

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 12, 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 June 12, 2013 in Visalia, California by Committee Chair Nick Hill.

CPDPC Members Present:

Craig Armstrong*	Nick Hill	Etienne Rabe
Dan Dreyer	Link Leavens	Earl Rutz
Bob Felts, Jr.	Mark McBroom	Kevin Severns
John Gless	George McEwen	Brian Specht*
Jim Gorden	James McFarlane	
Gus Gunderson	Kevin Olsen	

CPDPC Members Absent:

Steve Birdsall

CDFA Staff:

Courtney Albrecht*	Victoria Hornbaker	David Pegos*
Alexandra Espinoza	Jason Leathers	Mike Pitcairn
Tina Galindo	Robert Leavitt *	Debby Tanouye
Art Gilbert	Magally Luque-Williams	Scosha Wright
Craig Hanes	Susan McCarthy*	

Guests:

Gabriel Alejandrez	Ken Freeze	Ronnie Reyes
Bob Atkins	Alejandro Haro	Sylvie Robillard
Ted Batkin	Mike Hennessey	Lisa Rodriguez
Ruben Carrera	Ken Keck	Victor Rodriguez
Jose Castro	Jesus Luna	Juan Sandoval
William Corkins	Joel Nelsen	Pete Vargas
Jim Cranney	MaryLou Polek	

*** Participated via telephone**

Opening Comments:

Chairman, Nick Hill, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE BUISNESS & UPDATES

(a) Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes of the April 17, 2013 CPDPC meeting in Santa Paula, California.

First: John Gless

Second: James Jim Gorden

Motion Passes: All in favor

(b) Budgets and Assessments – Victoria Hornbaker and Debby Tanouye, CDFA

Victoria Hornbaker reviewed the budget and the assessments for FY 12/13 with the Committee. Changes were made to the actual budget spreadsheet. Victoria stated that she will present a historical financial document at the next meeting showing the previous CPDPC budgets starting from when the Committee was first established through the last complete fiscal year.

Victoria and Debby Tanouye discussed the Funding Sources Worksheet. Victoria explained the breakdown of each tab on the document. Debbie explained the TASC Grant received from California Citrus Mutual which supplements the commercial citrus tracking program. CDFA received a TASC grant for FY 12/13 and is anticipating another grant FY 13/14. The Citrus Commodity Survey is a statewide survey, every year 25 percent of commercial citrus is surveyed, looking for signs of pests and diseases. CFDA plans to have a more detailed report of each section that will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

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

San Bernardino, Orange and Tulare Counties - No Expenditures
Los Angeles - \$6,824
San Diego - \$151,183
Imperial – \$27,776
Ventura - \$67,387
Riverside - \$174,873
Santa Barbara - \$120,461

To date, treatment expenditures total to \$4,612,798 leaving the Committee with a balance of \$2,270,507.

The Committee directed Victoria to incorporate the “forecast” column back into the budget to help provide clarity of the overall spending plan. Victoria agreed to make the changes requested before the next Committee meeting.

Victoria explained why there was increased budget authority of 2.5 million for fiscal year 2013/2014 documented in the Governor's May budget revise, it is intended to allow spending authority of Committee reserves for additional unexpected ACP or HLB finds. Victoria reminded the Committee that reserves cannot be spent without increased authority and a revised budget. The Committee was concerned with the increased budget authority as it would increase their pro rata costs, whether they used the authority or not and they felt that they were not adequately included in the decision. Robert Leavitt further explained to the Committee why the budget authority was increased.

Motion: To retract the increased budget authority of 2.5 million.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Passes: All in favor

(c) Regulatory Strategies and Costs – Courtney Albrecht, CDFA

Courtney Albrecht reviewed the regulatory work that has been completed as well as a summary of the costs per location. The projection of regulatory expenses through Sept 30th is \$1,919,814. This does not include reductions that have been made previously this year as well as the unexpected treatments done in Tulare County totaling \$237,945. This brings the total regulatory cost to \$2,157,759. If there are no unexpected costs, the regulatory cost for next FY will be approximately \$1,848,412. That being said, further reductions should be taken into consideration. In general, about half of the \$1,919,814 is associated with employing temporary staff to conduct inspections in nurseries. The remaining expenses are associated with operating expenses and CDFA personnel costs. CDFA has looked at making reductions to operating expenses however there is not a lot of room for cutting expenditures in that area. Fewer vehicles are being operated, as well as reducing employee's cellular phones. CDFA expenses are a little more than a quarter of the budget which include permanent staff salaries, administrative costs, and travel costs that cannot be reduced. CDFA is currently operating at bare minimal level.

