

CPDPC Executive Committee Webinar Meeting

March 6, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by David Gutierrez at 1:00 p.m. on March 6, 2020. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance via webinar:

Executive Committee Members Present:

Bob Felts* Dr. Etienne Rabe* Keith Watkins*
Mark McBroom*

Executive Committee Members Absent:

Jim Gorden

CDFA Staff:

Brian Bishop	Gavin Iacono*	Keith Okasaki
Ryan Fong	Stephanie Jacobs	Lea Pereira*
Alisha Garcia	Anmol Joshi*	Michael Soltero*
David Gutierrez	Sara Khalid	Claudia Vazquez*
Amelia Hicks		

Other Attendees:

Price Adams*

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments

Mark McBroom welcomed the Executive Committee, guests and staff participating in person and via webinar and went to Public Comment. There were no public comments.

Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Update

Staffing

David Gutierrez stated that all vacancies have been posted and all management positions have been filled except one Senior Environmental Scientist (SES) starting in Sacramento headquarters on Monday, March 11.

Office Search

David stated that an office for the Sacramento headquarters has been identified and the Citrus Division is working with the Department of General Services (DGS) to secure a lease. The Citrus Division will be joined in that office space by another California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Division to maximize use of the space.

Finance Subcommittee Report

2018/2019 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob Felts, Jr. stated the Finance Subcommittee met on March 3, 2020. Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 expenditures are \$25,189,000. The increase in FY 2018-19 expenditures is from the reallocation into the proper buckets. He added that the expenditure report is still \$10,000,000 short of expected expenditures, and likely inaccurate. He stated that there is no money coming out of the general fund expenditures, but this work is being put on hold due to a mid-year budget expenditures review. Ryan Fong explained that Citrus Division administrative staff are doing budget projections for the budget office and the redirection of Agriculture fund expenditures to the General fund will resume by Friday or earlier.

Bob explained that the move from the previous accounting system to the Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal) and the lack of communication on charges that should have been moved to the Citrus Division have resulted in an uncertain situation. Manual tracking will result in more clarity going forward, but FY 2018-19 remains in limbo. Ryan explained that Financial Services Branch has not closed out some months in FI\$Cal for 2018-19, and without the final numbers the results will be off.

2019/2020 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Ryan stated that FY 2019-20 expenditures are being manually tracked. Expenditures are up to date as CDFA staff receive them. He confirmed that there will be lag time in tracking invoices, despite manual tracking, due to contractors sending invoices after services are completed.

Bob stated that the program has spent \$5,700,000 as of the prior meeting, and \$7,800,000 in expenditures as of March. Revenues for the month of February increased by \$1,800,000, to a total of \$5,200,000. He added that this is slightly below the five-year average. He believes the projected revenue will be accurate.

Operations Subcommittee Report

Keith Watkins stated that the Operations Subcommittee meeting focused on regulated and unregulated movement of fruit to farmer's markets, and concerns about Riverside fruit being picked on weekends. He suggested that CDFA levy heavy fines against unregulated fruit movement. Mark McBroom stated that regulations on farmer's market vendors are laxer than on commercial growers, and this should be more equitable. He added that the local county is responsible for levying fines, and that the Committee should assist the Agricultural Commissioners in setting those guidelines.

Keith stated that quarantine lines can cut off growers from packinghouses, and the Committee should consider how to creatively help those growers. Mark suggested the Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) produce a report on fruit movement mitigation, noting there is no methodology for portable wet washes. Keith stated that DATOC presented a study on exposure, and the Operations Subcommittee requested they make a recommendation. David suggested that volunteers could focus on these items rather than relying on the full Operations Subcommittee, and Etienne recommended David, John C. Gless and Craig Armstrong.

It was stated that a grower complained about juice truck tarping being ineffective. Juice fruit is less likely to be problematic, but the grower noted that some field juicing will take place later in the season. Keith suggested CDFA regulatory staff relay this information to the Agricultural Commissioners.

Science Subcommittee Report

Dr. Etienne Rabe stated that the Ethyl Formate application should be submitted by the end of March, three months behind schedule. He believes the product will not be ready until after next season. Etienne stated that there will be another meeting between CDFA, CPDPC and the Pest Control Districts (PCDs) in Riverside next Wednesday. The focus will be on how PCDs and the Tristeza Eradication Agency can take over trapping duties in some areas. He stated that DATOC will be reporting on the efficacy of treatment and removal in Southern California. The consensus appeared to be that the program could go down to 240-meter delimitation and treatment at a 95 percent confidence. The current 400-meter radius was set based on Dr. Tim Gottwald's work, in which he indicated that a 320-meter radius would be adequate.

Outreach Subcommittee Update

Price Adams stated that she will present findings from last year's homeowner research at the full Committee meeting. She added that there is an upcoming meeting with the grower liaisons focused on addressing the 25-plus tree issue. She explained that Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) has performed outreach at farmer's markets within the Huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine but found significant pushback from retailers. She suggested working through farmer's market associations. Manning booths at farmer's markets regularly would be cost-prohibitive, but NST does hold individual in-market events over the summer, targeting communities with high HLB incidences. She believes that educating retailers about regulatory requirements would be better than educating farmer's market consumers.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 10, 2020.