

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 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 November 13, 2013 in Ventura, California by Committee Chair Nick Hill.

CPDPC Members Present:

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

CPDPC Members Absent:

Earl Rutz

CDFA Staff:

Stephen Brown*	Art Gilbert	Magally Luque-Williams
Jason Chan	Adrian Gonzales	Colleen Murphy-Vierra
Nick Condos*	Craig Hanes	Mike Pitcairn
Yun Cong Chen	Victoria Hornbaker	Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo	Bob Luna	Scosha Wright

Guests:

Bryce Belgum	Ed Ishida	Don Seaver
Brett Chandler	John Krist	Greg Simmons
Vic Corkins	Leslie Leavens	Paul Story
James Cranny	Scott Mabs	Connie Valenzuela
Lynn Evans-Goldner	Dave Machlitt	Helene Wright
Linda Haque	Paul Martinez	Jane Lynch
Prakash Hebbar	Aimee Meidinger	
Michael Hennessey	Terry Nelson	

*** Participated via telephone**

Opening Comments:

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

Public Comment:

Scott Mabs, CEO of Home-Grown Organic Farms stated that Home-Grown Organic Farms has approximately 50 growers and 15,000 acres of organic citrus represented by their organization. Scott thanked the Committee for their hard work and diligent efforts, and asked the Committee to consider an organic treatment option for the Industry. His concern is that the organic industry will no longer exist in the near future if an organic option is not found.

Scott also read a letter from Thomas Avinelis CEO of AgriCare, Inc. Tom thanked all of the Committee members for their service and for seeking the best possible plan for citrus industry's ACP/HLB challenge. AgriCare is responsible for the management of over 7,000 acres of citrus of which over 1,000 is organic. With the new ACP finds in the San Joaquin Valley, Tom finds it important to come up with a plan for organic citrus before it is too late.

Jane Lynch representing Golden Valley Citrus, wanted to emphasize the need for finding a solution for the organic industry. Jane also discussed the biocontrol program, encouraging all those involved to continue working on making biocontrol available on a larger scale.

Chairman Hill mentioned that there will be a meeting in the next few weeks to review the results of several studies focused on efficacy of various organic insecticides and oils. He mentioned that the Committee is very interested in hearing the results from that meeting and that the Committee is willing to work with the organic industry. Chairman Hill thanked everyone for their comments.

Chairman Hill introduced special guest Dr. Prakash Hebbar, United States Department of Agriculture Citrus Health Response Program Coordinator. Dr. Hebbar appreciated the invitation to the meeting and announced that it was a great opportunity for him and his team members to get a firsthand look at California citrus issues.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES

Chairman Hill reviewed the minutes from the Committee meetings which took place on September 26, 2013, October 9, 2013 and October 23, 2013. No corrections were identified.

Motion: Approval of the minutes from the September 26, 2013, October 9, 2013 and October 23, 2013 CPDPC meetings.

First: John Gless

Second: Kevin Olsen

Motion Passes: All in favor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

a. Tulare Response

Maps were provided to the Committee members showing the three new finds in Tulare County as well as the established quarantine boundaries.

c. Science Advisory Panel

The Committee members were provided with the draft SAP questions for their review. Victoria reported that the SAP meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2013 – December 4, 2013 in Ontario, California. The SAP members have been very involved in looking into the questions provided and have been working closely with CDFA for background information.

STEM AND LEAF CITRUS MOVEMENT

James Cranny discussed the issue of stem and leaf citrus movement. Mandarins that are grown within the quarantine area are not allowed to move from the packing house with stems and leaves attached, impacting growers that normally market fruit with stems and leaves attached. James would like to request that CDFA and USDA/APHIS work together to change the regulations to allow movement of stem and leaf mandarins into market based on particular location for example in Southern California where there is an existing ACP quarantine or in areas where the psyllids would not survive, like Chicago. Joel stated that California Citrus Mutual agrees that the industry should accommodate a stem and leaf program and encourages that a protocol be developed. The Committee expressed concern about moving citrus with stems and leaves. There needs to be a consistency, Southern California and Northern California need to have the same rules. CDFA will review the existing regulations to ensure that there is an equitable process available to all growers.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Operations Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on November 7, 2013 in Visalia, California.

