

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Minutes

Meeting/Conference Call

California Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee

Held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Doubletree Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Avenue; Ontario, CA 91761

CCP&DPC

Members Present: Craig Armstrong, Richard Bennett, Dan Dreyer, Bob Felts, John Gless, Gus Gunderson*, Mark McBroom, George McEwen, James McFarlane, Earl Rutz, Brian Specht, Kevin Severns*.

OTHER ATTENDEES

Bob Atkins, Joe Barcinas, Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Steve Birdsall, Thomas Chao, Vic Corkins, Louise Fisher, Nancy Holland*, Brett Kirkpatrick, MaryLou Polek, Jim Rudig, John Snyder*, Brian Taylor, Magally Luque-Williams, Connie Valenzuela*, Bob Wynn.

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Craig Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:10 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

There were no public comments.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Acting Chairperson Craig Armstrong welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *Dan Dreyer moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Bennett and passed unanimously.*

UPDATE OF CDFA ACP-HLB OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Larry Bezark gave a brief update on the CDFA ACP-HLB Program operations and activities. He discussed the new finds in San Diego and Los Angeles counties and showed a slide that indicated where treatments in Imperial County have been completed. Larry indicated that to date approximately \$280,000 of the \$500,000 allocated by the Committee for treatments in Imperial County had been spent. CDFA has been working to complete the new treatments, and because the funding could not be used until June 7th, all the funds could not be expended by the end of June as was indicated in the Committee motion.

There was discussion regarding extending the timing of the initial funding.

MOTION: *Earl Rutz moved that the Committee recommend to the Secretary to extend the spending of the \$500,000 previously approved to augment CDFA treatment for infested properties and those within 400 meters in Imperial County, without a date limitation. The motion was seconded by John Gless and passed unanimously.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Craig Armstrong indicated that there was no new information regarding the Action Plans. There was some discussion regarding the tagging of plants and single delivery point. CDFA will follow-up.

MOTION: *James McFarlane moved that the committee approve the ACP Response Plan (revised 6-1-10) and the HLB Response Protocol (revised 6-15-10) prepared by CDFA staff. The motion was seconded by Brian Specht and passed unanimously.*

Kevin Severns indicated that for the Citrus Research Board (CRB) Transition Subcommittee, there had been some discussion and there was a need to go back to the subcommittee.

Dan Dreyer gave a short report for the Communications Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has a DRAFT Request For Proposal (RFP) to use as a *template*. They will meet and then make a presentation at the next full Committee meeting.

Mike Rose and Teresa Siles (of Nuffer, Smith, Tucker) provided a PowerPoint presentation on outreach for the CRB. They covered stakeholder research, communication outreach plan development and implementation. Rose explained their objectives, strategy and positioning platform. They also highlighted the May, 2010 media campaign and showed images of Ted Batkin during several media interviews.

LUNCH

MANAGER DUTY STATEMENT UPDATE

James McFarlane provided a handout of the General Manager *Job Description*. He discussed the elements of the description and solicited comments at the meeting. CDFA staff will send an electronic copy to all Committee members for their review and comment. There was discussion regarding the scope of the job duties especially in regard to Tristeza issues. Bob Atkins suggested that a webinar process could be used for future documents that required editing by the group.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Craig Armstrong led the discussion regarding the public member. Steve Birdsall's name had been previously proposed. Earl Rutz nominated Ed Civerolo from USDA, ARS. There was general discussion. John Gless suggested the candidates provide resumes and a statement as to what the candidates bring to the committee.

MOTION: *Mark McBroom moved that the Committee table making a decision regarding a "Public Member" to the Committee at this time and place this issue as an action item for the next meeting. The motion was seconded by George McEwen and passed unanimously.*

BUDGET/ASSESSMENT

Bob Wynn went over the financial documents provided in the packets. Bob reviewed the total current assessments accrued. Larry Bezark created an excel spreadsheet that showed \$1,171,468.27 in assessments collected to date and current expenditures at \$827,897, which leaves \$343,571.27 available.

There was discussion of developing a 'corporate budget' to help with Committee planning. There was also a request for information on how many dollars would be collected if the assessment were to be raised to various levels (up to the 9 cent maximum). It was suggested that the Finance Sub-committee work with CDFA staff to build a Budget for the next meeting.

There was also discussion of completing the work begun in Imperial County, and

providing funds for treatment of strategic ‘hot spots.’”

MOTION: *Earl Rutz moved that the Committee recommend to the Secretary the emergency allocation of \$170,000 of Committee assessment funds for ACP treatments based on “strategic needs” that best protect commercial citrus production areas. The motion was seconded by Mark McBroom and passed unanimously.*

GREENWASTE UPDATE

Larry Bezark presented a PowerPoint created by Amber Morris of the CDFA Exclusion Branch. This presentation covered recent policy changes for green-waste movement, including ACP/HLB, LBAM, SOD and other pests.

REPORT FROM THE CHRP COUNCIL

Ted Batkin provided an update on efforts to continue USDA dollars coming into California.

Ted believed a continuing resolution from USDA was likely for the new federal fiscal year. The expectation was for similar funding to come to California (this was approximately \$14 million overall with around \$11 million going to California after USDA takes out overhead, etc.). An increase in funds for California was requested in order to net \$13 to \$14 million. This request may be granted, but only if there is no continuing resolution. Ted added the following highlights:

- Citrus Blackspot regulations; APHIS is working well with California
- HLB: possible suspect positive find in Veracruz, samples are going through final confirmation testing.

Bob Wynn discussed multi-National progress with Mexico. Wynn said he has a CD with major points of the meeting, and will send it to committee members. There will be a Government/Industry meeting held in September.

OTHER ITEMS

Ted Batkin invited everyone to the CRB Lab-Riverside for a tour and dedication this afternoon.

DATE & LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Monday, August 23, 2010 to be held in Bakersfield, CA. An additional meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 15th, 2010, also to be held in Bakersfield. Both meetings will begin at 10 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.