

**California Department of Food and Agriculture**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Meeting/Conference Call**

**California Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee**

**Held on Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

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

**CCP&DPC**

Committee Members: Don Barioni \*, Richard Bennett, Steve Birsdall, Dan Dreyer, Bob Felts \* John Gless \*, Jim Gorden, Gus Gunderson, Nick Hill, Link Leavens, George McEwen, Jim McFarlane \*, Dr. Etienne Rabe, Earl Rutz, Kevin Severns, Brian Specht \*

\* Denotes attendance via conference call

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Guests: Jill Barnier, Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Kathie Blyskal, Vic Corkins, Louise Fisher, Paul Story, Carol Hafner \*, Kevin Hoffman, Marilyn Kinoshita, Brett Kirkpatrick, Shirley Kirkpatrick, Robert Leavitt, MaryLou Polek, Jim Rudig, Jennifer Stillwill, Debby Tanouye, 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.

Earl Rutz requested that CDFA re-send the ACP and HLB protocol documents adopted by the Committee at an earlier meeting (these documents were sent electronically October 26th, 2010).

**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**

There was significant discussion regarding the wording in the law as to how the assessment is collected.

The law states the assessment is based on a carton, which is defined as "a unit equivalent to 40 pounds of citrus fruit." Everyone agreed that to be clear, the assessment is on "cartons produced." This definition matches the CRB assessment .

There was discussion on committee involvement in CDFA operations. Chairman Hill may appoint a subcommittee to interface with CDFA.

***MOTION:*** Gus Gunderson moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the August 23, 2010 meeting with modifications (minor changes were suggested regarding assessments and discussion of committee role in guiding CDFA program operations). The motion was seconded by George McEwen and passed unanimously.

## **BUDGET/ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

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

Assessment totals were \$1,486,615 collected to date, \$1,143,166 spent, leaving a reserve of \$343,449.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Lukasz Stelinski from the University of Florida, Entomology and Nematology Department gave a PowerPoint slide presentation that included information on:

Psyllid movement research,  
Low Volume spray techniques for Psyllid management,  
Resistance monitoring issues  
Area-wide strategies for ACP in Florida.

It was requested that the PowerPoint be sent to members (this was done on October 26th, 2010) .

Chairman Hill asked Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner , to report on the Pest Exclusion Advisory for bulk citrus movement.

She discussed the early process (first advisory) and the revised version (7 leaf tolerance). Kinoshita said there were complaints to her staff that Tulare County was inspecting differently than other counties; she was basing her decisions on not wanting ACP in the San Joaquin valley. Recently, Sunkist has changed to a high-pressure water system which can't be inspected, because the fruit is not visible. The County is spot-checking.

Robert Leavitt: CDFA went from zero tolerance when ACP was limited in distribution. CDFA discovered this was different from Customs and Border Protection standards for international growers, and disadvantaging CA growers. CDFA then went to the 7 leaf standard and now based on CPHST research (indicating low risk). Currently there is no standard, but regulations require proper disposal of accumulated leaf debris. See below:

Recent studies conducted by USDA's Center for Plant Health Science and Technology Unit, indicate incidental leaf and stem debris in bulk citrus processed through a packing house or field cleaning machine presents a very slight risk of spreading Asian citrus psyllid. In light of these studies, the compliance agreement exhibits pertaining to Master Permit QC 1255 have been amended as follows:

- All shipments of bulk citrus leaving the ACP quarantine area must be processed through a packing house or cleaning machine designed to remove leaves and stems.
- All language regarding leaf tolerances has been removed.
- All leaf and stem debris from bulk shipments not processed into juice must be collected and disposed of as quarantine green waste at destination.

### **LOS ANGELES/SOUTHERN CA OPERATIONS UPDATE**

CDFA staff gave an update on field operations in Imperial, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Treatment details, survey data and costs to date were provided and discussed. New finds included a repeat area of Orange County (Santa Ana) and Upland in San Bernardino County.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding current detection and treatment strategies. The various resources available for "Program strategy guidance" were mentioned. This list included; CDFA Program, technical and scientific staff; Science Advisory Panels, such as the ACP/HLB Science and Technology Subcommittee, and CCP&DP Committee members.

The Committee authorized funds for treatment in the southern California areas.

### **PEST CONTROL DISTRICTS**

Bob Wynn handed out two pest control district law sections from the Food and Agriculture Code. Bob discussed the legal requirements to be met before a County Board of Supervisors can approve a Pest Control District (PCD), and once created, how PCDs are administered. Wynn stated that Districts can be consolidated.

Discussion ensued as to whether areas want to create new Pest Control Districts, or work with existing Pest Control Districts. Vic Corkins of the Tristeza Virus Agency said he would be willing to interface with the Committee as needed.

### **TREATMENT REFUSALS, PROTOCOLS, WARRANTS, CAC, COMMITTEE**

Larry Bezark, provided handouts and suggested that CDFA would not pursue warrants for refusals due to the large number of infested properties. If CDFA was to find a small outlier population and got one refusal from a small number of infested properties, CDFA may choose to pursue a warrant.

The Food & Agriculture Code does provide CDFA the legal authority to enter a property if the Department suspects there is a significant pest on the premises. County Commissioners are afforded basically the same authority.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dan Dreyer: The Communications Subcommittee met and prepared a summary packet (handed out by Dan Dreyer). Dan discussed the two meetings held. The outcome was to re-establish the JIC (Joint Information Center), including a member from the Committee, CRB, UC, APHIS and the CDFA. The Subcommittee included; Dan Dreyer, Kevin Olsen, or Steve Birdsall.

Ted Batkin indicated that there was a JIC in place, and agreed a member of the Committee should be added.

***MOTION:*** Etienne Rabe moved that the Committee become involved in the existing ACP/HLB JIC (Joint Information Center) and recommend to the Secretary that CDFA have a greater involvement in the JIC as well. The motion was seconded by Steve Birdsall and passed unanimously.

Ted Batkin provided an outreach update. Ted described Spanish language activities (Magally Luque-Williams from CDFA participating in the media tour), and Public Service Announcements. He also discussed the placement of cotton trailer banners (five so far, five more to come) in Imperial County. Batkin mentioned increased Master Gardener involvement at recent trade shows. CRB/Ted received a Public Relations annual award from a trade association, the top award for non-profit communications for April media tour.

Chairman Hill asked that an item be placed on the next agenda for Ted Batkin to provide an in-depth overview of outreach activities.

Kevin Severns reported for the Transition Subcommittee, providing a handout of the Subcommittee Recommendations and Timeline. Severns said the actual timelines are flexible and requested input from the Committee to move ahead. He mentioned the Manager position hiring date of December 2010, was optimistic, Chairman Hill suggested the Committee wait until after the November elections and budget situation were settled. Hill suggested February or March to continue the process input.

### **REPORT FROM THE CHRP COUNCIL**

Ted Batkin, reported there is still an anticipation to receive the same funding level. This is due to the expected continuing resolution from the Federal Government.

Batkin briefly mentioned the recently held Tri-National ACP/HLB meeting in San Diego.

### **DATE & LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 17, 2010, to be held in at the Ontario Airport Doubletree Hotel starting at 10 am.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.