

**Citrus Research Board Office**  
CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting  
CRB Conference Room  
217 N. Encina Street  
Visalia, Ca 93291  
Minutes of Meeting  
**November 7, 2012 10:00 a.m.**

A Meeting of the Citrus Research Board/Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee Joint Operations Committee was called to order by Chairman Jim Gorden at the Citrus Research Board Office, Conference Room, Visalia, California. A quorum was established with the following in attendance:

Joint Committee Members

Jim Gorden, Chairman CRB Ops  
Link Leavens, V-Chairman CRB Ops\*  
Dan Dreyer  
Dan Galbraith  
Kevin Severns  
Kevin Olsen  
Etienne Rabe\*  
Mark McBroom\*  
Joe Barcinas\*

CRB Staff:

Ted Batkin  
Brian Taylor  
Louise Fisher  
Rick Dunn  
Cynthia LeVesque\*  
Brent Eickelberg  
Marilyn Martin

CDFA Staff:

Susan McCarthy  
Art Gilbert  
Debbie Tanouye  
Tina Galindo  
Janet Taylor  
Courtney Albrecht\*

Interested Parties:

Linda Haque, Ventura County  
Helene Wright, USDA  
Bob Zuckerman\*  
Dave Machlitt\*  
Stephen Birdsall\*  
Alan Washburn\*  
Brett Chandler\*  
Aaron Dillon\*  
Ti a Russell\*  
Leslie Leavens-Crowe\*

\*Participated by phone and/or Webex

**Call to Order**

Chairman Gorden welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken to establish a quorum and to confirm who was attending.

**Review of Minutes**

Chairman Gorden asked if anyone had any comments, questions or edits to the Joint Operations Committee meeting minutes of October 3, 2012. There were none.

**11.07.2012. 1** Dreyer moved and Galbraith seconded to approve Minutes as presented from the October 3, 2012 Joint Operations Meeting.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Review of financial reports and approval of CRB action**

### **a. Financial Report for CRB Operations**

**Louise Fisher**

Fisher reviewed the 2011-12 CPDPC Operations Budget YTD: September 30, 2012, which reflected the September billing. Fisher stated we ended up at \$860,710.29 less than the original budget. Fisher stated this was primarily due to the transition of trapping duties to CDFA supervision. About \$763,000 had been predicted and we came in a little under budget from that prediction.

Fisher reviewed the reconciliation of CRB operations invoices billed to CDFA throughout the year. The reconciliation shows that CRB underbilled by just under \$3,000. Fisher stated that periodically we may find that something was posted in the wrong place or billings came in later and sometimes there are adjustments after the bill has been sent to CDFA. We won't have exact final numbers until audit is done.

Fisher stated that McCarthy had pointed out that the final budget, which is also in the packet, is a couple thousand dollars more than what was approved at the CPDPC board meeting. Both Hill and Gorden stated it will have to go to CPDPC meeting next week for approval and shouldn't be an issue since it is only a couple thousand dollars.

### **Regional ACP Management Programs**

**Brian Taylor/Susan McCarthy**

McCarthy reported they are working on the emergency contract for Alan Washburn and San Diego County is looking at hiring a coordinator, as is Tulare, Fresno and Kern Counties. Initially, they will all be hired through the county, with federal funds, and then CDFA will then do the Request for Proposal (RFP) project, which takes about six months. Those positions will be paid through the CDFA with CPDPC funds. Ventura County has had Dave Machlitt in place for awhile; they have enough money through grants and other sources to keep him on their contract while going through the RFP process under contract with the department/CPDPC.

Hill stated they already had existing contracts with the counties, so it is a much easier process to modify those contracts and bring these people on without going through the whole contracting business. Batkin stated he was hoping to use this as a leverage to increase our share of the CHRP funds, since we know that is how funds are being used.

Chairman Gorden brought up how the communication and the coordination of all these is going to happen. Hill responded that for the valley, whoever is put into place in each county, those individuals in Tulare and in Fresno will probably have to get together and coordinate because there is going to be overflow in different counties. Hill stated that regionally, these guys are going to have to get together and talk with each other to make sure they're getting all the aspects and maybe have one person in each region represent those individuals to give an update on what is going on. Chairman Gorden stated this committee would be the conduit to the CPDPC. Hill concurred.

