
**MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CALIFORNIA
CITRUS PEST and DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM
Doubletree Hotel; 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308

– This Meeting is Open to the General Public –
Contact: Duane Schnabel, CDFA (916) 654-1211

MINUTES

01 – CALL TO ORDER	10:00 AM	Bob Wynn, CDFA
--------------------	----------	----------------

02 – ROLL CALL	10:01 AM	Bob Wynn, CDFA
----------------	----------	----------------

13 representatives are here in attendance - 11 members and 2 alternates that can replace any member for any district.

Those present via teleconference:

Craig Armstrong, John Gless, Link Leavens, Earl Rutz (Alternate at Large), Don Barioni, Jr. (Alternate at Large).

Those present at the meeting:

Richard Bennett, Dan Dreyer, Bob Felts, Nick Hill, Mark McBroom, George McEwen, James McFarlane, Kevin Severns.

Others in attendance: Larry Bezark – CDFA, Ted Batkin – CRB, Jim Rudig – CDFA, Rick Jensen – CDFA, Inspection Services Division, Joel Nelsen – CA Citrus Mutual, Bob Wynn – CDFA.

Minutes and Notes: Beth Stone-Smith – Program Director USDA GWSS Program, Shine Huizar – Program Support Assistant USDA GWSS Program.

03 – PUBLIC COMMENTS	10:08 AM	Bob Wynn, CDFA
----------------------	----------	----------------

None

04 – WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS	10:09 AM	Bob Wynn, CDFA
----------------------------------	----------	----------------

On Behalf of Secretary Kawamura we would like to express our appreciation from CDFA on all of the work you folks have done to get this law passed and implemented.

You have been appointed because you are leaders in the industry. The decisions made by the Secretary will be based on your recommendations.

Five districts representing citrus industry.
Secretary makes decisions based on Board's recommendations.

AB 281 - Food and Ag Code, Division 4, Part 1, Chapter 9, Article 2, Sections 5911 – 5940.

5911 – Industry funded program

(d) This does not supersede federal/state program budgets.

Q: Craig Armstrong: What is the official ACP rating and how do we get that elevated?

A: Bob Wynn: ACP is an A-rated pest – the highest pest rating status available. This provides programs with an emergency status which gives specific exemptions (EIRs, etc) in order to move programs forward immediately. Those documents then have to be done for projects that continue long term, but we can respond immediately with emergency status.

5912 – Definitions

5913 – Citrus Disease Management Account.

5914 & 5915 – Will be talked about in Agenda Item 5.

5916 – The ability to create/adopt regulations based on recommendations from the Board. This may help in doing a lot in the program without having to go through the appropriate regulatory process.

5917 – Liability: Members are not liable for decisions made by the Committee.

5918 – Anything recommended by the Board will be funded by industry funds.

5919 & 5920 – Rick Jensen will talk about this in Agenda Item 11.

5921 – This Board currently was formed without a referendum process. No later than June 30, 2013 (every 4 years), the Secretary shall conduct a review process to determine whether or not operations of this article should be continued.

5922 – 5928 - Joel Nelsen: During the course of developing the legislation, workshops, meetings and discussions throughout the state, we were mindful that the growers have to ultimately make the decisions. We needed to get the program up and running so there's something the growers could evaluate. The referendum process is expensive so it is eliminated for now. If industry has a problem with what the Board is doing, then action can be taken to hold a referendum to determine the future of the activities. There is a specific mandate as to who and how, in terms of volume and numbers, this entity will exist. This saves industry money for now.

This has become the standard practice for all federal/state orders. Forty percent of producers have to participate to make it a legal referendum, 55 percent have to be in favor to pass or majority vote (representing 55 percent production) supports.

5929 – No Section

5930 & 5931– MOU between Tristeza agency and this committee – The intent is for this committee to address only citrus specific diseases and pests (this committee will not address Mediterranean fruit fly since it is a cross commodity). This committee will have to decide if this is going to continue to be a priority, will or will not fund/how to fund, etc. no later than July 1, 2011.

5940 – Provisions of this article are severable.

04 – CONTINUED: OPENING REMARKS

10:35 AM

Joel Nelsen, CCM

Joel Nelsen: CCM- opening remarks – watershed moment in our industry here in CA. Many have traveled to Florida and seen their devastation – debt of thanks to CRB and its involvement in HLB/ACP issue coming our way – have managed to keep this issue uncontroversial, but it will not stay that way, CRB should not have to bear that burden so this committee formed to deal with the controversy and move industry forward, all of you here for a purpose to address the pest and disease challenges this industry is going to face politically and from an agricultural perspective, challenge committee members to be involved, work the issues and do their homework...each of you selected first choice to serve...appreciate committee members time and effort.

