

Citrus Research Board Office
CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting
CRB Conference Room
217 N. Encina Street
Visalia, Ca 93291
Minutes of Meeting
May 1, 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
Etienne Rabe
Kevin Olsen
Mark McBroom*
Earl Rutz (Ex-Officio)

CRB Staff:

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

Interested Parties:

Linda Haque, Ventura County
Judy Zaninovich
Nick Hill
Neil McRoberts
John Krist*
Robert Wagner*
Sylvie Robillard
Brett Chandler*
Joel Nelson
Melissa Cregan

CDFA Staff

Victoria Hornbaker
Art Gilbert*
Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo
Craig Hanes
Susan McCarthy*
Bob Wynn
David Morgan*
Mike Pitcairn*

*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 April 3, 2013. There were no comments, questions or edits.

05.01.2013. 1 Galbraith moved and Dreyer seconded to approve Minutes from the April 3, 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 reported that expenditures through March 31, 2013 are on budget at 50% or less with exception of utilities at the Riverside lab and vehicle repairs. Rabe questioned the vehicle repairs. Taylor said there was one

engine replacement and one accident in which there was significant body damage. There was insurance on the body damage from accident, but we have a \$2,500 deductible and the engine replacement was our expense.

b. CDFA Treatment Expenses vs. Budget Report

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker stated the report is the same as seen at the last CPDPC meeting on April 17, 2013. She won't receive April's numbers until mid-May and will update for the next meeting. She just received March's invoices for CRB yesterday. Hornbaker said she corrected the issues that were brought up at the CPDPC meeting.

Hornbaker is working with staff to review all the budgets and will be changing the format and hopes it will be easier to understand.

Hornbaker made reference to the Balance Sheet and when talking with Fisher they disencumbered just under \$215,000 from the 2011 outreach budget contract. On the 2011 Operations contract with CRB, there is also a disencumbrance of about \$839,000, which wasn't shown. They are reviewing all of the contracts, grants and all financial documents. There was further discussion regarding the operating expenses and intradepartmental charges. Hornbaker stated she can pull the expense detail reports for each of the charges and explain what the charges are going for.

Nelson confirmed with Wynn that CDFA redirected approximately \$250,000 from unclaimed gas tax to offset some of these costs to the program. Wynn concurred. Gorden asked if that was annual or just one time. Wynn said they're trying to make it annual. There is a tug-of-war for those unclaimed gas tax funds and those funds are paid by the citrus industry. Most of those funds go to the county ag commissioner for their services but CDFA still retains some of those funds to relieve some of the overhead.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Victoria Hornbaker/Craig Hanes

Hornbaker stated that she and Hanes have been working on getting contracts in place. They are working with their contracts and legal offices to move forward with it. She is hoping to have RFP's posted shortly for some of the counties, including Ventura, Santa Barbara and Riverside.

Hornbaker stated they are trying to decide if Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo should go as a joint contract based on the number of acreage between the two counties, rather than have separate liaisons for each county. Hanes stated from the commissioners' offices in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, they have some names of PCA's and related type people who work in the areas. There is roughly 1500 to 1600 acres of citrus in Santa Barbara County (SB); approximately 2200 in San Luis Obispo County (SLO).

Leavens stated the coordination in Ventura County is a full time deal, but feels combining Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo makes a lot of sense. Hornbaker concurred with Leavens and stated Ventura would be separate and SB and SLO together.

Nelson questioned the delay of getting the RFP out and feels we need a commitment from the department to hire individuals in a timely manner. Hornbaker stated it can take six to eight months to get an RFP through and get a person into the position but they're trying to fast track the process. Wynn stated it shouldn't take six to eight months, they are going to try and expedite the process as much as they can.

Leavens asked about the status of the Ventura contract and if they are out yet. Hornbaker responded they've developed the scope of work and have to work on the budget portion. Wynn stated they're working as quickly as they can to get it through.

Leavens asked if a PCA license is required and Hanes responded no, it is written in as desirable but not required. Leavens stressed that communication skills is a lot more important than the PCA license. Hornbaker stated that if someone does not have a PCA license, they have to be careful when they speak to

growers, saying “this is what the university recommends” and if the grower asks any other pest management questions they will not be able to answer. Robillard stated that even as PCA’s they should recommend university guidelines.

Gorden recommended good communication skills for these positions and getting them filled as soon as possible. This has been an ongoing problem. Wynn suggested having Hornbaker email the committee with the progress of hiring liaisons and also a statewide coordinator position. Hornbaker agreed to do that. Hornbaker asked about the rate for the statewide coordinator position to be posted in the RFP. Gorden stated the regional coordinator position is a contract position for a non-CDFR employee and suggested she get together with Hill to get the figures and any other information to move forward with the RFP process. Wynn stated that Hanes will begin working on the RFP package tomorrow.

Bio Control Program Report

Jim Gorden/Ted Batkin

Gorden reported that there is a Bio Control Task Force meeting scheduled for next week in Riverside. Batkin stated this is a joint agency program and the CPDPC part is just one portion of it. On the CDFR side there has been some delays at Cal Poly with the facilities department getting started on the construction of the greenhouse facilities. There are university internal issues within the system working toward resolution. Batkin stated Valerie Milano at Cal Poly has offered some other greenhouse space on the Cal Poly campus to get started. It will be discussed next week with the whole task force.

