

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on April 17, 2013 in Santa Paula, CA by Committee Vice Chair Craig Armstrong.

CPDPC Members Present:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bob Felts, Jr. | Gus Gunderson | George McEwen |
| Craig Armstrong | Kevin Severns | Etienne Rabe |
| James McFarlane | Kevin Olsen | Brian Specht |
| Jim Gorden | John Gless | Link Leavens |
| Richard Bennett | Steve Birdsall | |
| Mark McBroom | | |

CPDPC Members Absent:

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| Earl Rutz | Nick Hill | Dan Dreyer |
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CDFA Staff:

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| Adrian, Gonzales | Magally Luque-Williams | Debby Tanouye |
| Craig Hanes | Mike Pitcairn | Nawal Sharma |
| Robert Leavitt | Scosha Wright | Alexandra Espinoza |
| Victoria Hornbaker | Art Gilbert | Bob Luna |
| David Morgan | | |

Guests:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Paul Story | MaryLou Polek | Louise Fisher |
| Dave Machlit | Sylvie Robellard | Marjie Bartels |
| John Krist | Brian Taylor | Terence Nelson |
| William Corkins | Joe Barcinas | Ed Ishida |
| Ellen Kragh | Brett Chandler | |

Opening Comments:

Vice Chair, Craig Armstrong welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments

COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES

(a) Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes of the March 13, 2013 CPDPC meeting in Ontario

First: John Gless

Second: James McFarlane

Motion Passes: All in favor

(b) Budgets and Assessments – Current Status

Victoria Hornbaker reviewed the balance sheet, the actual budget and the assessments for FY 11/12 with the Committee (attachments A, B & C). There was a discrepancy with the calculations on these documents. Victoria agreed to amend them and resend to the committee to be reviewed at the next Meeting.

Victoria also reviewed the treatment expenditures with the Committee. Expenditures for the month of March are as follows:

- San Bernardino, Orange and Tulare Counties - No Expenditures
- Los Angeles - \$5,489
- San Diego - \$53,184
- Imperial - 57,402
- Ventura - \$264,144
- Riverside - \$178,662
- Santa Barbara - \$68,144

To date, treatment expenditures total to \$4,602,047 leaving the Committee with a balance of \$2,829,762. In order to stay within the budgeted amount for treatments the monthly costs will need to be reduced for the remainder of the fiscal year by approximately \$471,627. The Committee agreed that reducing treatments could potentially be devastating and discussed the possibility of using some of their reserve funds to assist with treatment costs. Victoria stated that in order to increase their spending authority they would need to make a motion and propose it to the Secretary; she would then either approve or deny the request.

Debby Tanouye went over the CHRP budget and expenditures. The month of March expenditures were high due to the treatments that took place in the Simi Valley and the Thousand Oaks area before the Committee decided to stop treatments there. Because some of the treatments have stopped there should be a significant savings in the following months. Dr. Etienne Rabe asked that CDFA and CRB provide the Committee with oversight, based on statistics, as to where they should be focusing their efforts and their funding. Ted Batkin stated that he and CRB staff, along with staff from USDA APHIS Statistical Analysis Unit are currently working on the statistical report. They are filling in the gaps from the original data they were working with to ensure that the Committee is provided with an accurate statistical modeling system that can be used for making projections. Ted estimated that the information should be ready within 30 days assuming no additional work is needed.

Debby also gave an update on the treatments near the Mexican Border. The treatment proposal that CDFA submitted to the Secretary is to reflect what Mexico does which is treating up to 2 miles on their side of the border. In Tijuana they treat a 200m radius around finds and in Mexicali they treat 400m radius, which we will mimic on our side of the border.

(c) Reductions to CPDPC and CHRP Expenditures – Dr. Robert Leavitt, CDFA

Dr. Robert Leavitt let the Committee know that the CHRP funds have been reduced by 7.8% for the year. However, since the year is close to half way over the CHRP funding will be reduced by 16% for the remainder of the year to reflect the 7.8% for the entire fiscal year. The Committee will have to make critical decisions as to what aspects of the

program they will adjust to echo the reduced CHRP funds. As far as the CPDPP assessment funds, the ACP urban treatment funds are already 62% spent. In order to remain within the budgeted amount CDFA will be tracking expenditures very diligently. If the expenditures remain the same for the urban treatments as they have been in the recent months the Committee will be forced to use their emergency funds or make drastic changes to the program to stay within their budget for FY 12/13. Dr. Leavitt also stated that per the Committee's request, assessment audits have been initiated.