Ted Batkin – CRB: I want to echo what Joel said. I was involved with ACP/HLB when it was still in Brazil and new to Florida. Had to get a structure set up to deal with pest disease triangle, threats here and those that are coming, CVC, citrus chlorosis, can get here just as easily as HLB, this committee is part of the vision to address new pest/disease issues so we can react quickly...working with Arizona and Mexico to protect CA agriculture (pathways coming in through our borders)...as an industry in order to protect it we have to look at issues from a global perspective...in conjunction with existing programs and augmenting programs as needed.

Q: Earl Rutz: Ted mentioned Arizona and Mexico – can we extend any funds there or are we bound by our geographic border?

A: Bob Wynn: You are bound by geographic border, but this committee is providing a resource to them (Arizona and Mexico) through CDFA. There are public dollars for use in CA.

Q: Link Leavens: In regard to the ACP infestation in LA basin – CDFA is prohibited from treatment in the basin. Does this committee have the power to augment those activities?

A: Bob Wynn: Yes, this committee can augment, but only limited by funds. USDA is limited on its ability to treat down there, but CDFA is not limited just don't have the funds to do full treatments. There is about \$1.4M for treatment...USDA's perception at this point is that they do not have the ability to treat because we have not satisfied the environmental requirements for treatments in urban areas.

Q: How much is needed?

A: Bob Wynn: I do not have that answer, but will send out that info following.

Richard Bennett asked for Bob Wynn's email – bwynn@cdfa.ca.gov

Comments:

Kevin Severns: I am on other committees funding projects/programs. My presence is not about a program and is not about getting some bureaucracy in place. It is about protecting CA and this industry from HLB/ACP and any other type of pest. At the end of the day, that is the number one mission that ACP does not get a foothold, buying time with research to get answer to the disease. There is a big weight of responsibility here.

Q: Mark McBroom: There is no one in Cochella Valley more concerned. We have had one property in CA so far that has ACP in commercial citrus (Imperial). We treated about 200 acres of mandarins in 2008. There is still one field not treated (minneola) due to rain/weather. There have not been any finds since the initial find. The thing that is most frustrating to us is that people say the traps don't work. The one find on KAO campground in Riverside County was a flush find and not on a trap. We need a better way to trap these insects (than blunder trap). Is there a way to devise a trap that is more of a flush? We need to be overly aggressive because this is going to be a costly nightmare in Imperial on quarantine treatments to move fruit around. We may use the GWSS traps as a model and try to cut this thing off now. We have only two commercial finds while all others have been back yard finds.

A: Bob Wynn: Ted Batkin and Larry Bezark will be doing presentations later regarding this in agenda item 12.

A: Ted Batkin: Regarding Mark's issues: We have been paying attention to these issues, color traps being tested. The traps are just a part of it. We are also using sweep vacs/visuals/etc. More information in the presentation to come.

Q: Craig Armstrong: One of the things I have been leery of in the desert is that there's a co-generation plant in Mecca and in El Centro. Waste management has been bringing green waste from San Bernardino/LA counties into the area, 200 loads/day (landscaping/wood chips). Can we monitor that somehow? What is the authority/jurisdiction?

A: Larry Bezark: The Exclusion Branch is involved in a number of regulatory activities. They have treatment/mitigation measures in place and compliance agreements in place. I will find out if these facilities are being monitored (trapped). I will get you in contact with Nick Condos for more info. This issue will also be addressed for Ventura County as well.

05 – MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP TERMS, 11:00 AM Bob Wynn, CDFA
POWERS AND DUTIES, AND PROTOCOLS

Committee made up of 17 members – 14 producer representatives – 3 additional members of whom the Secretary shall appoint (2 citrus nursery reps, one N, one S) and then a public member. Please refer to 5914 and 5915.

11:05 AM – MOTIONS / NOMINATIONS

MOTION	AREA	NOMINEE	SECOND	IN FAVOR
Craig Armstrong	Southern	Brian Specht	Mark McBroom	12 in favor Unanimous
Link Leavens	Southern	Larry Rose	Richard Bennett	
Earl Rutz	Northern	Kevin Olsen	Nick Hill	Unanimous

Joel Nelsen: California Citrus Mutual supports both Brian Specht from the south and Kevin Olsen from the north.

Bob Wynn: John Duarte sent in a letter of recommendation to consider Ms. Tia Russell as a nomination.

Ted Batkin: Public member example: The CRB's history of public members has had fantastic results. The member should have either an academic or technical background. I recommend taking time, discussing and interviewing the potential nominees.

Joel Nelsen: Suggestions that have been submitted to the CCM for the public membership are Beth Grafton-Cardwell and Gary Kunkel. The individual selected needs to bring strength to the group.

Committee agrees to wait and discuss to make a decision – Nick Hill concurs.

