

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Minutes

Meeting/Conference Call

California Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee

Held on Wednesday, April 14, 2010

DoubleTree Hotel, 3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308

CCP&DPC

Members Present: Craig Armstrong*, Don Barioni*, Jr., Richard Bennett, Dan Dreyer, Bob Felts, John Gless, Jim Gorden, Gus Gunderson, Nick Hill, Link Leavens, Mark McBroom*, George McEwen, James McFarlane, Kevin Olsen, Dr. Etienne Rabe, Earl Rutz, Brian Specht*, Kevin Severns

*Denotes attendance via conference call

OTHER ATTENDEES

Jill Barnier, Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Bob Blakely, Adriana Boyajian, Vic Corkins, Kathy Kosta, MaryLou Polek, Jennifer Romero, James Rudig

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Nick Hill called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the Committee. A quorum was present. There were introductions of members and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Nick Hill welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Bob Wynn introduced Kathy Kosta, California Department of Food Agriculture (CDFA) Primary State Plant Pathologist, who came today to talk about our HLB response plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nick Hill called for a vote on the approval of the last two sets of meeting minutes. Two amendments were made, adding Jim Sebesta, Sunkist Growers and Dr. Rabe's last name to the March 3, 2010 minutes. Dan Dreyer moved the minutes be approved as corrected and the motion was seconded by Kevin Olsen. The motion to accept the approval of the minutes was unanimously passed by the Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT AND FORM 700

Larry Bezark, CDFA, explained the procedures and protocols for the completion of the state travel expense claim forms. Larry also discussed the requirement for Board members completion of the State Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests.

AB 604 AND APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE REGARDING THIS COMMITTEE

Bob Wynn explained details regarding AB604 and AB281.

The original bill, AB281, had language in it that provided a road block for us to use any of your assessment funds, without specific appropriation by the legislature. AB 604 provides for this appropriation.

OVERVIEW OF CDFA ACP-HLP PROGRAM

Larry provided a few slides showing an overview of the current CDFA ACP-HLB Program, and pictures of citrus from a back yard in Buena park, Orange County. He gave details on the current operations (treatments, trapping and quarantine activities) of CDFA and then discussed the situation regarding the recent HLB samples analyzed by CDFA and USDA labs, and finally gave an overview of a research conference call that morning regarding identification protocols for the HLB samples. It was agreed that Debby Tanouye, Chief of the CDFA Pest Detection and Emergency Projects Branch would provide answers to specific questions regarding the operations, at the next meeting.

The issue of communications came up during the lengthy follow-up discussion and it was suggested that Chairman Hill be appointed to the HLB Task Force Communications committee.

OVERVIEW OF CRB RESEARCH PROGRAM

Ted Batkin presented an overview of the Citrus Research Board ACP-HLB Program, trapping, data collection and then discussing in detail communications efforts.

New Outreach Functions

Increase outreach to state and local officials
Media tour in May,
Producing more materials,
Engaging master gardeners in Orange County,
Working with Ventura County working group,
Looking to form new county workgroups

Message to homeowners; it's about saving the grandma's tree (not saving paramount Citrus).

A recent National Research Council report now available on line was discussed. The strategy that the NRC report focused on was Florida and how to direct their research

She discussed the following components of the plan, and what the response would be when:

HLB Detected in an ACP or in a plant within the ACP Quarantine area:

ACP tests positive for HLB on or around an ACP host

Host plant tests positive for HLB

HLB Detected in an ACP or plant outside of the ACP Quarantine Area:

ACP tests positive for HLB

Host plant tests positive for HLB in the Absence of ACP

REPORT FROM THE CHRP COUNCIL

Ted Batkin presented an update on the CHRP Council, that is continuing to work on the funding issues to get an augmentation on the APHIS funds for next fiscal year, starting 1 October. They are looking to increase the California contribution from \$14.5 to hopefully somewhere around 17 to 18 million.

Under the science and technology working group, there's going to be a national workshop held in June in Denver on the 16th, 17th, and 18th. The purpose of that workshop is to bring together, all of the research from all of the different agencies, whether it be the Florida funding group, California's, or the USDA.

OTHER ITEMS

There was discussion of the formation of local or regional pest control districts and what efforts have been made to date.

There was discussion about the need for a meeting to bring all committee members up to the same level of knowledge regarding the pest and disease complex.

DATE & LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Wednesday May 12, 2010 to be held in Bakersfield, CA beginning at 10:00 am. The venue will be announced at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.