(d) Regulatory Strategies and Costs – Nawal Sharma, CDFA

With the 16% reduction to CHRP funds the regulatory program will be affected. Nawal Sharma gave the Committee two handouts to look at; the first one has CASS expenses and reductions and the other is an ACP cost analysis. The ACP quarantine area is very large, with the addition of Santa Barbara, it now totals to about 28,000 square miles of quarantine. The regulatory program has a budget of roughly 2.2million, 65% of which is spent on nursery inspections within the quarantine area. With the recent reduction to funding the regulatory program has already begun to implement cuts. As of April 16 there has been a 26% reduction of CASS personnel, 33% reduction of vehicles and a termination of a field office lease that will reduce costs as well. These reductions mean a lower level of nursery inspections. In order to meet their new budget of \$1.9 million the Regulatory Program will either need to make additional cuts to nursery inspections or make reductions to other parts of the program. The program would like guidance from the Committee as to where the reductions should be made. If they would like the Program to maintain the current lower level of inspections, this will cost \$1.5 million, leaving \$400k for the remaining aspects of the program such as monitoring local stores like Save Mart and Trader Joes and farmers markets and swap meets on a weekly basis to ensure nursery stock and citrus with stems and leaves is not being taken outside of the quarantine area, as well as inspecting 37 packing houses and associated equipment. Regardless of where the reductions are made, there is going to be an increased risk for the spread of ACP. The Committee agreed they need to think strategically to mitigate this risk and asked for a more detailed report on high and low risk areas to help guide their decisions on reductions. The Science and Operations Committee will meet and prepare recommendations to present to the full Committee at the June 12th meeting in Visalia.

(e) CDFA Laboratory Activities and Costs- Susan McCarthy, CDFA

Susan McCarthy reviewed the CDFA Lab budget associated with CHRP Funds with the Committee (Attachment D). As of March 11 all ACP samples that are not collected in the Hacienda Heights area, are now sent to the Citrus Research Board (CRB) Lab. There is a communications protocol in place to track samples that are sent to CRB and the results CDFA receives back from them.

(f) Science and Technology Discussion, Residential HLB Survey Update, and Hacienda Heights Update- Debby Tanouye, Tina Galindo and Magally Luque-Williams CDFA

Magally gave the Committee a presentation on the ACP-HLB Risk-Based survey in Southern California which is guided by Dr. Gottwalds protocols. Samples are collected in different areas of Southern CA, the samples are then assigned a risk percentage and then a density amount for site visits and sampling based on the risk of finding HLB in a particular area is generated. The density amount provides CDFA with a guideline on how many sites should be surveyed and how many samples should be taken per square mile.

However, the recommended amounts are not always met due to the lack of sites available to survey. The data that is needed for the Risk-Based survey is: the survey date, number of sites surveyed, number of plant samples taken, number of entomology samples, negative and positive sites (including GPS points and address) and STR's completed. The following counties are included in this survey: Imperial, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties. Dr. Rabe had a question about the level of confidence of finding HLB using this survey. Victoria is going to reach out to Dr. Gottwald to discuss this and will report back to the Committee on her findings.

Magally also gave a presentation on the root sampling protocol for HLB. This requires digging up the soil around the base of the tree trunk and collecting fibrous roots (one sample for each quadrant). Each sample that is taken is given a unique identifying number that ties the sample back to the tree. After the samples are taken they are sent to CDFA's Lab to be tested. Both Texas and Florida are doing root testing; based on Florida's tests the best time to collect samples is after the spring flush. There has been root testing in Hacienda Heights since November of 2012 and thus far all samples have been negative. Future testing plans include testing the five VOC sites in Hacienda Heights on a quarterly basis. Root sampling can be time consuming both for collection and processing and should only be used in specific cases, it is not ideal for large scale survey.

Tina Galindo reported that the Hacienda Heights, Zone 1 survey, is continuing which is the 400m area around the HLB detection site. ACP has been found in this Zone and Debby Tanouye is working to schedule a public meeting in the area so the entire 800m's can be retreated with imidacloprid. Zone 2 is the 400-800m area that will be surveyed for the fifth time on June 10th. Survey in Zone 3, which is the 800-1200m area, will begin for the third time in July. Leaf samples continue to be taken from the five VOC trees on a monthly basis and sent to CDFA's Lab for testing.

Ted Batkin gave the Committee a quick update on the status of the VOC testing. 10 trees in the Hacienda Heights area have been tested with the VOC censor and with the metabolic test per Dr. Slubsky. Five of the trees tested with the VOC censor came back as unhealthy trees from HLB and those five trees were confirmed by metabolic testing at UC Davis. They have not been re-sampled since this original test. The objective of the testing so far has been to determine the timeframe from when the tree tests positive per the VOC censor and when it legally tests positive with the conventional PCR. We do not have legal authority to remove the trees but we can ask for permission from the property owner to remove them. However, if the trees are removed the research for determining the time frame for a VOC positive tree and an actual PCR positive tree will be lost. The Committee is concerned with leaving these trees in the ground as they have tested positive for HLB per the VOC censor. They understand the importance of the research, and being able to have confidence in this testing would be a huge gain for the industry but there is no guarantee that ACP will not survive on these trees.

