

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Minutes

Meeting/Conference Call

California Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee

Held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011

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

CCP&DPC

Members: Craig Armstrong, Don Barioni*, Richard Bennett, Steve Birdsall, Dan Dreyer, Bob Felts, John Gless, Jim Gorden, Gus Gunderson, Nick Hill, Link Leavens, Mark McBroom, James McFarlane, Kevin Olsen, Etienne Rabe, Earl Rutz, Kevin Severns, Brian Specht.

* Denotes attendance via conference call

OTHER ATTENDEES

Guests: Linda Haque, Tina Galindo, Brian Taylor, Robert Leavitt, Susan McCarthy, Louise Fisher, MaryLou Polek, Ted Batkin, Shirley Kirkpatrick, Paul Story, Marilyn Kinoshita, Helene Wright, Kathie Blyskal, Debby Tanouye, Jim Cranney, Carol Hafner*, Connie Valenzuela*, David Pegos, Brett Kirkpatrick, Myron Kimmel Kern CO CAC, Terry Nelson, Dave Macklitt, Vic Corkins, Beth Stone-Smith, Beth Grafton-Cardwell, Ed Ishida, Brett Chandler

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nick Hill called the meeting to order at 10:04 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

Chairman Nick Hill, was back in Orlando (January 10-14, 2011) to attend the International Research Conference on Huanglongbing. Growers were up-beat, they have found some tools to keep them in business, and researchers reported that they have some positive things going. This meeting was positive as opposed to two years ago, when the feeling was very negative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *Earl Rutz moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting, with one minor clarification. The motion was seconded by Richard Bennett and passed unanimously.*

ADDED AGENDA ITEM: FRUIT WITH LEAVES AND STEMS

Marilyn Kinoshita, Agricultural Commissioner from Tulare County discussed lemons/tangerines coming in with many leaves and stems (perhaps not being run through field-cleaning equipment). She is concerned about the fruit's origin and field equipment modifications, such as the use of rollers in the field. Helene Wright is conducting a conference call today with her Arizona counterpart regarding fruit moving from Arizona. Robert Leavitt indicated that procedures are being examined by CDFA staff.

BUDGET/ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Bob Wynn, CDFA, discussed elements of the new Governor's proposed budget which directs the Secretary to convene a consortium of industry to determine solutions with a goal of general fund savings of \$15 million July 2011, and an additional \$15 million July 2012. CDFA has already met with 40 plus industry representatives to begin the process. Recommendations will be developed to meet the February 1 deadline.

Etienne Rabe suggested a different method of providing financial information. Bob asked for input from the members regarding what they would like to see.

Bob presented budget figures, showing income to date of \$2,909,180, expenditures of \$2,786,152 for a total balance of \$123,028

Larry Bezark discussed the grant versus contract process in regard to the process or following up on the Committee's commitment to fund CRB operations activities. Larry indicated that the process was moving forward and a grant would be signed soon. Kevin Severns was concerned that the grant process leaves the committee at risk.

Ted Batkin asked why are \$.09 assessments received to-date so low? Larry agreed to check with Rick Jensen (a meeting has been set up for Feb1, 2011).

Link Leavens asked if this discrepancy does not get resolved, can CDFA perform an audit? CRB has audited packing houses for years. Larry and Ted agreed to work together.

BANKING OPTIONS

Richard Bennett discussed information on a CDFA-prepared spreadsheet that indicated estimated interest rates. There was discussion regarding the decision to move funds to an outside approved banking institution.

MOTION: *After discussion regarding keeping funds at CDFA versus putting them in an approved financial institution, Etienne Rabe moved that the funds stay with CDFA in the current investment vehicle. The motion was seconded by Jim Gorden, and passed.*

LOS ANGELES/SOUTHERN CA OPERATIONS UPDATE

Tina Galindo, CDFA, discussed the current treatment activities, and showed maps of treatments in new areas including Ventura, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. She also discussed ongoing work in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Imperial counties. There was much discussion regarding allocation of program resources. Concern was expressed as to why we can't treat everything at once.

Ted Batkin discussed his educational communications with the grower in Ventura County, and the eventual agreement to treat.

Chairman Hill suggested updating our communication model to allow for more rapid information dissemination to committee members, such as in e-mail blasts. CDFA agreed to improve our information sharing with the committee. David Pegos will take the lead on this issue.