Cuts were made to temporary staff; however this has created an increased level of risk. It has reduced the workforce which has resulted in fewer inspections at nurseries and less monitoring of nursery treatments. Every nursery in the quarantine area is under a compliance agreement. It takes a fairly large work force to ensure compliance. Risks are unpredictable and if additional reductions are needed, CDFA must strategize and look for areas of lowest risk to implement the reductions. What CDFA is going to do, if reductions need to be made, is incorporate recommendations from SAP, the Nursery Committee, the CPDPC, and affected stakeholder groups.

(d) CDFA Laboratory Activities and Costs – Susan McCarthy, CDFA

Susan McCarthy reviewed the CDFA Lab Activities and Funds with the Committee. As of March, all ACP samples are verified at the CDFA lab and are then sent to the Citrus Research Board (CRB) Lab for DNA analysis. There is a communications protocol in place to track

samples that are sent to CRB and the results CDFA receives back from them. This year so far, 8,100 plant samples and 3,900 ACP samples have been run. In March, 931 ACP samples were sent to CRB and 427 were sent in April. So far all samples have come back negative for HLB.

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

Jason Leathers informed the Committee that the ACP Science Advisory Panel (SAP) had their first preliminary planning call to establish the operating procedures for the SAP. The SAP and CDFA are planning a webinar to bring everyone on the panel up to date on current issues. After the webinar, panel members will decide if they need any additional information and when comfortable will then meet in person to answer questions. The Committee felt that it is taking too long for the SAP to meet and would like immediate action. They were reminded that the SAP is comprised of volunteers, and coordination has been difficult. The Committee was adamant that they need answers to their questions, so they can make scientifically sound decisions and implement changes in the program quickly.

Motion: The Committee proposed that the SAP report directly to the CPDPC executive committee and request that the SAP meet by July 3rd and have recommendations to alter the treatment plans and HLB testing.

First: Kevin Severns

Second: Dan Dreyer

Motion Passes: All in favor

Magally Luque-Williams and Debby gave a presentation on the residential HLB surveying guided by Dr. Gottwald's protocols. There were 946 sites surveyed in Imperial County and the surveying there is now complete. To date the sites surveyed per county are as follows; Los Angeles County, 6,204 sites 12,955 sites in Riverside County, 1,595 sites in San Bernardino County, 1,100 sites in San Diego County, and lastly 720 sites in Ventura County. Debby will be meeting with survey staff in the next couple of weeks to identify efficiencies in the survey program.

Victoria presented the Committee with a map of Southern California showing data through April 2013. The map shows the numbers of STR's available, STR's surveyed, actual percentage that was covered, and samples taken within each county. Another map was shown of the same area, which showed areas that are at high risk due to the amount of ACP samples in the area. About 14,300 locations have been surveyed starting September 1st 2012 through April 5, 2013. CDFA is going to be working with the SAP to make sure that the survey is providing the appropriate level of information.

Tina Galindo gave an update on Hacienda Heights survey and treatments. Treatments have been completed. Treatment crews are now surveying zones one and two. Root sampling on the VOC trees is being continued; so far all samples have come back negative.

Jim Cranney from California Citrus Quality Council discussed the status of ACP and HLB in Mexico. According to Jim much of Mexico is infected with ACP and HLB and they lack a solid control program. Some states, for example Sonora, are using area wide programs however not all states are as aggressive as others. In Colima, 90 to 100 percent of commercial lime production is infected with the disease. Four years ago, Mexico had 40 million dollars in funding for the control program, once HLB took over however; the program was reduced from 40 million to 5 million dollars per year. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) is conducting the biocontrol program which is being used 100 miles along border near California and Texas which has been successful. APHIS is also trapping psyllids, treating, and testing for HLB. The Committee is very concerned about protecting against the northward movement of HLB from Mexico. They would like the SAP to review the adequacy of the current buffers along the border.