This Committee was previously a Joint CPDPC/CRB Operations Subcommittee and will now be solely a CPDPC Operations Subcommittee. Mark McBroom has asked to be removed from the Subcommittee and John Gless has agreed to take his place.

Motion: To approve the appointment of the CPDPC Operations Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will consist of seven members: Chairman Jim Gorden, Kevin Olsen, Kevin Severns, John Gless, Etienne Rabe, Dan Dreyer and Link Leavens.

First: Mark McBroom

Second: Gus Gunderson

Motion Passes: All in favor

a. Regional ACP Management

Craig Hanes reported that nine qualified individuals applied for the Statewide Coordinator position and the Executive Committee is in the process of reviewing the applications. They will provide CASS a list of top candidates and interviews will be set up. The San Bernardino grower

liaison position has been filled, Gayle Covey has been approved by the executive Committee and she is in the process of signing a contract with CASS. There is one qualified candidate for the Santa Barbara grower liaison position and the Executive Committee is reviewing her resume. There have been several candidates for the Tulare II position, but the amended contract has not been received so the position is temporarily on hold. The Ventura grower liaison position has been posted on the CASS website. Bryce Belgium is employed as grower liaison by Farm Bureau in Ventura and has been working with the program.

b. Treatment and Trapping Update

Southern California

Tina Galindo reported that treatments have recently been completed in Santa Paula. Three new ACP detections were found and confirmed in Ventura County, one in Fillmore, one in Oxnard and one in Ventura. The find in Fillmore involves commercial groves. A map will be provided soon and Bryce Belgium will be contacting the growers there.

The first area-wide treatment is being conducted in the Redlands area of San Bernardino. Treatments are ongoing.

There were additional detections in El Centro which has expanded the treatment area. Two detections near the border, one in Calexico, Imperial County and one in San Ysidro in San Diego County, both areas are currently being treated.

Connie Valenzuela Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner is concerned about the current trapping protocol along the International US/ Mexico border, where trappers are currently checking traps once per month. Connie stated that because Imperial County is in the desert, sticky traps become so coated with dirt in a month that nothing else sticks. She asked the Committee to reconsider servicing traps bi-weekly rather than monthly.

Central Valley

Art Gilbert stated that there were three new finds, in Exeter, Rich Grove and Lemon Cove. He stated that 4485 traps are now deployed in Tulare and 275 in Wasco with no new detections. Treatment has not started in any new area yet however there is a plan in place. Visual and tapping surveys were completed in Exeter and Lemon Cove with no additional finds. Rich Grove survey is ongoing. Currently, there are 4,724 orchard traps still out in the valley.

c. Commercial Grove Trapping Update

Art reported that in the San Bernardino/Riverside/Orange Counties 290 trap sites were removed and 539 survey sites were added for ACP sampling. He reported that traps will be removed in the Puma Valley & Pala areas of Northern San Diego County and ACP survey and collection sites will intensify.

d. HLB Survey

Magally Luque-Williams stated that Imperial and Riverside Counties are complete. She stated that she added a column on the report spreadsheet to show the proposed STR's to be surveyed in each area. She discussed the STR's proposed, the actual number of STR's completed for each county, the sites surveyed, plant samples, entomology samples, and negative sites. The way the

survey will continue to be conducted will be discussed at the SAP meeting on December 3rd and 4th. Debby stated that each county will be allocated a certain number of people for the survey moving forward.

Ken Keck with CRB updated the Subcommittee on the Hacienda Heights activities and the tree removal. There are additional trees in the area that the CRB would like to survey with the early detection technologies. The CRB is proposing to set up transects at various intervals around the original HLB find to survey for ACP and to sample citrus using various methods for HLB.

Motion: To approve an additional \$5,000 dollar allocation to the CRB grant for HLB early detection sampling in Hacienda Heights.