Gus Gunderson suggested that the operations maps we display during the meetings indicate recent finds and what has been treated versus what needs to be treated to show trends. CDFA agreed to develop maps that show this information.

TREATMENT, TRAPPING AND OVERALL STRATEGY

Larry Bezark, CDFA, laid out current events and a potential shift in focus regarding the "core" of LA. There was a lot of discussion, and overwhelming support to continue to treat the core areas of Los Angeles County, and not walk away from ACP treatment there. There was a request for additional information regarding the success of current activities. Ted Batkin will obtain CDFA trapping and treatment data and analyze it by March 2nd (the proposed date of an industry-led workshop) in conjunction with Beth Grafton-Cardwell and MaryLou Polek. Robert Leavitt agreed to share this information with industry, to expedite the analysis.

MOTION: *Kevin Olsen moved to provide \$20,000 to the Citrus Research Board to analyze CDFA trapping and treatment data. The motion was seconded by James McFarlane, and passed unanimously.*

SUPPORT FOR AREAWIDE CONTROL IN COMMERCIAL CITRUS

Larry introduced the subject, asking if it would be prudent to use assessment dollars to fund commercial treatments, with the intent of area-wide control. Beth Stone-Smith,

USDA Glassy-winged Sharpshooter program, presented a Powerpoint with the elements of the GWSS program. Link Leavens discussed the Saticoy Lemon Association document (MOU) that requires their growers to treat. Bob Wynn discussed the PEP (proclamation of eradication project) regarding authority to mandate treatment in an infestation and the County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) abatement authority to treat a property as a nuisance, placing a lien on the property, with the expectation that repayment will eventually be made. Success is dependent on individual CAC actions. Courts may side with grower not to have to re-pay the State or County for mandatory treatments.

Following discussion, the general consensus was, not to make assessment funds available to treat commercial groves.

Nick Hill suggested that committee members meet with their local CAC to get a feeling for how they would react.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Kevin Olsen gave a report on communications; the Subcommittee wants the Committee to work more closely with CRB. The JIC (Joint Information Center) has met, with the next meeting is scheduled for 20 January, 2011.

Louise Fisher, CRB, went over expenditures to-date for communications, and showed a slide with several home and garden shows upcoming in Southern California.

Etienne Rabe indicated that he had talked with committee members who were assigned to the Science Subcommittee. Committee members, Steve Birdsall, Ed Civerolo, George McEwen, outside members; MaryLou Polek (CRB), Beth Grafton-Cardwell (Univ of California), Kevin Hoffman (CDFA)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

MaryLou Polek, CRB is working on a summary report for the International Research Conference on Huanglongbing meeting, recently held in Orlando, which she will share with the committee. There were 94 papers and 70 posters presented, area-wide suppression was big topic, treatments should be based on thresholds rather than calendar dates.

Some highlights MaryLou covered briefly included:

The disease titer is highest in insect eggs (where adults fed on HLB infested trees); infected ACP lay more eggs, but die sooner. The titer decreases if ACP stops feeding

Origins of Brazil and US ACP are different; BioControl agents need to be selected based on ACP origin to be most effective.

Fruit quality deteriorates in conjunction with misshapen fruit.

Seed transmission has still not been completely proven. One researcher grafted an entire seed to a plant, results not complete.

Penicillin & erythromycin together look promising (African results not good); implementation will have substantial regulatory challenges.

REPORT FROM THE CHRP COUNCIL

Ted Batkin indicated that Joel Nelsen was in Washington, D.C. last week working on maintaining CHRP dollars for California. There was some indication that there may be a cut to California funding.

The Tri-National Executive Committee met in San Diego to look at ACP plans from Mexico and Belize, with regard to availability of funds for implementation. Funding for the Belize program is in place; however, growers are balking.

Mexico has allocated Governmental funding for survey but not for treatment (expect treatment to be covered by industry). There are two area-wide programs being discussed; one in Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas and a second in Sonora and Northern Sinaloa, centered around Ciudad Obregon.

Jim Cranney presented a powerpoint on the HLB situation in Mexico, and discussed recent progress between the United States and Mexico industry individuals, towards local and area-wide suppression activities.

OTHER ITEMS

Etienne Rabe asked about the manager position, indicating that a manager was needed because the committee members cannot manage all the issues.

DATE & LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 9, 2011, to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Bakersfield, starting at 10 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.