Hill stated he has received a few good resumes for Kern and Fresno Counties and is reviewing them now. Hill also requested of the committee if they know of anyone interested in being a coordinator to have them send him a resume. Leavens stated it would be best to get down to the

closest level possible for a coordinator. The direction a coordinator gives, he is not an employee of these growers, the PCA's are; so it is a fine line they are going to have to walk. Washburn stated the problem they have down there is they're beating on a no-go door; this rural area in Riverside and they're trying to use the city. He is going down today to condemn groves with the ag commissioner. He also gets 3 acre growers that get their oranges picked and aren't worried about it and they don't want to spray. Washburn stated they have three packing houses coming together today to make a recommendation for a fall/winter treatment which will start pretty soon. There are a lot of growers that are willing to spray but across the street a guy has three rows of trees that he won't do anything. Washburn would welcome any input.

Batkin stated with this committee being a conduit or overall coordinating body, the situations are going to be extremely different in every geographical location. Up here in the valley, we haven't thought through the fact that we're going to have to deal with these same issues. With 85% of the industry being here, we're going to run into these same issues that they're running into in Riverside and we need to watch very closely how Washburn with John Schneider, the Riverside County Ag Commissioner, deal with this abatement authority that John is going to exercise. As a governing body we're going to have to be aware that we're going to have to adopt that model all over the state as we will run into those issues here.

Machlitt stated a situation that has come up in Fillmore where they have a Valencia grower that is not associated with a packinghouse; he is a cash seller so there isn't leverage from a packinghouse. Another issue is when you get into properties that aren't really residential or commercial, i.e. have 50 trees and you would like them to treat and the only reference you have to send to have treatment is Tru-Green and they're charging \$100 to \$200 per tree, that is a big bill for someone with 50 trees. It takes the wind out of the sail as far as wanting to treat.

Machlitt concurred with Leavens on keeping the coordinator closer to the local control. Gorden concurred with local control. Gorden asked Lyall about his group in San Diego County and if they're working effectively. Lyall stated they've met around four times. Looking ahead to seeing a coordinator come on board solves a lot of the leg work that they would have to do. Lyall stated they're trying to contact as many packers as they can, to get commitments to not pack fruit that comes out of untreated areas. They are just now on the crest of that, developing databases. Lyall stated they would appreciate knowing how much of this work is being done by other people so they'll know not to duplicate efforts. In San Diego County they have a lot of small backyard growers and abandoned groves.

Taylor stated there are several issues on how to go about treatment as we go forward. The conventional growers, for the most part, are more than cooperative; they're willing to go along with the program, at least initially with this first treatment. The real issues come up with the cash sellers, there is no real leverage on them. The backyard growers with 24+ trees is still an issue. Taylor has gone to several counties and asked for a list of PCA's and PCO's who are willing to go in and treat so that we can at least give the property owner a list of contacts. It will come down to if it is economically feasible and he can see a lot of growers not doing it. Taylor brought up the protocol for organic growers. They have a lot of buy-in from those packinghouses that pack organic growers. There is discussion about what is most feasible for the organic growers to follow as far as when they should be treating.

## Bio Control Program

Jim Gorden/Ted Batkin

Batkin stated several things are going on with the CDFA side, which falls under the funding that CPDPC approved into the Operations budget for the bio control side. When they passed the budget they had a concept but not an operating plan. They are now in process of sorting through and dealing with the operating plan. Any capital construction that involves using those funds must be run through the CDFA process; we cannot transfer those funds through to the CRB working agreement and expend them through that process. We have an operating plan that has a use of part of those funds for construction of the facility at Cal Poly, to get the first rearing facility up and operating on the public side of the equation. It is for rearing *Tamarixia* that will be available for wider distribution into the urban areas. Everybody is dedicated to making this work.

