

California Department of Food and Agriculture

DRAFT Minutes

Meeting/Conference Call

California Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee

Held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010

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

CCP&DPC

Members Present: Craig Armstrong, 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, Kevin Severns.

* Denotes attendance via conference call

OTHER ATTENDEES

Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Bob Blakely, Vic Corkins, Jake Jeffries, Marilyn Kinoshita, Shirley Kirpatrick, Robert Leavitt, Carlos Ortiz*, MaryLou Polek, Jim Rudig, 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

Larry Bezark 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. He encouraged members to work with their growers to let them know what the committee is doing; reiterating his concern that everyone out there is not always aware of the committee's actions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: James McFarlane moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the August 23, 2010 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Craig Armstrong and passed unanimously.

BUDGET/ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Larry Bezark, CDFA, provided an overview of assessments collected to date and expenditures by the committee to date. The Chairman requested that future iterations of the minutes include the dollar amounts.

Assessment totals were \$1,394,807 collected to date, \$1,002,318 spent, leaving a reserve of \$392,490.

BUDGET/ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

Larry Bezark, CDFA, coordinated the discussion which included presentations from:

- Debby Tanouye, CDFA Pest Detection/Emergency Projects; presented information on Program trapping, survey and treatment activities in Imperial, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties.
- Kevin Hoffman, CDFA, Primary State Entomologist; presented information on the ACP/HLB Task Force Science and Technology Advisory Subcommittee September 10, 2010 conference call.
- MaryLou Polek, CRB; added information regarding the ACP/HLB Science and Technology Advisory Subcommittee conference call.

Considerable discussion followed regarding the various presentations and the relationship between possible treatment protocols (400 meter vs 800 meter). The required budgets for each protocol and the assessment levels required to manage these budgets was also thoroughly reviewed.

AMENDMENT (November 4, 2010): Dr. Rabe re-initiated discussion of the Committee's role in guiding CDFA program operations.

Dan Dreyer went over the financial information compiled by Ted Batkin for CRB outreach, and operations., Ted developed a spreadsheet that included CDFA administrative costs, funds needed for potential treatments, CRB costs, and anticipated revenue based on assessments at \$0.09 per 40 pound carton equivalent. The spreadsheet was interactive so changes were made to the spreadsheet shown on the screen while discussions ensued. **AMENDMENT (November 4, 2010): replace box with "cartons produced."**

MOTION: Mark McBroom moved that the Committee recommend to the Secretary an increase in the assessment rate from \$0.01 to \$0.09 per 40lb box equivalent for the crop year beginning October 1, 2010. The motion was seconded by Earl Rutz and passed unanimously.

MOTION: James McFarlane moved that the Committee recommend to the Secretary an annual budget for the crop year beginning October 1, 2010, of \$16,283,257 (attached). The motion was seconded by Kevin Severns and passed unanimously.

Chairman Hill requested that each Committee Member go back to “their” respective packing houses and explain the actions taken by the Committee and the specific reasons for these actions.

There was discussion of the issue of movement of bulk fruit and the recently published exclusion advisory on leaf tolerance. Chairman Hill requested CDFA to address the issue of “bin equivalents” for bulk shipments. Robert Leavitt indicated that CDFA had discussions with USDA and the Department of Homeland security. A major point of concern is that the tolerance is based on a “per bin determination” and we are working to re-define what exactly defines a “bin”.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TERMS

Chairman Hill indicated that there are 2 member terms that expire at the end of September and will need to be filled. Larry Bezark discussed the process and told the group that CDFA will advertize the fact that there are vacancies on the Committee, and that typically industry provides suggested nominees to fill the vacancies. The CDFA, Secretary then makes the appointments to fill the vacancies.

OTHER ITEMS

Chairman Hill asked for a short report from the subcommittees.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Kevin Severns, CRB transition subcommittee; provided a handout titled: Transition Recommendations and Timeline. Kevin will make the handout available electronically.

Kevin Olsen, Communications subcommittee will meet next Friday (September 24th) with Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell, and will provide an update for the October meeting. .

DATE & LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 20, 2010, to be held in Bakersfield, CA, at the Doubletree Hotel starting at 10 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.