Motion: Request that CDFA approach the property owners of the 5 VOC censor positive trees and inquire about property owners' willingness to remove the trees

First: Dr. Etienne Rabe

Second: Steve Birdsall

Motion Passes: All in favor

Tamarixia Report- CRB and CDFA

Mike Pitcairn gave a presentation on the status of the biocontrol project. The proposed plan for the mass rearing of this biocontrol agent includes two different aspects; one is the insectary production in greenhouses, which CDFA is taking the lead on, and whole-tree production that is being lead by the USDA and CRB. The insectary production in greenhouses consists of setting up small cages with ACP host plants inside of them, the ACP then lay their eggs on the plants and the adults die, the parasite is then put into the cages where it stings all the ACP nymphs and a few weeks later they are taken out as adult Tamarixia. The current proposal is to set up a greenhouse at CSU Pomona and at Mt. Rubidoux. Per research that Texas is conducting, each cage should be able to produce 400 parasitoids. With the size of the current proposed greenhouses, in order to have a full production, 12,550 plants per year will be needed to rear 5,025,000 parasitoids. An additional 18,825 plants per year will also be needed for the ACP only colonies and the Tamarixia colonies (mother colonies). To maximize Tamarixia production space, the CDFA facility at Arvin will be used to grow host plants. The annual cost of operating the Arvin facility, including supplies, vehicle mileage, utilities and personnel totals to about \$142,000. There will also be a one-time cost for upgrading the facility of \$220,000, CPDPC will cover \$185,000 of it and CHRP funds will pay for the remaining \$35,000. The Arvin facility should be able to produce 12,000 plants per year however, 19,000 are needed for the mass rearing. The remaining 7,000 will have to be purchased from private nurseries. Mike gave the Committee a scope of work for the request to bid that will be sent out to nurseries for the remaining 7,000 plants that are needed. He asked that the Committee email him any comments questions and concerns in regards to this request for bid. After some discussion the Committee agreed that they were concerned with the cost associated with the Arvin facility and producing the plants there. Jim Gorden reminded the Committee that they recently approved an additional \$110,000 for the Arvin facility. Although the cost is a concern the Arvin facility is available now and rent free it also provides a biocontrol production facility in the San Joaquin Valley, should it be needed in the future.

Motion: To approve moving forward with the Arvin Facility Project at the current budget level.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: Richard Bennett

Motion Passes: 10 yeas 5 nays

Grower Liaisons- Victoria Hornbaker

Craig Hanes who works for the Glassy-Winged Sharp Shooter Program is currently the interim Statewide Coordinator. The original contract for the Statewide Coordinator was for unknown reasons put on hold. However, CDFA is going to start the bid process again as soon as possible. As far as the grower liaisons go, there are some minor concerns internally at CDFA with the legal division in regards to what constitutes and emergency but the issues are being worked out and the contracts for the grower liaisons will be resolved soon as well.

Trapping Program- Debby Tanouye

With the current reduction to the CHRP funds as well as trying to preserve the CPDPP Assessment funds, there will no longer be urban ACP trapping in the following counties: Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Glenn, Kings, Merced, Sacramento, San

Benito, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter Yolo and Yuba. Although some ACP trapping is being eliminated, GWSS Program traps in these counties will be inspected for ACP every 2-3 weeks from May1-October 31. In Imperial and San Diego Counties urban trapping will be eliminated but some trapping will remain around groves and along the borders. Urban trapping will continue in the following counties: Fresno, Kern, Merced, Monterey, Placer San Luis Obispo and Tulare. Although urban trapping is being eliminated, there will be 15 traps per square mile in a 1.5 mile radius around commercial groves in Imperial, Eastern Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. There will be 25 traps per square mile in a two mile radius from the Mexican Border in Imperial and San Diego Counties. In Orange, Western Riverside and San Bernardino counties there will be no more grove trapping but there will be an HLB survey. There are current treatments in Santa Maria, Goleta, Tulare County and the Hacienda Heights area.

Outreach Committee Update

One of the issues that came up at the last subcommittee meeting was to evaluate the program for cost savings. Louise Fisher did a great job working with NST and identifying ways the program can be more cost efficient. The Committee reviewed the revised budget that reflects a reduction of \$123,000. The new proposed spending plan decreases costs in some areas and increases them in others such as grower outreach which the Committee feels is critical.

Motion: Approve the revised spending plan for Education and Outreach

First: Dr. Etienne Rabe

Second: Link Leavens

Motion Passes: All in favor

Closing Comments and Adjournment

The Committee discussed the next meeting date and place as they have gotten off track for the regularly scheduled meetings. It was set for June 12th in Visalia, CA.