Batkin stated anything above \$100,000 requires additional administrative hoops for justification, documentation and process. They've been targeting the Cal Poly level through these funds at around \$200,000 to put in a significant sized facility. Now they are trying to work around that \$100,000 limit and meet the time crunch to be operating and functioning by March 2013. Batkin stated that Nate Dechoretz, who is the deputy secretary for finance and also oversees both the plant division and the marketing division, is taking the lead on this. McCarthy stated she met with Nate Dechoretz and Mike Pitcairn yesterday to talk about this. They're going to see if they can run it through the Cal Poly system equivalent to DGS.

Batkin stated they're targeting for Cal Poly a greenhouse structure that will consist of 3 – 30x60' houses tied together for a total of 5400 s.f. of greenhouse facility for *Tamarixia* rearing. In addition to that, 2- 24x60' rearing buildings/office that will be on the Cal Poly campus. It is an expandable footprint. The first footprint of 5400 s.f. is available to us right now and Cal Poly facilities department is in process of preparing the land. Batkin stated he will have a more complete report in December. Mike Pitcairn who is the lead on the biocontrol program for CDFA is working with Robert and Nick Dechoretz to get this done.

Because of the \$100,000 restriction, they are revising the work at Arvin and Rubidoux, which is CDFA controlled facilities. They were just able to negotiate a new contract with Rubidoux, which will lead to a long term contract for use of that facility. This site has existing greenhouse facilities and is ramping up for plant production. Arvin will have additional plant production at the glassy-winged facility and is being shifted over and dedicated to this program. They are checking into blow-up houses; we can get far more space for the dollar. The initial read from the Dept. of Finance was that this is not a permanent facility, so it doesn't fall under the capital construction laws and rules and we can declare them temporary facilities and run with them. The expenditure for these things will be considerably less than building a facility, yet will have the ability to raise plants on a massive basis through the Arvin footprint. There are two acres up at Arvin and we can get up to 20,000 to 30,000 s.f. of plant rearing facilities, if necessary. Batkin stated we're building towards achieving that 4.8 million per year *Tamarixia* target.

Batkin reported on the USDA side. They have a cooperative agreement with USDA for \$515,000 for this year. Batkin stated he and Joel are going back to Washington in December to work on the \$5 million commitment from APHIS for supporting biocontrol efforts in California. Greg Simmons is the lead USDA scientist on the first \$515,000 and he is working closely with Mike Pitcairn and they're starting to build-up and develop the process of the field rearing systems. A

Notice will be going out on job descriptions with monies from USDA; they have money to hire staff and people to make this program run. First hire will be a lead scientist and lead technician to be the daily person organizing and coordinating between Cal Poly and the field rearing process that will be done at Yorba Linda, Riverside and Cal Poly. Part of the USDA funding will be a cooperative research agreement with Barcinas and FAR, to start the rearing process immediately. Once the agreement is in place, Barcinas becomes a government rearing facility, smoothing out the permitting process for his facility and will operate under the USDA oversight. He has plants and rearing facility in place already; this will kick start the objective of getting *Tamarixia* out of Barcinas' facility to be feeding into the field cage rearing of *Tamarixia*. Timeframe for up and running is March/April 2013 with a 18 to 24 month ramp-up to get to that 4.8 million level.

### **Detection and Treatment Update**

**Tina Galindo**

Galindo reviewed her handout which reflects the current areas where they're treating and where they need to go. The numbers reflected are since September 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 83 detections in San Diego County, it is increasing every day. Galindo stated they've been able to go in and treat without meetings in several San Diego areas. There have been new detections and need meetings in Oceanside, Borrego Springs and El Cajon. Rutz asked about Pauma Valley in San Diego County; Galindo stated they are done treating there; Taylor stated grove treatment is still ongoing.

Imperial County has had a lot of detections, 128 in the last couple of months, mostly in Salton City and Salton Sea Beach. There were 3 grove detections. Galindo stated most of these areas don't need to have meetings since there isn't a high density of homes in these areas. They will need a meeting in Westmoreland.