(f) Biocontrol Report – Mike Pitcairn, CDFA

Mike Pitcairn gave an update on the biocontrol program. He gave an overview of ACP biocontrol efforts in California and also gave some background on the program. The program started when Dr. Mark Hoddle traveled to Southeast Asia between India and Pakistan, which is the possible area of origin for ACP. To date, over 22,300 *Tamarixia radiata* have been released at over 210 locations, primarily in Los Angeles County. Parasites have been recovered at 48 release locations and have been found up to eight miles from the release site. Currently, The University of California, Riverside is working to complete pre-release tests for an additional parasitoid, *Diaphorencyrtus* and once approved, make releases. *Diaphorencyrtus* was collected in Pakistan during Dr. Hoddles collection trip. This parasitoid may work in sync with *Tamarixia* because it will parasitize nymphs at an earlier stage than *Tamarixia*. CDFA is hoping that by August, the Mt. Rubidoux and Arvin facilities will become operational. By September mass field releases will begin, and by November CSU Pomona greenhouses will be operational. The total annual cost of the project is approximately \$1,667,663.

(g) Operations Subcommittee Report and Discussion – Jim Gorden, Operations Subcommittee Chair, Tina Galindo, Victoria Hornbaker and Craig Hanes, CDFA

Victoria explained to the Committee that a motion was passed at the Joint Operation Subcommittee meeting to approve upgrading some equipment at the CRB Laboratory. A question was raised about the ownership of the equipment. Victoria asked the CDFA contracts office who verified that if the equipment purchase was allocated in the scope of work and budget it would be retained by CRB.

Craig Hanes gave update on grower liaisons contract with CASS. The contract scope of work and budget are being developed. The CASS contract will be for two years and cuts out RFP process making it easier to fill positions. CFDA is having the contract expedited, in the hope that it will be in place prior to October 1st. CDFA was able to get temp contract set up for existing grower liaisons, to ensure that they can continue to work. Craig announced that San Diego County placed Bob Atkins as the new liaison for San Diego County.

Tina Galindo went over the treatment strategies that are currently going on in San Diego, Imperial, Riverside, and Ventura. San Diego is the busiest County right now. There are 24

overlapping areas in Fallbrook. There are seven areas in Valley Center that are 50 to 85 percent complete, and 4 more areas are going to began treatments in June. San Ysidro is about 15 percent complete. In both Pauma Valley and Pala have pending contracts, CDFA needs to wait until those are complete for permission to treat there. There are four areas in Escondido that started receiving treatment in June. Calexico is done with treatment; however there are still some follow ups being done. 90 percent of treatment is done in Riverside County; however there are still some pending meetings in Indio and La Quinta. Ventura treatment is completed.

(h) Outreach Subcommittee Report and Discussion – Kevin Olsen, Outreach Subcommittee Chair

Kevin stated that Victoria was tasked by the Outreach Subcommittee to move forward with a request for proposal for outreach program with an increased focus on grower outreach. Victoria put together scope of work, which is currently being routed through the appropriate offices at CFDA. The Subcommittee set a maximum for the budget, not to exceed \$750,000. Kevin and Victoria explained that because the RFP will encumber money for the next fiscal year, a motion is needed from the Committee to move forward with processing the RFP. .

Motion: To move forward with the RFP for the education and outreach contract.

First: Kevin Severns

Second: Gus Gunderson

Motion Passes: All in favor.

The Website is up and running and the first eblast has been sent out to interested parties. The Subcommittee plans on having grower liaisons provide updates to statewide coordinator who will post information on website, in other words, more outreach to growers. The Subcommittee discussed the focus of outreach and where it needs to go.

(i) CHRP Council Report – Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual

There was nothing to report at this time. Joel is traveling East on Monday June 17th and is going to meet with USDA to further discuss funding.

(j) CRB Report

Most of what needed to be reported had been covered in previous discussion. Ken stated that CRB plays a big role in this Committee and CRB staff looks forward to helping with everything currently in process.

Closing Comments and Adjournment

Victoria discussed the upcoming hearings; the secretary is required by the Food and Agricultural Code 5911-5940 to hold at least one public hearing to take comment on the Citrus Pest and Disease Program and the Committee to determine if there is substantial opposition to the statute.

Dates and locations are set and invitations to attend have been sent out. If there is an opposition to continuing the program, the Secretary will call for a referendum.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 14th in Ontario, California.