

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Minutes

Meeting/Conference Call

California Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee

Held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010

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

CCP&DPC

Committee Members: Craig Armstrong, Don Barioni, Richard Bennett, Steve Birdsall, Bob Felts, John Gless, Jim Gorden*, Gus Gunderson, Nick Hill, Link Leavens, Mark McBroom, George McEwen, Kevin Olsen, Earl Rutz, Kevin Severns, Brian Specht

* Denotes attendance via conference call

OTHER ATTENDEES

Guests: Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Vic Corkins, Louise Fisher, John Gardner, John Howland, Ed Ishida, Kevin Hoffman, Elize Larson, Robert Leavitt, Joel Nelsen, MaryLou Polek, Mike Rose, Jim Rudig, Lynn Sanderson, 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

Larry Bezark 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Bob Felts moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the October 20, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by John Gless and passed unanimously

A request was made that Larry post the minutes on the website.

All minutes, except for November's meeting, have been posted:
<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citruscommittee/index.html>

BUDGET/ASSESSMENT CURRENT STATUS

Larry Bezark went over the budget numbers and indicated that revenues to date were \$1,537, 028. Expenditures were \$1,143,166, which left a carryover of \$393,862. No accruals from the current crop year beginning in October were reported.

The Committee is looking into the possibility of moving funds to a bank to provide a level of protection. Richard Bennett was suggested to work with Larry to gather information so an informed decision could be reached.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

A Science & Technology Subcommittee was proposed by Chairman Hill; Dr. Etienne Rabe will chair the subcommittee and will contact members to let them know they are on the committee. MaryLou Polek of the CRB will also be on the committee.

MaryLou Polek provided a re-cap of the HLB Strategic Genomics Research meeting recently held in New Mexico, on November 11-12, 2010..

Attractants update: UC Riverside, Professor Bob Luck's laboratory is testing compounds for attraction or repellency; accessing ACP neurons, and recording electrophysiology from antennal responses. Promising compounds (and their active ingredients) will be field tested. The goal is to synthesize chemicals to put in traps to attract psyllids. The initial screens have been done, and it is expected that a year from now they will have compounds isolated, which can then be synthesized and field tested.

Sweet Orange Scab: there was a discussion regarding fruit movement from Texas; and what California should allow; currently there is a two-week voluntary program put in place by USDA.

Industry suggests rigorous IPM and inspection program, and encourages CDFa to take a strong stance.

Motion: Craig Armstrong moved the Committee recommend to the Secretary that the CDFa prohibit the importation of host fruit into California from Sweet Orange Scab infected areas of Texas. And, the CDFa require all other areas of Texas be subject to host fruit inspection

and risk mitigation as defined by the CDFA. The motion was seconded by Richard Bennett and passed unanimously.

Agenda items 8 and 10 were swapped to accommodate travel schedules for the speakers.

CDFA OPERATIONS UPDATE

Debby Tanouye, CDFA, went over the latest treatment and detection maps, indicating where treatments were being made. There was a long discussion regarding outlier finds in areas that have not had repeat finds for more than a year; examples are Bombay Beach in northern Imperial County and Valley Center in San Diego County. CDFA will continue to service traps and perform visual surveys of these areas. **No additional treatments will be made unless additional ACP are found, which would re-start the 24 month quarantine clock (revision from Jan 19, 2011 meeting).**

LUNCH

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, JIC AND RECENT MEDIA TOURS

Steve Lyle, CDFA, and **Ted Batkin**, CRB

Steve Lyle gave an overview of CDFA JIC (joint information center) activities, discussed the JIC definition, makeup, goals, and showed the CDFA Twitter and Facebook pages on the screen and the CDFA website. Steve echoed the fact that CDFA is very involved in outreach activities in concert with CRB, USDA and other stakeholders.

Mike Rose, Nuffer, Smith, Tucker (NST), provided a multi-media powerpoint overview of English & Spanish language outreach materials, played PSA's (public service announcements) and traffic spots.

The need for Cerrell associates to complement NST, is to reach the core areas where treatments are being conducted in LA. The CRB overall strategy is a state-wide approach, The greater San Diego area has been saturated with information, so now the approach was to move to areas where rejections (to treatments) are occurring, and to reach folks who have not yet received adequate information.

John Howland with Cerrell Associates, discussed legislative messaging, lobbying, in LA and the surrounding area. He discussed relationships and how to access people through groups such as the League of California Cities, and the Southern California Association of Governments. Building on what Nuffer, Smith, Tucker has already developed by working to provide ACP/HLB information to constituents. They are planning meetings with local elected officials in several cities; the CRB team will make presentations to City Councils, and ask council members to share the information with their constituents.

This activity coordinates with CCM efforts to reach State elected officials. Now that the elections are over, CCM plans to meet with newly elected officials. Mandarin Festival (December, 2010) will get lots of outreach.

The public relations efforts include working with local utilities such as LA Water and Power, Southern California Edison, to get information sent out with monthly billings. Time Warner Cable will be contacted for for PSAs.

The Committee would like to see these activities extended to San Diego, Imperial, etc.

CHRP FUNDS BREAKDOWN

Larry Bezark & Debby Tanouye, CDFA went over the consolidated spreadsheet. There was discussion regarding the flexibility to allocate funds for treatments

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Subcommittee:

Kevin Olsen is involved in the JIC, and is integrating activities with the CRB.

REPORT FROM THE CHRP COUNCIL

Ted Batkin, CRB, Joel Nelsen, CCM

Joel Nelsen: Federal government will issue either a Continuing Resolution (CR) or an omnibus bill for the entire year. Under a CR, funding levels will be the same as last year; an omnibus bill may increase funding slightly. California has good representation on the appropriations committee, but funding will be a challenge during the next session. The ACP Program is not earmarked, so it is not subject to as much scrutiny regarding cuts etc. Ted Batkin discussed a Florida meeting in January to get input from national technical working groups. There will be an annual meeting in June in Denver.

DATE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 19 January, 2011 in Bakersfield, at the Doubletree Hotel.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.