Galindo stated there needs to be discussion about Los Angeles counties. In eastern San Fernando Valley there has been a lot more detections. They are currently working in six areas but if using same treatment boundary, will need meetings for all the areas listed on handout for Los Angeles. Just started treatment in Santa Clarita and Canyon Country on November 5; will be finishing those by end of this week. Just started Calabasas and should be done this week also.

Galindo stated there needs to be discussion about what to do with San Fernando Valley boundary. Galindo said Tanouye needs meetings in every county and has been doubling up on meetings every night to get them done. Tanouye stated they have to hand deliver or use first class mail for meeting notifications. Leavens asked what the trapping densities were in San Fernando Valley. Galindo stated 25; they don't have the manpower to get the entire valley at that density. They have 25 around the detections and then decided to do a transect spoke survey and start with 25 throughout the Valley within those transect spokes. Leavens stated two detections they found in Fillmore both had breeding populations on them. Leavens asked if she knew what the status was on any of these sites. Galindo stated they've surveyed those detection sites as well and are finding breeding populations, mostly in Sun Valley, Arleta and Burbank.

McBroom stated that two of the commercial finds were theirs; they've treated and finished yesterday. McBroom asked if there was a tracking system to know which groves have been treated so CDFA can treat the surrounding areas, if needed. Taylor stated there is not a formal reporting process in place, but will be working on with regional coordinators as they come on line.

Taylor stated with regard to Imperial County, he has been in contact with the ag commissioner and they let him know who has been treating and when. Gorden stated if there wasn't a formalized process for reporting, maybe we need to formalize. McBroom stated the communication would be a lot better if formalized. Gorden asked Taylor to oversee making a formalized process for reporting.

Galindo reported on Riverside County; they're continuing treatment in Coachella. Most areas listed are complete. Treatment is continuing in Temecula; they are pretty caught up in Riverside.

Galindo reported on Ventura; most of the meetings are scheduled for this week and will start the remaining areas on Monday; they are finishing up in Fillmore. There were two properties where they found nymphs and adults when they went back to survey. They need to hold a meeting in Westlake. There was a detection in Oxnard that was confirmed.

Brett Chandler asked Galindo how many home sites they will have to treat in Fillmore. Galindo stated it is well over 100. She will get count and email Chandler later.

Galindo stated a crew just surveyed a find site in Simi; no adults were found, but did find nymphs. Galindo reviewed map of Santa Barbara County that showed a new find in Santa Maria. They are currently surveying 800 meters around that detection. They have an appointment to treat the find site and adjacents today. Galbraith asked if there are no other finds in this delimited area, will it be considered as a quarantine type situation or a regulatory type situation. Tanouye stated that decision hasn't been made. It is outside of the quarantine area. That decision will be made after reviewing the delimitation grid and what they find in the survey.

Galindo reviewed Los Angeles County detection sites map and the map reflects detections are picking up in San Fernando Valley. In Orange County there hasn't been much. There was a recent detection in Madera Ranch and there is no residential property for them to treat in there. In San Bernardino County there have been a few detections in Cadiz, out in the middle of nowhere; and they're finishing up in Redlands right now.

Galindo brought up Los Angeles County map with treatment boundaries and stated Tanouye created map showing proposed boundaries. Galindo stated one option was to move the blue line a little west along the 405 freeway. Gorden stated there was discussion on moving line east past Burbank and to Glendale area but because of so many recent finds in San Fernando Valley, it could blow out budget pretty fast if we try to treat all that out.

Gorden stated we need to address where to draw the line, the entrance to this canyon around the intersection of the I-5, 14-corridor somewhere would make a good demarcation line. Leavens stated he thought could use the county line because it is right along the ridge there; then anything that pops up in the Simi Valley, you jump on.

There was extensive committee discussion on boundaries and terrain. Gorden clarified the boundaries as: a line across the intersection of the 5 and the 14, across to the Ventura County and then down the county line to Malibu Canyon Drive (or Road). There is rough terrain but is a solid option for us.

**11.07.2012. 1** Rabe moved and Olsen 2<sup>nd</sup>, to go with boundary lines Gorden just clarified for boundaries, to adopt this as the line to defend. Malibu, along the Ventura County line and then over to the I-5, 14 corridor.