First: George McEwen

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

e. Biocontrol Program Update

Mike Pitcairn reported that the construction at the Arvin and Rubidoux facilities is complete. The contract for the construction of greenhouse space at Cal Poly Pomona has been signed and Cal Poly has allowed the Program to use temporary greenhouse space until the new greenhouses are constructed. Currently the Arvin facility is being used for growing the required plant, 15,000 plants are being prepared for use in rearing. The temporary space at Cal Poly is also being used for plant rearing as well. The Rubidoux facility is being used for mass rearing. The production of Tamarixia has increased to approximately 200,000 this year will continue to increase as more rearing cages are being prepared at Rubidoux. Limited releases are ongoing in areas of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties. The UC Extension will be preparing a handout on the importance of ant control in protecting citrus that will be used as the release area expands in the spring.

Greg Simmons also gave an update on the field cage project. Working with CRB/USDA cooperative agreement the project has 30 field cages up and are still harvesting. As the weather gets colder the field cages will not be productive. To date, 100,000 parasitoids have been harvested from the cages. All of those parasitoids are going to CDFA's release teams. Greg reported that Dr. Mark Hoddle's team is working on obtaining a Federal permit to release *Diaphorencirtis*; the permit is currently under review with APHIS PPQ and may be in place in as little as a month or two.

Greg pointed out that a biocontrol article will be published in the next Citrograph issue. The article describes the entire biocontrol effort and includes a discussion of organic orchards.

f. Regulatory Program Update

Central Valley

CDFA regulatory staff have been working to get all nurseries, packing houses, growers, haulers and harvesters under compliance in the Central Valley. Retail and production nurseries have been visited; citrus nursery stock has been inventoried and placed on hold. All 13 retail nurseries in the quarantine areas were visited and 1,126 citrus plants were placed on hold. Of these plants,

924 were grandfathered by tagging and released for sale exclusively inside the quarantine area and 202 remain on hold. All 7 production nurseries inside the quarantine area were also inspected and a total of 770,485 plants were placed on hold. Total of 200,830 citrus budwood sticks were allowed to move out of the quarantine area under a special permit with CDFA issued CQCs.

As of October 30, 2013, 55 packing sheds, 2 juice plants, 377 growers with 24,040.62 acres of citrus, 117 hauler/transporters and 66 harvesters have signed compliance agreements with the project. To move bulk citrus out of the quarantine area, the growers can either spray an U.C. recommended insecticide or clean the fruit of all leaves and stems. There have been 86 insecticidal treatments for ACP and 13 field cleaning operations. There was discussion about the seven days from re-entry, the Committee wants that extended. Worker safety reasons for why it needs to be extended, Beth is comfortable with ten days. CDFA cannot make recommendations for chemical treatment therefore CDFA refers them to UCIPM. Beth's biggest concern is re-infestation. CDFA will continue to work with USDA on this issue.

Southern California

All CASS field staff were furloughed on August 31, 2013 and since then retail nurseries are not inspected. Treatments at production nurseries and nurseries within 3 miles of commercial citrus production continue to be monitored for treatments by CDFA staff.

g. Laboratory Updates

Riverside Laboratory Activities – Cynthia LeVesque went over samples received and processed and indicated they've received and processed 14,399 subsamples since March and all subsamples have been negative for Las, Lam and Laf. The Subcommittee was also updated on the Hacienda Heights trees testing, which is ongoing, 174 of the 600 samples have been tested and have come back as negative.

Sacramento Laboratory Activities – Victoria reported that the CDFA lab has analyzed 12,288 plant samples and 8,055 ACP samples, all plant and insect samples have been negative for Las. October was a very slow month for the lab, due to the Federal shutdown. There were two interceptions of HLB positive plant tissue, one containing citrus leaves was detected at the Yolo County mail facility by the detector dog and one containing tangerine fruit was intercepted at the Blythe border station by an inspector.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

a. Recap of Citrus Health Response Forum

Etienne gave some feedback on the CHRF conference that took place in Denver, Colorado on November 15, 2013 through November 17, 2013. Unfortunately this meeting took place while the government was shut down 30 USDA staff were unable to attend. Overall a little over 100 people were there.

b. Review Pesticides Labeled for ACP

Victoria went over the new EPA Bee advisory box that is being implemented at the federal level. She anticipates that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation will begin implementation soon. She stated that the new label language may impact use of some products.

