

Citrus Research Board Office
CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting
CRB Conference Room
217 N. Encina Street
Visalia, Ca 93291
Minutes of Meeting
April 3, 2013 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
Link Leavens, V-Chairman*
Dan Dreyer
Dan Galbraith
Kevin Olsen
Earl Rutz (Ex-Officio)*

C DFA Staff

Art Gilbert
Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo*
Susan McCarthy*
Robert Leavitt
Bob Wynn
David Morgan*
Victoria Hornbaker

CRB Staff:

Ted Batkin
MaryLou Polek
Brian Taylor*
Louise Fisher
Rick Dunn
John Morgan*
Cynthia LeVesque*
Brent Eickelberg
Marilyn Martin

Interested Parties:

Linda Haque, Ventura County
Leslie Leavens*
Judy Zaninovich*
Nick Hill
Neil McRoberts
John Krist*
Paul Story
Sylvie Robillard
Brett Chandler*
Richard Bennett

*Participated by phone and/or Web-ex

Call to Order

Chairman Gorden welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken to establish a quorum and to confirm who was attending. Chairman Gorden asked Leavitt to introduce C DFA staff that were new to this committee meeting. Leavitt stated there have been changes to C DFA staff and welcomed Victoria Hornbaker and Craig Hanes to the CPDPC. Leavitt informed the committee that Susan McCarthy moved to running the plant lab and will still be part of the monthly committee meetings. Leavitt introduced Victoria Hornbaker stating she will continue as the liaison here for the CPDPC. Leavitt introduced Craig Hanes who is filling the role of interim statewide coordinator. The emergency contract is in progress for the permanent statewide coordinator and Hanes will do that until they have someone on contract to do it.

Review of Minutes

Chairman Gorden asked if anyone had any comments, questions or edits to the Joint Operations Committee meeting minutes of March 6, 2013.

04.03.2013. 1 Dreyer moved and Olsen seconded to approve Minutes from the March 6, 2013 Joint Operations Committee Meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Review of financial reports and approval of CRB action

a. Financial Report for CRB Operations

Louise Fisher

Fisher provided the February financials and stated the third column of the budget reflects the final numbers that came off the signed CDFA grant and is slightly different from previous one. Fisher stated we should be at about 41% being 5 months into the year for items in ongoing basis, though we are at 77% for vehicle repairs because of problems. Everything else is either below budget or in line to be on tract. Leavens asked about field staff compensation. Fisher indicated that was Brian Taylor from when he was defunded, the \$26,500 was to cover him through the end of December. It was an estimate and there was \$500 left over from that. That is done and Taylor is being funded elsewhere.

b. CDFA Treatment Expenses vs. Budget Report

Debby Tanouye

Tanouye reported that \$627,000 was spent in March on treatment and there is about \$2.8 million left for treatments. Tanouye stated that at the last committee meeting, recommendations were made and the Secretary approved those recommendations. In the last week they were able to remove a lot of the trucks and reduce the staff. Tanouye reviewed the table showing the percent reduction in trapping and treatment per county.

Chairman Gorden asked Tanouye to explain the tables further. Tanouye explained that based on the recommendations they are only going to treat around the commercial citrus in all the counties. In San Diego County they are going to do two miles from the border to mirror Mexico and will keep that treatment in place in the urban area. They started removing the traps in the areas they're not treating any more. In Imperial they're going to keep two miles along the borders to mirror Mexico and reduced by two trapping staff and four Tru Green trucks. Galindo stated that in Riverside they reduced treatment staff by five and in Ventura County reduced four trapping staff, eight treatment staff and nine trucks.

Rutz requested adding an additional column that reflects how many are left for treatment/ trapping /trucks so everyone can get a clear picture of what is still left. Galindo provided those numbers in her meeting attachments: In San Diego County there are currently 5 trappers and 3 treatment staff; Imperial has 4 trappers and 3 treatment staff; Ventura has 5 trappers and 21 treatment staff and Riverside has 18 treatment staff.