**Motion Passed 8 to 1 (Barcinas wasn't available for vote)**

**a. Trapping Program Report**

**Art Gilbert**

Gilbert reported there are 969 traps with approximately 5,842 psyllids collected. He has been tracking them and they're coming from the same areas over and over again.

In San Diego County, Gilbert reported out in Rancho Santa Fe, we don't have any traps, but the county has about 32 traps, it is basically a residential area with about 1,300 acres of broken-up citrus. Tanouye stated if the county got positives, they would let us know; we don't get negative data, just positive data. Gilbert stated he couldn't see the benefit to trapping that area.

Gorden questioned the Cadiz area; it looks like there has been multiple finds. The implication would be that there is a population in Cadiz. Tanouye asked if they are treating it and Gilbert stated yes.

Hill stated we're losing perspective, we're looking for ACP and on top of that we're looking for HLB. Unless we service traps, we can't detect finds. We need to service every trap we can because we want to make sure we stay on top of it. We need to make sure that we process every ACP that we can to make sure we don't have that sentinel tree out there. There are workers that come back and forth from Mexico, we could have an outbreak there. We need to keep checking as much as we can. Batkin agreed with Hill.

Taylor stated the commercial in Rancho Santa Fe area was not initially trapped by the program. Everyone was going south to Riverside area. Also, the number of access points in the area; the locked gates, 5 acre ranchettes. There were already existing traps in the area, so they never trapped it. Taylor stated this is the area that was also infested with diapaepes, so the imidacloprid treatments used for diapaepes is extremely prevalent there; almost everything has already been treated.

Chairman Gorden suggested that Gilbert and staff get together and work out a recommendation for that; figure out what is being done and how it is being covered and come back with a recommendation to us. Gilbert stated he has 39 traps out there and if you want to cover all the citrus out there in those little parcels, it is probably going to take an extra 50 to 60 traps and will probably take a 1 to 1-1/2 day(s) for one trapper to go out and do all the work and maybe 1-1/2 days every two weeks.

Batkin stated there are 39 traps in the area; our consideration is data, not density. Batkin suggested asking Tracy Kahn if they would consider taking a nomad and having their trapper to use a nomad, put a barcode on those traps that they have in that area that we're concerned about, then you have your data; just the same as running a trap out there, you get the same information and feed it into the system. Tanouye stated somebody is actually there this week entering it into IPHIS, but it is all the data though. It is to comply with the Gottwald survey protocol. Tanouye

stated they are trying to get all survey data entered into IPHIS. Tanouye stated any county that they have a contract with for trapping, they're getting the data into IPHIS, so it will be on the Gottwald survey.

Gilbert reported in southern San Luis Obispo County, north of Santa Maria, they're beefing up the ACP trapping there, with 9 to 16 traps per square mile and going on a two week survey interval instead of once a month to coincide with the orchard trapping they're doing down there. There is going to be delimitation trapping in the Santa Maria area.

Gorden requested that Gilbert and staff figure out what to do to fill-in any holes in the trapping grid to get it done. Gorden requested they report back to this committee next time as to how this has been accomplished. When you have all these little almost sub-commercial orchards and you have the ag-urban interface; it's not that simple to solve that problem. We need to work to try and tease it out and solve it.

#### **b. ACP Detections in Retail Nurseries**

Courtney Albrecht from CDFA stated there have been both nymphs and adults detected in nurseries. Albrecht stated the nurseries are retail where they have found ACP. These nurseries may have a component of their operations that is production, but not for citrus; they buy citrus from other locations and sell to local consumers.

Albrecht stated that as of October 25, 2012, there are 145 locations where plants are on hold. Those locations are in Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. There are a total of 24,523 plants on hold because inspectors went in looking to ensure that each plant had a tag on it that instructs consumers not to remove the plant from the quarantine area. They also look for all live stages of the psyllid. They have found psyllids and they usually find on average 6 to 10 insects at each location. When they find a psyllid, even if it's just one, the procedure is to put all post material at that location on hold. Albrecht said that even though there are over 24,000 plants on hold, it just means at each of those 145 locations, one or more psyllid(s) was found. Usually it is less than 10 psyllids found at each location.