Motion: That CDFA work with Department of Pesticide Regulation to review pesticide use during citrus bloom and its impacts on pollinators.

First: Kevin Olsen

Second: Link Leavens

Motion Passes: All in favor

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Outreach Subcommittee Chair Kevin Olsen provided a summary of the Subcommittee meetings that were held on October 2, 2013 and November 7, 2013 in Visalia, California.

A field trip was held on October 29th that took growers and PCA's from the Central Valley to the Southern California to have an opportunity to see psyllids in the field and to get a firsthand look at the biocontrol effort. Sylvie Robillard, Fresno County Grower Liaison worked with Alyssa Houtby from CCM, Louise Fisher from CRB and Teresa Stiles and Katie Rowland from NST to put together a very good tour. Alan Wasburn, Riverside Grower Liaison and Southern California CDFA staff provided locations to view psyllids and instructed attendees on tap sampling. David Morgan, CDFA and Greg Simmons, USDA provided tours of the biocontrol rearing facility and field insectaries. There were approximately 40 to 45 attendees. NST is putting together some activities with packing houses and FLC's getting people knowledgeable. A PSA was shown.

a. Recap of 2013/2013 Outreach Activities

The current (extended) grant with CRB will be ending November 30, 2013. A final recap for the 2012/2013 fiscal year will be presented at the January 8, 2014 full Committee meeting.

b. Update on Outreach Contract Process

Victoria stated that CDFA staff reviewed the proposals on October 3, 2013. The process was handled in a very confidential and fair manner to insure that all proposals were impartially evaluated. The winning proposal was submitted by NST. The Contract has been signed by NST and sent back to CDFA. It will have to go through a 10-day Department of General Services (DGS) review. The hope is to have the new contract in place by December 1st.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Finance Subcommittee Chair James McFarlane provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on October 30, 2013, in Visalia, California.

a. Review of 2012/2013 Closeout

James reviewed the 12/13 fiscal year budgets for both the CHRP funds and the AB 281 funds. He explained each display, noting that the reports were not finalized as there is a lag time for invoices received by CDFA to be billed to the program. Finance subcommittee is working on a developing a template to track the accruals on a monthly basis.

b. 2013/2014 Budget and Assessments

The Subcommittee is working with CDFA to develop a system to track expenditures on a monthly basis. Enhanced detection survey is a special survey USDA approved the money for that. There were no actuals for 13/14 to review as the CDFA accounting program had not closed for October, however James reviewed the 13/14 projections. He reviewed the CHRP budgets, original and revised. Stating there is a potential for sequestration of CHRP funds if the Federal government does not establish a budget.

REPORT FROM CHRP COUNCIL

Joel Nelsen gave an update on the CHRP council and reported that the meeting with Secretary Vilsack went very well. Secretary Vilsack reiterated his priority for the CHRP program and recognized it has had some downfall due to sequestration and discussed future strategies. Joel also reported that he met Cathy Enright who works on conducting public relations for GMO's. She has initiated an active outreach program to get consumers honest and concise answers to their questions. This information may need to be used as GMO citrus might be an option for survival of the citrus industry and we will need to get information out to the public.

CRB REPORT

Ken Keck gave the Committee an update on the CRB staff report. CRB staff will stay in Ventura after the meeting for strategic planning, hoping for positive outcomes from that.

OTHER ITEMS

Mark McBroom asked the Committee if they should be evaluating what they are doing, wins and losses. He also recommended that the Committee set deadlines on action items to facilitate better progress. Link Leavens recommended that Victoria put a questionnaire together for the Committee to help set future priorities.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm. The next meeting will be held in Visalia, California on January 8, 2013 at 10:00am.