Trapping Program Report and Treatment Update

Tina Galindo

Galindo reported on San Diego County for treatment. Galindo indicated that eighteen employees from the Perris office are helping in Northern San Diego County; six are in Pauma with two CDFA trucks and will move to the two areas pending after Pauma. They have one CDFA truck in each of San Ysidro, Bonsall and Tecate. In Imperial County they released the Tru Green trucks and have one CDFA truck that will be working in Calexico. In Riverside they are finishing up in Thermal and are currently working in a large area of Coachella, where most of the trucks are now. There are some pending areas to move into after that in Coachella. In Ventura they've stopped treatment as agreed upon in Simi and Thousand Oaks. They are still treating in Santa Paula and Camarillo with more meetings set-up for other detections in Santa Paula and Camarillo.

Galindo reported in Santa Barbara they finished the first two detections in Santa Maria; there was another detection there which expanded the area and have another meeting on April 9th and will start treatment on the 12th. They recently had another detection in Goleta which was 1.5 miles away from groves on both the east and west side of the detection and have a meeting set for that area and will start treatment two days after meeting.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Craig Hanes

Hanes stated he is making contact with all the area coordinators and will be assisting them with any issues they are having and sharing information with this committee. Gorden emphasized communication to growers so that they can plan is vitally important. Fisher stated the grower/citrus website is in the making and are getting the program set-up to be able to send out email blasts. Fisher stated Hanes would play a big part in keeping the information fresh and current on the website. They want the website to be a one-stop shop for growers to find whatever they need to know, i.e. psyllid locations and treatment options.

Hill brought up the bloom period and the area wide coordinators communicating with packing houses and local PCA's to make sure they know what options they have. There is narrow range of fruit that can be picked right now so it isn't a huge issue right now. Gorden stated growers/handlers need to be aware of bloom period guidelines for treatment/picking. Story from CCM stated they could communicate with the handlers if needed. CCM can send out a communication but hasn't as of yet; they're waiting for the new list to come out. Zaninovich suggested local Tulare CDFA make calls to handlers in area and Tanouye stated pest exclusion should also know handlers to contact.

Detection Updates

Report on any new ACP Detections

Tina Galindo

Galindo reported there was just the one new detection in Goleta. They are currently reducing and removing traps in the urban areas.

Trapping Program Report

Art Gilbert

Gilbert reported there were no new detections in Tulare County. Nothing has been detected in San Luis Obispo County. Gilbert reported a CRB/CDFA trapper passed away a couple of weeks ago and the trapping supervisor out of Fresno is handling that route for now. They are using a CRB trapping vehicle for now. Gilbert reported another trapper resigned in Ventura County and backup trapper is in place learning the new route. Gilbert stated in Riverside and San Bernardino areas they have put a trapper in there that is more capable of doing the ACP survey they are planning on doing down there. When they're finished with the ACP survey they will start on the HLB Survey that this committee has discussed before. He will be going down south next week to get that implemented.

Gilbert reported they're still double screening traps coming out of San Luis Obispo and Tulare Counties and aren't finding anything. Urban trapping has been initiated in the San Joaquin Valley and along the coast. All urban traps are being placed out and should be well along now.

Batkin asked if the collecting of psyllids will go up to Sacramento for processing. Gilbert stated that is the process for now. He has a protocol written up and in place and offered a copy to anyone on the committee. Gilbert stated they would be open to changes being made to protocol, if needed.

Zaninovich asked about Tulare County eradication areas and restricted areas being re-evaluated by CDFA after six months. Leavitt stated he discussed this with secretary. The clock will start on the six months in approximately the middle of May then they will start doing a re-evaluation. Leavitt stated Hornbaker would be involved in this and assumed Zaninovich would also be involved and would also include the grower community with how they should proceed. Possible outcome options: Can continue the restricted areas; not continue; continue with survey and trapping (as they committed to for two years); still have restricted area but with fewer requirements. It also depends on what happens with citrus bloom.

Batkin clarified protocol for ACP samples: Samples will go to Sacramento, catalogued and then distributed back to the Riverside lab or processed in Sacramento; with the long term direction of moving all of the samples to the Riverside lab. This is a transition process happening over the next couple of months.

Tanouye reviewed her handout, ACP Program Changes – PD/EP, April 3, 201 which reflected the California counties where trapping will end (counties that have less than 1,000 acres of commercial citrus). Tanouye then reviewed counties where urban trapping will continue along with CDFA-Run Urban Trapping areas/counties. Batkin expressed concern over citrus acreage up near Chico and Orland in Solano County, stating there is quite a bit of acreage. Gorden suggested it may be split up over several counties. There was further discussion regarding removal of urban trapping around commercial citrus in the different counties. Leavens stated he would like to see the city of Ventura map to see how many traps are being removed from there. We want to try and maintain the integrity of the western part of the county. Tanouye told Leavens she could have that for him

before the CPDPC meeting. Gorden suggested getting it prior to the meeting so that the whole committee could study it in advance. Tanouye stated they would make an effort.