Bob Wynn: Oaths have to be notarized and submitted as soon as possible. Section 5914 (e) explains how the initial membership terms will be carried out.

Section 5915 (b) – Bob Wynn: Develop a statewide citrus specific pest and disease work plan. The Board needs to discuss how this will be implemented because this is going to be an ongoing process. Suggestion: This can be done today or at a later date by developing a subcommittee to work with CDFA/USDA operational experts to further develop and encompass community outreach/education and operational aspects to the work plan.

Ted Batkin: There is already a Statewide Task Force in place. I would suggest coordinating with existing programs that are in place (operations, outreach, regulatory) as to not reinvent the wheel. This is at the state level and not at the national level. These existing programs are at the Board's disposal so that at the end of the day there is a single set of plans.

Bob Wynn: That is a great recommendation. These groups have written work plans already that will help. Suggestion: Find a way to integrate this committee into those existing arms of the statewide Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Larry Bezark will send out information/documents to the committee regarding the programs and resources that are available through the Statewide Task Force (Ted Batkin will help).

5915 continued...

Bob Wynn: The Committee will receive full disclosure of all program expenditures: State, Federal, Citrus Research Board, etc.

5915 (c)(d)

Joel Nelsen: This is the area that gives the committee the ability to look at the entire action plan for the state and determine if the state is doing everything needed to combat pest/disease. If there is a shortfall, the Committee has the power to fill voids by recommending or contracting with private individual, county, etc.

06 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

11:35 AM

Bob Wynn, CDFA

Kevin Severns: The Chairman should be someone from San Joaquin Valley (SJV). It is a citrus producing area, and from an operational stand point, it is closer to the CRB, etc.

Nick Hill has a great deal of leadership in our industry. He was chairman of California Citrus Mutual and is currently going through the Agricultural Leadership process. He has been to Florida and Argentina and seen their issues. He sits on a couple of boards of packing houses and is an efficient leader. Hill is based out of the Reedley/Dinuba area of SJV.

Kevin Olsen supports that Nick Hill would be an excellent choice and the best course of action to elect him.

11:38 AM – MOTIONS / NOMINATIONS

MOTION	OFFICER	NOMINEE	SECOND	IN FAVOR
Kevin Severns	1 st Chairman	Nick Hill	Mark McBroom	Unanimous
Richard Bennett	1 st Chairman	Earl Rutz	Unable to do so he is an Alternate at Large	
Craig Armstrong	1 st Chairman	Jim Gorden	Unable to do so he is the chairman of CRM. Not sure if he has time.	

LUNCH BREAK

11:40 AM

Nick Hill, Chairman

Reconvene at 12:10 PM.

06 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS
(Continued)

12:15 PM

Nick Hill, Chairman

Nick Hill: next agenda item is to discuss a Vice chair and a Sec/Treasurer position.
Sec/Treasurer will be in close contact with State, preferably someone with financial background.

12:18 AM – MOTIONS / NOMINATIONS

MOTION	OFFICER	NOMINEE	SECOND	IN FAVOR
Link Leavens	Vice Chairman	Craig Armstrong	Mark McBroom	Unanimous
George McEwen	Secretary/Treasurer	Richard Bennetts	James McFarlane	Unanimous

Chairman Hill: Terms for the officers: We will consider Ted's recommendation for an initial two-year chairman term with an option to reelect every year since everything is just getting off the ground.

Suggestions:

Earl Rutz: To spread out length of term around different areas of the state so rotation out isn't all in one area. I agree with the initial two years with an annual renewal option.

Don Barioni: Expressed that there is a need to have an individual from the southern California district to continuously serve on the Committee.

Bob Wynn: There is nothing in the bill language that precludes a member from being re-nominated for another term.

Chairman Hill: The Committee needs to have a nominating committee to be appointed to flush out issues on timing/terms/area.

12:30 PM – MOTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION	RECOMMENDATION	SECOND	IN FAVOR
Dan Dreyer	To adopt a policy of a two-year term for board officers with the option to re-elect yearly.	Mark McBroom	Unanimous

07 – ESTABLISHMENT OF
TERMS OF MEMBERS

12:33PM

Nick Hill, Chairman

Chairman Hill: We will appoint a nominations committee. The Nominations Committee will address the terms of the members. They will have recommendations as to how the members

Osama El-lissy is the point person from USDA and he put the industry leadership in charge to reach an agreement. USDA will then stand by that agreement.

The final policy making board for CHRP is comprised of Ted Batkin (CRB), Mike Wootton (Sunkist), Ray Prewitt (TX Citrus Mutual), Joel Nelsen (CA Citrus Mutual), and Mike Sparks (FL Citrus Mutual).

