

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC)
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
September 3, 2020 Minutes**

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

Executive Committee Members Present:

Bob Felts, Jr.	Jim Gorden*	Mark McBroom*
Dr. Etienne Rabe*	Keith Watkins*	

CDFA Staff:

Fidan Aghayarova*	Alisha Garcia*	Alex Muniz*
Fernando Berber*	David Gutiérrez*	Keith Okasaki*
Karina Chu*	Amelia Hicks*	Derek Schulz*
Kiana Dao*	Victoria Hornbaker*	Michael Soltero *
Paul Figueroa*	Anmol Joshi*	Claudia Vasquez*
Ryan Fong*	Zach McCormack*	Jennifer Willems*

Other Attendees:

Price Adams*	Jasmine Lopez*	Tyler Tkachuk*
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*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments:

Jim Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m. and welcomed the Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff participating via webinar. There were no public comments.

Finance Subcommittee Report

2019-20 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob Felts Jr. notified the Committee there was approximately \$18.9 million in expenditures to date for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year (FY), resulting in a remaining budget of \$21.5 million. He noted that there are approximately \$15 million in projected expenditures for the remaining FY, which will leave \$6.3 million of the budget unspent. Bob added that June 2020 is now closed in Fi\$Cal and the numbers are lining up closely with the manual tracking. August 2020 brought in \$961,000 in revenues, bringing the FY 2019-20 revenue total to \$17.2 million.

Bob also reported that the program is projecting to carry in approximately \$38 million in reserves to the upcoming fiscal year. This generated a discussion centering on the cutoff date for receipts from packing houses and which fiscal year they are counted in. It was clarified that the cut off is in January, so any receipts coming in after January 2021, will be included in FY 2020-21.

A recommendation will be made to the Full Committee that the assessment be lowered from nine (9) cents to eight (8) cents per 40-pound equivalent. The Finance Subcommittee asserts that the lower assessment would still generate sufficient revenue to maintain current operations and lessen the financial obligation to growers in these trying times.

2020-21 Budget Preparation

Bob also advised the Committee that the proposed budget for FY 2020-21 was set at \$42.2 million. Victoria Hornbaker added that a significant portion of the increase in the proposed budget was indirect costs that were not visible prior to Citrus Pest Disease and Prevention Division (CPDPD) becoming its own division.

Operations Subcommittee Report

Keith Watkins reported that CPDPD staff developed an HLB detection, treatment, and tree removal timeline of 50 to 70 days under optimal conditions. It was noted that COVID-19 has caused delays to treatment activities and CPDPD is looking into cost-effective and time saving procedures to streamline the process and reduce delays. He also noted that while most of the focus is on commercial groves, Dr. Monique Rivera has been working on a project which includes residential treatments. Dr. Rivera will make a recommendation to the Full Committee concerning changing the response treatment area.

Science Subcommittee Report

Dr. Etienne Rabe advised the Committee that Amelia Hicks has been working on a Pest Control District project and that she has identified three entities that seem to have capacity to take on program activities. Additionally, there have been some headwinds between the Environmental Protection Agency and California's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) regarding ethyl formate registration. Etienne mentioned that there is a draft DPR risk mitigation for neonicotinoid pesticides and he noted that there is work underway to look at neonicotinoid alternatives. Dr. Monique Rivera is looking at organic alternatives for Asian citrus psyllid control. With federal funding for the dog team program ending in October 2020, Lisa Finke will be presenting some of her findings to the Full Committee later this month.

Outreach Subcommittee Report

Mark McBroom reported that the Grower Liaison Working Group is drafting two questionnaires. The first questionnaire is for industry to evaluate grower liaison outreach and the second questionnaire is for the grower liaisons to self-assess their own job duties. Price Adams reported that it is not feasible to have a presence at all farmer's market across California. CDFA can contact and leverage agricultural associations to encourage enforcement and regulatory compliance amongst the gunny sack producers.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 8, 2020.