Gorden stated there are some holes in this mapping system and we need to get a close look at what we're doing in some of the areas where we still hope to have some semblance of control, like Camarillo, Oxnard and Ventura. Rutz and Leavens concurred. Leavens would like to do this before the traps are removed. There was discussion about the relaxation of the term "all groves" for CDFA triggering of treatments. Leavitt stated their authority depends on the growers' treating. They can treat in residential areas to protect growers if the growers are taking the steps to protect themselves. They have not established a trigger at this point. Leavitt suggested having Hornbaker work with Tanouye, this committee and others to move in that direction. Leavitt stated, as a working hypothesis, "as long as we're making progress, CDFA will continue to treat."

There was discussion regarding secondary screening for ACP on GWSS traps.

Gorden recommended coming up with a comprehensive overview of what we have for statewide would be very helpful for the CPDPC to have before making a recommendation to the secretary.

HLB Survey

Debby Tanouye

1. Risk-Based HLB Survey (Gottwald)

Tanouye reviewed the handout and reported that the survey is progressing and so far everything is negative. There were no symptomatic leaves or psyllids. Galbraith asked if somebody was still investigating the possibility of taking root samples? Leavitt responded that is one of the things that will be added to the April 17th meeting program; Magally will be giving a talk about the root sampling protocol. She will be calling Batkin or Polek or someone to identify the best priority site in the Hacienda Heights area to try that. It is invasive and is moving forward.

Gorden asked McRoberts to inform the committee of his involvement with Gottwald. McRoberts stated his collaboration with Gottwald is to work in California to look at issues of quality control and quality assurance to make sure that the data is going to be useful for tailoring the model particularly to local conditions. McRoberts would like to go and work with the surveyors and trappers to make sure the protocol is being followed and to make sure the model is going to be updated properly. Tanouye concurred and told McRoberts to let her know when he is ready to do that and they can coordinate.

2. Hacienda Heights HLB Survey

Tanouye stated their plan is to go back in and treat this month and treat the 800 meters.

Bennett asked if leaf samples were being freeze dried and logged in for future reference and a possible timeline. He didn't know if there was any kind of storing of leaves from different sites for any future research; see if we can detect a secondary survey on top of it, an overlay. Leavitt stated, he thought we're depending on Dr. Slupsky to do that, but can coordinate more with her. Bennett stated he was curious whether it had started; at one time we had talked about doing it at Hacienda Heights. Leavitt stated they started doing that at Dr. Slupsky's. Batkin stated that was started from the very beginning. Bennett thought they were eliminated a few months ago and he wanted to confirm they resumed taking leaf samples and are being stored again.

Bio Control Program Report

Ted Batkin/David Morgan

Batkin reported that there has been continuous forward movement on the bio control program. Batkin stated the crux of the discussion for today evolve around questions raised regarding the Arvin facility and strategies for outsourcing plants. Batkin stated some of the project is funded by the CPDPC, USDA APHIS and some by CRB directly. Batkin deferred to Morgan who has put together a report.

Morgan stated phase one of this program involves two major strategies. One is using field insectaries under operation by Greg Simmons from USDA and is funded through a different source at the moment. Morgan

stated he would talk about the CDFA involved aspect, which are the conventional insectary productions. There are three components to phase one: 1) To develop an insectary at Cal State University Pomona; 2) Renovate greenhouses at Mt. Rubidoux. There is 8,000 s.f. of greenhouses there which can be employed in farm production and then it can be switched over to bio control production; and 3) The renovation of greenhouses at Arvin. We have a total of 13,000 s.f. of greenhouses of which, about 5,000 s.f. is being used by the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Pest and Disease Control Program for their biocontrol. Morgan reported there is 8,000 s.f. there which they set-up bids for renovation. The lowest bid was \$220,000 and in addition to that space there is some open space or space that can be easily cleared, about 60' x 350' which they can easily put in two houses. Morgan stated several people have suggested getting industry to help with plant production. He has, along with Batkin and Pitcairn, been preparing a bid to get industry help and has a call in to a number of people in the nursery industry to get estimates on the cost of providing the plants. There is an estimated need for about 24,000 plants per year at peak production, or at least initial peak production. There is enough space in the greenhouses if we go ahead with Arvin for 12,000 plants.