When plants are put on hold, there is a possibility they can be released, only after being treated. The plants that have the psyllid on it; leaf samples have to be taken and sent to the lab for analysis to look for the presence of HLB and the insect is also tested for the presence of HLB. If the results are negative, the plants can then be treated. They would be subject to 100% inspection at that point and held for another 10 days because the treatment is systemic; then project staff would ensure that the tags are updated with the new treatment date and then the plants can be released. Albrecht stated that some of the locations will opt to destroy those plants rather than having them held, tested and treated.

Albrecht reviewed some questions asked of her that she hasn't already spoke about. The plants with ACP did come from nurseries that treated with required pesticides. The primary goal of inspectors is to ensure that every citrus plant on that premise for sale has a tag on it. The tag enables the project staff to go back and look at when and where it was treated. It also conveys to the consumer that it can't be taken out of the quarantine area. Any location that is selling citrus within the citrus quarantine area is under a compliance agreement to only sell plants with this tag.

Olsen asked Albrecht about the plants that are placed on hold that is due to infestation, why aren't they treated with a topical treatment in addition to the systemic treatment. Janet Taylor answered when the plants are re-treated, they are treated with both a drench and a foliar. Then they wait 10 days for the update of the plant and go back and do 100% inspection on every single plant leaf before they reissue any tags or actually release those plants for sale. They go back every 30 days for all citrus plants and start the whole process again.

Rutz asked if they can guarantee that they aren't inadvertently moving HLB around from the sites that we have not yet found. Taylor stated all the psyllids are tested and all of the plants are tested that have ACP or any sort of life form on them.

Brian Taylor stated that all the psyllid finds have been found in retail nurseries or non-citrus producing nurseries. If an ACP is found in a producing nursery, the entire nursery goes on hold for a single psyllid? Janet Taylor stated that is the current protocol. Albrecht stated they would follow the same protocol. Janet Taylor stated that all the nurseries where they're finding ACP have been in areas where there have been a lot of finds. Gordon stated L.A. County is the biggest one; 113 nurseries cumulative.

Leslie Leavens-Crowe asked what if a production nursery is within the quarantine zone for ACP? Albrecht answered they have to conduct the treatment before they sell the plant; it would be the same whether ACP is found in the nursery vs. if it's within the treatment zone.

Severns stated he was under the impression that in retail nurseries, if the treatment period lapsed that it had to be retreated. Janet Taylor stated that used to be the protocol at the very beginning of the quarantine in San Diego; but that changed. For a retail nursery only, once that plant hits your facility, as long as it is for sale, it doesn't have to be retreated again. That is why we don't know when it was treated; it varies, it could be 90 days or 190 days. Severns asked who changed that. Taylor answered that CDFA changed it. Albrecht stated they have had various discussions internally about their policies; this is one they have put back on the table, as far as looking into how their policies are being carried out and what their policies are in relation to retail. What they are most concerned with is allowing movement of plants with potentially live ACP on them. They have already begun discussions with their scientists to determine if there is anything that they need to be doing differently to insure that this doesn't happen. We will be looking into treatment dates and the expiration of the treatments and whether those plants are still eligible for movement, and/or if there is anything else that can be done as a preventative measure to try and reduce the incidence of ACP on them in the first place. Albrecht stated these discussions are taking place internally and will continue talking about them until they feel they are at a point of doing what they need to do or as much as they possibly can do to mitigate the risk.

Olsen stated that after the Ontario nursery meeting, part of the discussion on this point was that this was going to be mitigated, to some extent, by the retail nurseries; they were going to try and limit the inventory to the amount that could be sold within that given amount of time. So there wasn't a large amount of plants sitting at the retail nursery that had expired, there was going to be some kind of labeling system to enable inspectors to know how long those plants had been there. Olsen stated he would encourage CDFA to look at that in their discussions on the topic. Albrecht

stated they would and one of the challenges in working with lots of different types of nursery operations; it is challenging to find a catch-all regulation or policy that would manage all the situations. Albrecht said they would look into incorporating that into their enforcement policies.

