. Victoria responded that a contact list will be provided for all management staff, including her, David Gutierrez, SES Supervisors and the Environmental Program Manager I's. Dr. Etienne Rabe asked what the current expected staffing level will be for the Citrus Division. Victoria responded that 226 was the original number of positions approved by the Committee in September 2018, but the current allocation is 161 permanent staff. Etienne asked if the Citrus Division expects the number of positions to be increased and proposed the Executive Committee meet to discuss the Organization Chart, future needs, and tasks for the program. Victoria explained the only authority the Citrus Division has at this time is for 161 positions and that any additional positions would have to be requested through the Governor's budget process. Jim noted staffing is a work in progress and ongoing discussions need to

continue for future staffing needs. Victoria anticipates all 161 positions should be filled by the end of April 2020.

Vehicles

Carl reported that the Citrus Division is working with PD/EP to determine which vehicles will move over with the existing PD/EP staff as they move to the Citrus Division. He reported that Departmental Services received a new Executive Order issued by the Governor tied to emission standards, that bans state agencies from purchasing vehicles from companies that do not voluntarily agree to California's emissions standards. This requires the Citrus Division to acquire several electric and electric gas hybrids. This has caused a delay in the Citrus Division receiving the expected lease vehicles. The Citrus Division will seek Short-Term rentals to offset the shortfall. Moving forward, the Citrus Division will be working to get more vehicle authority. 25 percent of the Division's fleet will have to be low/zero emission.

Office Search

Carl reported that since the last Executive Committee Meeting, that he, David, and Victoria had completed a second site search with Department of General Services (DGS). Citrus Division has also partnered with Inspection Services to help bring down the cost to Citrus for relocating, to help obtain more space at a cheaper rate, and to qualify for a larger space which increases access in the lease market. The Citrus Division is waiting for lease approval from the Department of Finance. It was asked if the office locations will need to be adjusted due to the low/zero emission vehicle ranges. Victoria responded with a breakdown of the field offices in Fresno, Visalia, Shafter, Ventura, San Diego, Los Angeles area, Riverside, Coachella, and a central location in Sacramento covering the Bay Area and Northern California. Victoria noted that the current office locations should adequately meet the Citrus Division's needs, as the fleet will also have standard gas-powered vehicles.

Discuss Outcomes from the Pest Control District Meeting

Etienne reported that a list of topics will be put together that the leaders of the different Pest Control Districts (PCD) need to consider and they will need to speak with their boards to determine if and where they can be of assistance. The Committee is looking to reconvene in San Bernardino either prior to or after the scheduled Committee Meeting the second week of March. Amelia Hicks has been tasked with working on developing maps of activities that will showcase gaps and/or overlapping activities. She has received some responses and is working to gather additional information. Bob Felts, Jr. asked if Victoria's summary could be released to the Executive Committee upon Etienne's review. Victoria responded she would also like to release the summary to the attendees of the PCD Meeting.

Finance Subcommittee Report

2018/2019 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob stated that the expenditures for the 18/19 Fiscal Year (FY) through September 30, 2019 were \$19,951,154. He noted that at the last meeting the Citrus Division was showing \$23,527,000, so the new amount is roughly a \$3,000,000 reduction in

expenditures. Carl explained to the Committee that the state fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 and with the close of June, unspent encumbrances were de-obligated, causing the reduction. In order not to give funds back to the legislature, the Citrus Division will encumber everything that has not been spent. This shows that the funds will be spent and therefore locks the funds from going back to the Legislature. Victoria added that funds are showing underspent, usually the Program would spend \$30-\$35 million. Ryan Fong is working with PD/EP on unreported charges to be sure it reflects an accurate budget. Bob reported that \$2,800 of 2018/2019 revenue was added in December, bringing the total to \$18,467,000 which is over the projected revenue.

2019/2020 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob reported expenditures for the 19/20 FY through January are \$5,695,814, an increase of approximately \$2.4 million from the last report. About \$1.3 million in expenditures occurred in November and about \$2 million in December. Keith Watkins asked for a comparison between 2019 and 2020 on expenditure tracking. Victoria responded the actual expenditures noted on the report of \$19,951,154 is from the state Fiscal system and that expenditures may be missing from PD/EP. Bob noted that when comparing the first three months, expenditures were higher than last year. Victoria clarified the expenditures reported for the 19/20 FY have been manually calculated and are more accurate. Citrus Division will be working closely with PD/EP to help determine what expenditures need to be charged to Citrus and to move them off of the assessment funds and on to general and federal funds. The Committee acknowledged the manual tracking will provide a clearer picture of the expenditures. Bob reported that revenues for 19/20 are up \$1,564,000 in January, a comparable number to 17/18 and 18/19. Total revenue for is \$3.35 million roughly, slightly ahead of revenue for 18/19.

Operations Subcommittee Report

Keith reported on the discussions at the Subcommittee meeting on the Quarantine Commodity (QC) Permit 1486 which allows the unmitigated movement of fruit into an Huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine zone for final packing. Growers in the Riverside area are concerned that growers using QC 1486 are using it to not spray. The Operations Subcommittee decided to recommend that the Committee revoke QC Permit 1486, therefore requiring the same mitigations to move into that Riverside HLB quarantine zone as for movement into all other quarantine zones.

Science Subcommittee Report

Etienne had no new updates to report. Victoria added the Data Analysis Tactical Operations Center is still working on the analysis of the southern California activities and plan to have a report provided by March.

Outreach Subcommittee Update

Mark reported that communication has improved, and that better messaging has been going out to the communities. It was proposed that as the program matures, the Committee may need to consider refining the Grower Liaison's roles. Victoria responded that a scope of work for the Grower Liaisons can be provided for clarity of the Liaison's duties. Mark discussed adding more resources such as UC Extension, Farm Advisors,

or Master Gardeners to amplify the message to the home owners and growers. Keith asked if the Grower Liaisons should have more of a role with working with non-growers. Keith expressed concern that most people he speaks with from southern California are unaware of the HLB problem and would like to see an assessment of overall knowledge in the urban environment. Mark responded that the residential outreach could be better, however, print and digital subscriptions are low, and there are not many TV ads on Asian citrus psyllid/HLB on the major networks in the larger southern California areas.

Other Business

Carl announced Alisha Garcia's appointment as the Staff Services Analyst to back fill Ryan's previous position.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m. The next meeting will be on March 6, 2020.