California is looking to raise curry leaf. There isn't much material available for growing seeds up and may be limited in terms of the number of plants we can get from that. They have a proposal underway to develop tissue culture. Once the plants are grown they need to be prepared for use in the insectary and it takes about eight months to grow them to the right size and another month to be prepared for use in the insectaries. They are still developing production methods. Arvin is located ideally for the Central Valley and urban situations.

Morgan stated they have developed two documents; one will come out later once it is polished up and the other is an invitation for bid for an initial amount of about 2,000 plants per month. They are trying to estimate the square footage that will be needed for plant production. There is enough square footage for producing about 12,000 a year. The operating costs and personnel cost for CDFA to produce the plants at Arvin equals \$142,000 per year, which breaks down to just below \$16 per plant and are looking for that pricing also from industry.

Chandler stated there is concern from the insectary industry to be kept in the loop as procedures for rearing the host plants are released so they can begin ramping up getting their host colonies going. They would like to have co-development as each parameter is nailed down so they can begin to book it and get a series of production protocols to match their particular facility. They would like to have their host colonies set-up and available for when this system does become released; general parameters that have been worked out, it would be very helpful to release those incrementally as you determine those. Chandler stated just learning to rear the host plants is one of the most critical things of any insectary operation regardless of the final beneficial you are working with. Morgan concurred and stated the ultimate goal is for insectary production to move to the commercial side.

Batkin stated the direction they are looking for today is direction for whether to proceed with Arvin or not. The funding has been approved but there were enough questions raised on this as to which direction to go.

04.03.2013.1 Galbraith moved and Leavens seconded approval to recommend to the CPDPC a \$30,000 increase for the Arvin facility upgrade.

Motion passed 3-yes; 1-no; 1-abstention

There was extensive discussion regarding the renovating of Arvin and costs associated with the renovation. Olsen asked the square footage and Batkin confirmed 67' x 97' = 6500 s.f. = 6500 trees/plants. Batkin stated this particular issue will be part of the master strategy that they are doing. It includes the field cages; insectary rearing; the transitional plan over five years and total operating budgets projected to run the biocontrol program, whether in the private or public sector, based on costs and cost projections. That budget will be completed by the April 17th CPDPC meeting. It will also layout what are the capital expenditures and what are the operating costs. Hill requested hard copies of the costs be distributed to the committee members so that it can be reviewed at the CPDPC meeting in two weeks. Batkin concurred.

Laboratory Activities

a. Riverside Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque

LeVesque reviewed her powerpoint for Samples Received and Processed and Time Frame for Goals.

b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities

Susan McCarthy

McCarthy is still in transition and will be able to give an overview next month.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn

Dunn reported that the intern staff at the Kearney Ag Center continue to make calls. They are starting to get some pushback from some of the potential interviewees. Dunn stated he was able to interview one PCA from a grower liaison. He needs to talk with board members for interviews and would appreciate their cooperation when he calls each of them.

Dunn said regarding the earlier question regarding the north valley county acreages involved, he could go to the GIS and spatially select a concentration of groves up there and get figures on how many acres would be involved. There is a cluster of different counties that are close to each other.

Leavens asked Dunn if he is getting what he needs from CDFA currently. Dunn stated he is not getting the site specific detection data or locations that they have determined are not within the 800 meters of the commercial groves. Batkin responded saying that he met this morning with Hanes, Leavitt and Hornbaker and they are going to be fixing that issue so that the data will get to Dunn in a timely manner and on a regular basis and it will happen very quickly. Leavens stated he is looking forward to the results.

CPDPC Report

Nick Hill/Susan McCarthy

Hill reported they will be looking at some real tough budget issues at the next CPDPC in two weeks, and will have a better idea of our fundings with CHRP and other issues they will report on; but it's not as bad as we first thought. It will all be brought out at the next CPDPC meeting. McCarthy stated the next meeting will be held on April 17th at Limoneira.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be on May 1, 2013 at 10:00 a.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 April 3, 2013.

Date

Ted A. Batkin, President