Aaron Dillon concurred with Olsen. He has been working on a compliance agreement document since the meeting in Ontario and it has been really complicated to try and pull it together. There are so many different entities involved and different types of nurseries. They've made a lot of progress on the document. There is the Citrus Nursery Society's annual meeting tomorrow; he has the draft to a point where they can start to circulate it amongst the production nurseries. They are trying to push that process forward to mitigate some of these issues, through inventory control and a tagging system that will be easier for everyone to track.

Janet Taylor stated some of the box stores are also taking it upon themselves to do this voluntarily. Home Depot sent out a letter recently to a few supplies she knows, that has asked for 75% reduction in the number of trees they are going to order. No one wants to see their trees destroyed or have to retreat and go through this process; a lot of nurseries are pro-active.

Chairman Gorden thanked the CDFA people for the information provided to this committee.

**c. HLB Survey**

**Tina Galindo**

**1. Risk-Based HLB Survey (Gottwald)**

Galindo stated from this survey, they've submitted 869 samples from properties in L.A. and 523 plant samples so far. The map reflects the area that they've completed. They completed the survey in Zone 1 and 2; they're going to go in and retreat the 800 meter area. It seems they put ACP pressure around that 800 meter, the ACP is moving in again, more and more. They just completed the Zone 2 area, which is 400 to 800 meters and 132 samples were submitted of insects and 367 plant samples were submitted. Zone 1 was completed back in October; they had 73 insect samples and 183 plant samples. They need to return to Zone 3 for a second survey. That's the area that requires two times a year, the 800 to 1,200 meter, so they'll be going back to that area in six months. They are going to send crews back in to do foliar in the entire 800 meters.

Polek asked for clarification, regarding ACP samples, does that mean total number of ACP? Galindo stated no, these were the number of samples collected from the property ACP count. They are continuing with the monthly retest of the sniffer sites.

Gorden asked if they are finding breeding populations back in these areas that have been treated previously with imidacloprid? Galindo stated they are finding nymphs.

Tanouye stated they started the Gottwald survey in Riverside and should have the data for the next meeting.

**2. Hacienda Heights HLB Survey**

**Ted Batkin**

Batkin reported on the testing of the VOC sensor. They took the VOC sensor to Texas and have done one round of testing in Texas. The read-back from the testing in Texas correlated 100% to the PCR testing that was done in Texas. They blind tested trees in the grove in Texas and the

sniffer 100% accurately identified the positive trees from the negative trees in its test; it was on a ten tree sample. Batkin further stated they are putting together a program to increase that sample size and run further verifications and studies in Texas to see if we can identify other trees that have not been tested by either PCR, visual or anything, to find out if there are additional trees in that block/grove that are HLB positive.

## **Laboratory Activities**

### **a. Riverside Laboratory**

**Cynthia LeVesque**

LeVesque reported they didn't receive any CDFA ACP samples. They are still awaiting the APHIS report. They did 2,208 Florida ACP samples that were extracted and analyzed for Las for the pooling experiments with David Hall, Hong Lin, Manjunath Keremane, Madhurababu Kunta and Luci Kumagai.

LeVesque reported on current staffing, indicating that the biologist position was eliminated due to lack of samples. LeVesque reviewed her Time Frame for Goals handout. There were no questions.

Batkin responded to LeVesque's report regarding the biologist position being eliminated. It was effective the end of November/first of December. Batkin stated he did it as a cost-cutting measure because of the fact that they're not receiving samples yet from CDFA. Batkin further stated that they are waiting for the written report from APHIS; they've already received the verbal report from APHIS, but Batkin asked everyone to hold off on anything until receiving the written report.