Bob Wynn: Dallas meeting – all of the CA industry was there. Helene has an excellent relationship with Obama from USDA. She had to reduce the funding amount that CA wanted to \$14.5M. The original CA proposal was for \$17.5M. CA spent \$1.45M for treatments. The LA basin treatments are significant, but CDFA does not have sufficient funding. The USDA funding cannot be used for treatment but, USDA is being flexible regarding the program's needs.

Joel Nelsen: Stated that the USDA is committed to this issue, and with new leadership in place with Secretary Vilsack, they will ask for more funding than what was appropriated earlier for FY 2010/2011.

Bob Wynn: Farm Bill 10201 was just introduced, which allocates funding for pest surveillance and detection based on risk. CA received approximately \$13.4M to fund measures such as dog teams (\$6M). One of the reasons the dog team money was increased was due to a recent detection of ACP found in luggage in Fresno.

Q: Craig Armstrong: What is the nursery industry doing? Are they lobbying for funds? Is it parallel to what the citrus industry is trying to do?

A: Joel Nelsen: Tom O' Brien, who worked for CDFA, accessed some funding out of the Farm Bill, and is developing creative ideas and exploring insurance programs. Nothing is definitive yet, but there is support for citrus industry work.

Kevin Olsen: In regard to the nursery industry, there is a fair amount of disparity about how this should be handled since there is less unity compared to the common grower community.

11 – ASSESSMENTS

1:00PM

CDFA Staff

5919 – During the first marketing season, beginning February 1, 2010, and ending September 30, 2010, the monthly assessment to be paid by producers shall be one cent (\$0.01) per carton based on a 40 lb. carton equivalent produced. This assessment will be remitted to CDFA and deposited into the Citrus Disease Management Account at CDFA. The funds in this account can only be used for the purposes set forth in the law. After September 30, 2010, the Committee may recommend to the Secretary, an increase in the assessment not to exceed nine cents per 40 lb. equivalent. CDFA will collect the assessments retroactive to October 9, 2009.

Rick Jensen – CDFA – Inspection Services: Having a long history of collecting assessments from packers/handlers, I did not want the industry to have to write two checks, so the program is trying to streamline the process. A form example was provided – based on shipments from October 9, 2009 through January 31, 2010. A new system of submitted payments will not be ready until March 31, 2010 that combines current process of payments with this new assessment.

Kevin Severns: Sees problems with this. If the producer is defined as a grower, then this may be an issue. If a packing house has to remit what has already been packed for a grower and that grower has moved on to another packer, then packers have already closed their pools out so going back and assessing them retroactively will be difficult.

Rick Jensen: I will work with whatever decisions are made. I am just here to facilitate the process of collecting the assessment by building an online remittance to make things easier that will do the calculations and will convert your 40 pound shipments to total for you...based on how many units and weight specified, the system will do a conversion factor to 40 pound assessment value.

Q: Chairman Hill: Has there been any outreach to packing houses?

A: Joel: They've been waiting for instructions on where to send the check.

Bob Wynn: A letter was mailed out, letting handlers know about the one cent assessment. Handlers are going to get two letters stating information about the assessment collection from October 9, 2009 through January 31, 2010 and a second letter covering February 2010 (it is expected that a web-based system for collecting the assessments will be in place in the spring).

Chairman Hill: Smaller producers are in the loop. I think they have gotten most of the smaller packers identified...working with county commissioners, CCM, CRB, etc...working on wildcat shippers not getting through the system without being assessed.

Wants copy of handler letter – passing out now

ACTION ITEM: E-mail to phone participants and those not present at meeting: Letter from Robert Leavitt dated December 16, 2009, describing AB281's formation and CDFA Inspection Services updating of the standardization assessment form to include AB281's assessment.

Those on the phone or absent:

- Armstrong, Craig
- Gless, John
- Gorden, Jim
- Gunderson, Gus
- Leavens, Link
- Rabe, Dr. Etienne
- Rutz, Earl
- Barioni, Don Jr.

Ted Batkin: Even if field direct to packing house for juicing, those are known/captured for assessment...a freeze year this may be an issue if grower calls juicer directly.

Joel Nelsen: \$1.75-2.2M revenue stream is predicted for the one cent assessment.

Larry Bezark provided a PowerPoint presentation describing the biology of the insect and disease and described the overall elements of CDFA's current detection and treatment activities. A copy of the PowerPoint was provided in the packets.

Ted Batkin from CRB provided a PowerPoint presentation describing in detail the Board's outreach activities.

An electronic copy of both presentations will be provided on a compact disc at the next meeting.

13 – OTHER ITEMS	2:20PM	Nick Hill, Chairman
------------------	--------	---------------------

None

14 – ADJOURNMENT	2:30PM	Nick Hill, Chairman
------------------	--------	---------------------

Meeting adjourned.