

California Department of Food and Agriculture

DRAFT Minutes

Meeting/Conference Call

California Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee

Held on Monday, August 23, 2010

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

CCP&DPC

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

* Denotes attendance via conference call

OTHER ATTENDEES

Jill Barnier, Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Steve Birdsall, Nick Condos, Vic Corkins, Jim Cranney, Margie Davidian, Louise Fisher, Garff Hathcock, Jake Jeffries, Joel Nelsen, Carlos Ortiz*, MaryLou Polek, Jim Rudig, Lynn Sanderson, Anthony Vasquez, Scott Woods, Bob Wynn.

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Nick Hill called the meeting to order at 10:05 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

Chairperson Nick Hill welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *George McEwen moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the July 27, 2010 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by John Gless and passed unanimously.*

UPDATE OF CDFA OPERATIONS PROGRAM

Larry Bezark, CDFA, provided an overview of statewide trapping, and treatment activities in San Diego, Imperial and Los Angeles counties. Larry reviewed:

- Estimated costs for potential future treatments in Los Angeles
- Estimated costs for potential future treatments in San Diego

Discussion followed, including the need for a scientific review and analysis of the potential treatment alternatives. This would assist the Committee in determining the best use of the assessment funds.

Ted Batkin suggested a workshop to get input from the ACP Task Force Science & Technology Subcommittee. Richard Bennett agreed with Ted and specifically requested assistance from the ACP Task Force Science & Technology Subcommittee.

Additionally, Chairman Hill requested more CDFA staff attend future meetings to answer questions.

The Department was asked to provide detailed budget information for the next meeting that includes sources and allocation of funds for ACP.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

CRB Transition Subcommittee Kevin Severns

Kevin stated there was nothing new to report. The Committee was waiting for progress on the manager position. Discussion followed. There is no consensus regarding which functions should move from the CRB to the CDFA. Functions include laboratory, field trapping and communications/outreach. Chairman Hill requested the Committee come to a decision on this issue.

MaryLou Polek told the Committee that the CRB lab Certification by APHIS was expected to be completed by the end of September.

Communications Subcommittee Kevin Olsen

Kevin Olsen provided a handout, and went over the elements of the Subcommittee recommendations. Basically, the Committee recommended CRB continue their communication and outreach with the firm of Nuffer/Smith/Tucker.

Nick Hill mentioned that growers are in need of outreach. They need more information

as to what is being done by the Committee.

Discussion followed. The following suggestions were made:

- There needs to be one “go-to” site
- E-mail blasts and websites would help
- Mailers would also be helpful for those without computer access

Ted Batkin gave a PowerPoint presentation on outreach strategies, including budget estimates for next year, trade shows and media events.

Kevin Olsen will meet with Beth Grafton-Cardwell from UC and will report back to the full Committee at the next meeting.

Finance/Budget Subcommittee Richard Bennett

Richard indicated he had received information from Larry Bezark, regarding 3 or 4 scenarios for raising assessments.

Bob Wynn discussed the possibility of using some of the Federal funds for treatments. The USDA, APHIS environmental assessment is not yet completed. Once completed, the assessment will go out for the 30-day public comment period.

MANAGER DUTY STATEMENT

James McFarlane

James handed out the 3rd revision of the Manager Duty statement. He did not receive any additional edits via e-mail since last meeting. Some minor edits were suggested, by the Committee.

LUNCH

REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

Nick Condos, Chief, Exclusion Branch, CDFA

Nick presented a PowerPoint presentation describing the regulatory and exclusion efforts being conducted by the CDFA Exclusion Branch.

There was discussion regarding zero leaf tolerance and the issue of the difference between inspectors in interpreting the rules. Nick commented on current USDA ARS “Risk Assessment” research, which should help evaluate the actual risk of ACP/HLB movement from stems and leaves after fruit moves from a packing facility.

BUDGET/ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Bob Wynn, CDFA, provided an overview of assessments collected to date and expenditures by the committee to date.

Larry reviewed the treatment expenses in Imperial County to date. CDFA expenditures had exceeded the \$500,000 authorized by the Committee. It was noted that an additional \$150,000 would be needed from either the Committee or the CDFA Emergency Fund to cover these costs.

Discussion followed. The Committee had previously approved \$170,000 treatment expenditure. While some felt Imperial County treatment was an appropriate use of funds it was agreed the CDFA should have notified the Committee in advance, if the funding was to be requested of the Committee and not the E-Fund.

MEXICO MEETING UPDATE

Jim Cranney, CCQC, presented a PowerPoint with emphasis on a regional approach to ACP and HLB management.

REPORT FROM THE CHRP COUNCIL

Joel Nelsen reported that while there is still hope for added funds; expect the same funding level as last year. Joel also stated the USDA final ruling on nursery regulations is scheduled to appear in the Federal register in the next 60 days. APHIS hopes to publish the zero leaf tolerance rules in the next few weeks (and will incorporate the research currently being done). Nelsen reported the finding of sweet orange scab in Texas.

PUBLIC MEMBER VACANCY

There was discussion regarding the public member vacancy. The question of an alternate for the public member was also discussed.

Mark McBroom and Don Barioni provided support for Steve Birdsall, and Earl Rutz provided support for Ed Civerolo.

MOTION: *Don Barioni moved that the Committee recommend to the Secretary the appointment of Stephen Birdsall (El Centro, CA) to the vacant Public Member position on the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee. The motion was seconded by Bob Felts and passed with two members voting against.*

MOTION: *Earl Rutz moved that the Committee recommend to the Secretary the appointment of Ed Civerolo, USDA-ARS as an Alternate Public Member on the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee. The motion was seconded by Jim Gorden and passed unanimously.*

OTHER ITEMS

Kevin Olsen reported that the CRB operations committee has developed job description/qualifications for a regional ACP management coordinator. A handout was

shared with the committee members.

Ted Batkin shared preliminary budget figures for the CRB operations of:

- Field Survey
- IT
- Laboratory

DATE & LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, September 15, 2010, to be held in Bakersfield, CA, at the Doubletree Hotel starting at 10 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman specifically thanked the subcommittee chairmen for their hard work.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.