Batkin reported that the Rubidoux facility is still working towards completion. They will get a specific timeline on it next week. They are already growing plants at the Rubidoux facility. Batkin concurred and stated the plant growth at Rubidoux is to feed into the actual rearing cages which will come on line very shortly.

The field cage facilities and activities, which are thru a USDA APHIS contract with CRB, are moving along rapidly. The first cage is in the construction phase with the staff on board. They’ve been doing rearing in some field cages at the university.

Batkin reported that Stouthamer’s group has output at around 5,000 wasps per week in releases with a fairly decent recovery rate.

Pitcairn reported that they received a letter from Secretary Ross with the approval of the motions from the CPDPC meeting and the contract is now being written and construction should start very soon on Arvin.

Morgan reported that while the construction is going on at Cal Poly, they are looking at other options to start production, possibly at some of their other greenhouses.

Detection Updates

Report on any new ACP Detections

Tina Galindo

Galindo reported there have been a lot of new detections in San Diego County around the growing areas. Galindo reported that she and Mark Huddle discussed his strategy of holding area wide grower meetings and he’s been holding these meetings the last few weeks. Tanouye is now working on the public meetings so they can treat. They have three Tru Green trucks treating the find sites as they are confirmed and then after public meetings are set, they will go in with more trucks and treat around all the areas in San Diego County as shown on handout.

In Imperial there have been more detections in Calexico; they just had a public meeting and treatment has started. There was a find within the 1.5 mile buffer from one of McBroom’s groves and that area is pending. There was also one area in Desert Shores that had retreatment. McBroom reported that he has already treated.

In Riverside, the numbers have increased and are holding meetings in Mecca and Thermal. There are three pending areas in Mecca that they will be going to. Thermal has nine areas and those meetings are on May 2nd

and will start treatment next week. The trucks are treating new finds as they are confirmed in the area.

Galindo stated they just completed Goleta and are done in Santa Barbara. They are currently retreating in Hacienda Heights around the HLB detection site and they held a meeting last week.

In Ventura they completed three areas; two in Santa Paula and one in Fillmore. There is a new suspect in between those two areas and they will need to have a meeting.

There was considerable discussion regarding Hacienda Heights retreatments using foliar treatments. Galindo indicated that wasn't possible since there is a lot of bloom still out there but can retreat when the bloom is over, or wait and treat if there is ACP. Both Rabe and Gorden strongly suggested not to wait until ACP is back, but treat to keep the population of ACP from building up in that area. Polek stated it is important to keep the systemic going through the tree. Gorden agreed with Polek. Tanouye suggested putting it on the SAP question list. Gorden and Olsen thought there had been a program routine laid out for treating with foliar and systemic on a calendar basis. Gorden said he would have to review the protocol we adopted. Galindo thought knocking it out with Tempo was decided when they started trapping ACP again. Tanouye stated they can put on six applications of Tempo, setting up two month cycles. There was discussion about the roots being taken out also. Polek said an option was to apply herbicide to the cut trunk.

Leavens asked if there was any resolution to the coastal blooming since they have blooming all of the time. Wynn and Hornbaker responded that they can't ignore the blooms and have a protocol to follow, using systemics, Merit or Cortect. Gorden stated there isn't a solution to this dilemma.

Hornbaker informed the committee that at the CPDPC meeting they discussed the five VOC positive trees and whether we can voluntarily ask people to surrender their tree. The CPDPC made the motion and the secretary signed off on it but said she was concerned that we are to be very careful with our messaging to the homeowner and try to find someone to donate five trees to replace those trees. Hornbaker said they want to convey to the homeowners that by allowing removal of their tree they are in partnership with the CPDPC. The committee discussed concern in setting precedence for the industry replacing HLB positive trees. Olsen offered as replacement, ornamental pistachio trees for the five homeowners. The committee agreed.

Trapping Program Report

Art Gilbert

Gilbert informed the committee he hired a replacement trapper for Ken Speck who died. He has hired three people at the Riverside lab to replace those that left and they will be starting this week. He has a backup trapper that has taken the place of a Ventura County trapper that had quit.

Gilbert said there was nothing new to report in the valley or in San Luis Obispo County. They continue to look at the traps in those counties and they're still negative for ACP. They are overloaded on traps and are sending some to other locations for second screenings. Nothing from Tulare County is being sent out.

Gilbert reviewed the map that reflected the sites that converted from trapping to sampling. The traps are down except for in two areas reflected on the map. They are in the process of surveying all of those trees; collecting and sending the psyllids up to the lab for I.D. and then to the CRB lab for testing for HLB.

Taylor asked Gilbert if the traps have been removed from all of the sites reflected on map. Gilbert said they have been removed and the trappers assigned to those areas are still sampling those sites. The traps are still coming in with a lot of psyllids on them. Gilbert confirmed they haven't pulled the traps from packing houses.