Batkin reported to the committee, after confirming with APHIS, the Riverside lab was not de-certified. The lab did not lose its certification. We were just asked by the certifying agency lab at USDA to stop processing until their team came out and looked at what was going on in the lab. They did that; they looked at everything and said we were fine, no problem and can go back to processing. They have been working on the comparative study. We are not de-certified, we were never de-certified; we were just asked to stop processing until the lab visit by the team. We are still waiting for the written report from them and Batkin has asked everybody to stop until we get that written report, just so we have it as a backstop. Batkin clarified that any statements being made around by anybody that we were de-certified; we were not. Batkin wanted to clarify what actually occurred, so there isn't a misunderstanding or misuse of words or comments being used.

Leavens asked what effect has having the Riverside lab offline had on psyllid identification. Gorden asked McCarthy to respond regarding the CDFA lab in Sacramento.

### **b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities**

McCarthy stated Meadowview has actually been working overtime and some weekends. Gorden asked if they are staying current. McCarthy stated that some of the nursery samples are taking a couple of weeks to get the results back from there. She isn't exactly sure where they are in keeping up with ACP. McCarthy stated she has kept in touch with Duane Schnabel and he assures her that they're staying current by working overtime and Saturdays.

Leavens asked when the Riverside lab comes back online, is it CDFA's intention to start feeding

LeVesque samples as soon as possible? McCarthy stated the ACP samples, which is what they were sending before. Yes, once they've seen the written report.

Gorden stated we're all anxiously awaiting the receipt of that written report. Hopefully by the next meeting, we will have this issue resolved. Gorden suggested having Duane speak at the next meeting, if appropriate. McCarthy concurred.

### **Data Management Report**

**Rick Dunn**

Dunn reviewed the update on the status of the citrus mapping program. They still have some part-time help from U.C. Kearney; they are making calls. They did get 29 growers and PCA requested interviews for the process. Dunn stated he has done a couple of them himself.

Dunn stated he has twice as much to do as he has time and is requesting more help for his department. Taylor referred to the job description for the GIS technician that was included in the meeting packets. This position was part of the approved budget for this fiscal year. Taylor stated he would like to request a motion from this committee to proceed with doing a search for a suitable candidate to fill that position. Dunn's workload has increased significantly, along with each of the finds that are made; they all have to be mapped and coordinated with their locations as to citrus growing areas, etc. Taylor stated they would like to hire a position to help Dunn keep on track so that they don't fall behind with proper timeframe to contact people.

Gorden stated the request is to get authorization from this committee to commence recruiting for this position, which was approved in the budget process. Gorden asked for a motion from someone.

**11.07.2012.2 Galbraith moved and Dreyer 2<sup>nd</sup>, that we approved commencing this process of interviewing and adding a GIS Technician to the Data Management Department.**

**Motion passes; 7 yes and 1 abstention**

#### **Further discussion:**

Hill asked with the new personnel, when do we expect to have everything inline and ready to use and to get the mapping program done or close enough to where it would be effective? Dunn responded that what has been done is effective but there are several new initiatives they'd like to do, i.e., tracking of treatments; it is very time consuming. The process of the citrus layer development is ongoing. The ground truthing project has been on hold for some time and needs additional input from his department. Dunn stated it will be ongoing work for this additional staff person. Gorden concurred and stated some of the work is continuous, ongoing work in updating this database and updating the ground truthing system. Dunn stated as long as there continues to be new ACP and HLB finds that he is expected to map and as long as treatments go on, he is expected to map and coordinate management of that information. Also, as long as growers continue to push out and plant new citrus groves, there will be an ongoing need.

Severns asked how long it will take to get this person up to speed to where they need to be to assist. Dunn stated he thought once the new person was on board, around two months, they should up and running. They are hoping to hire a person with a lot of training.

**CPDPC Report**

**Susan McCarthy**

McCarthy stated they are meeting next week at visitor's center at Limoneira. She had nothing more to report.

**Chairman Report**

**Jim Gorden**

Chairman Gorden stated he would like to have a discussion at next meeting to see about moving back the meeting time, to 9:00 or 9:30 a.m., to allow more time without running into noon.

Chairman Gorden thanked those involved with getting their reports in for today's meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held at the CRB Conference Room in Visalia on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**Certification**

I, Ted A. Batkin, President of the Citrus Research Board, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting held on November 7, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted A. Batkin, President