Tanouye stated they have notified those they have contracts with and formal letters are going out today informing them that the contracts will be terminated effective June 1st. Most of those counties have the glassy winged sharp shooter traps and we will send them a protocol to send those traps to CDFA for ACP screening after they screen them for glassy winged.

Leavens asked about Monterey County. Tanouye said the traps will remain in Monterey County.

HLB Survey

Debby Tanouye

1. Risk-Based HLB Survey (Gottwald)

Tanouye reported they continue to survey in the counties listed and everything has been negative to date. The committee discussed the sites surveyed and the different samples numbers. Hornbaker is hoping to have Gottwald call in or attend next month's meeting to answer questions and give an overview of how and where the risk-based survey is at this point in time.

2. Hacienda Heights HLB Survey

Tina Galindo

Galindo reported that they are going to return to Zone 3; 800 to 1200 meters area on May 13th. That will be the third round. It is the area that is required for two times a year survey. Zones 1 and 2, which are 400 and 800 meters, they survey in June.

Treatment Program

Debbie Tanouye

Review current status of residential and commercial treatment programs.

Tanouye confirmed earlier discussion about going back six times to treat Hacienda Heights and put that on a schedule as well. Gorden said he thought that was just a question that came up and didn't recall what the protocol was for that. The idea going forward was to keep the psyllid populations as low as possible in that area. Rabe said if they are going to remove the five trees, they should just do the normal treatment protocols that have been in place. Gorden said he will go back and review the minutes as to what was decided to do in the past. Rabe said we did not decide on specific treatment protocols.

Proposed changes to treatment programs.

CDFAs Staff

There were no further changes/updates to the treatment programs than what has previously been discussed.

Regulatory Activities

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker didn't have anything at this time. Hornbaker did state that the areas of risk in the quarantine area will be one of the questions they will be asking in the SAP. Gorden stated there were unanswered questions. Maybe we will have updates at the next meeting on these regulatory issues.

Laboratory Activities

a. Riverside Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque

LeVesque reviewed her powerpoint for Samples Received and Processed along with Time Frame for Goals. LeVesque reported that with current staff they have 2 permanent full time; 1 lead Ag Technician and 7 part time lab aides through CASS and 0 CSUSB interns. LeVesque reviewed her Time Frame for Goals handout and there were no questions.

b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities

Susan McCarthy

Lucy reported on plant samples: January through April 30th they have tested 8,142 samples and for the month of April they tested 929 samples. For March they tested 2,096 plant samples. For ACP samples: they have a total of 3,952 January through April 30th. For the month of April they tested 214; March they tested 670. They started sending samples to CRB, sending a total of 2,401 vials.

There were questions regarding the numbers and Gorden requested that McCarthy submit their lab reports in writing a couple of days in advance so it can be distributed to the committee to make it easier to follow the reports and understand what is being talked about.

Leavens asked Lucy what their procedure is for sending samples to CRB. Lucy responded that all ACP samples that are collected in ACP find site areas or ACP quarantine areas are sent to CRB for testing. All the ACP samples that are collected in the HLB quarantine area are tested by CDFAs.

McCarthy reported that the communications protocol primarily between CRB and USDA with regards to any positive ACP has been signed off and finalized as of this week.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn

Dunn reported on the citrus layer project. UC Kearney interns were making calls and they had successfully completed interviews with five growers. Within CRB staff they completed seven interviews with larger growers and PCA's and involve 391 polygons and almost 5,400 acres.

Dunn stated they are making good progress on the layers. He will continue reaching out to board members for information on their groves. He makes weekly overview maps of the detection data. He continues to be limited to data collected within the CPDPC program. He has a formal request in and is waiting for a response from CDFA for more data.

Dunn reported that his mapping data can be presented in Google Earth environment. They have a beta test out there and hopefully he will be able to make a presentation on that next month.

There was discussion regarding reconciling CRB numbers with CASS numbers on citrus acreage. CASS doesn't survey every acre, they only survey what is under their survey protocol and that is where we get discrepancies on total acreage for the state. We also get discrepancies between County Ag Commissioners. Dunn stated the Ag Commissioners' permit data reflects the number of acres the grower claims and the GIS layer reflects the number of acres that we've digitized based on imagery, though some aren't current. Dunn further stated that a number of blocks digitized previously, based on old data or old imagery, are now standing vacant, much of which have been replanted. Rabe asked if this could be shared with Kearney so they can check on it. Batkin said we can set-up a mechanism to share with NASS.

CPDPC Report

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker stated there were two motions to move forward with the bio-control work that was previously budgeted for and also the voluntary removal of the trees. Both are moving forward and they need to get their language together for talking to the homeowners and offer them ornamental pistachio trees in return.

Chairman's Report

Jim Gorden

The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Gorden informed the committee in regard to the September meeting there is a conflict with CRB's research committee's review of proposals in Bakersfield at the same time. Because of budget issues with fiscal year end approaching, August 28, 2013 was tentatively decided as the best option for the Joint Operations Committee Meeting.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be on June 5, 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 May 1, 2013.

Date

Ted A. Batkin, President