

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

CRB Staff:

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

Interested Parties:

Judy Zaninovich
Robert Wagner*
Sylvie Robillard
Brett Chandler*
Marilyn Kinoshita
Les Wright*
Neil McRoberts*
Carrie Teiken*
John Krist*
Linda Haque*
Joel Nelson*
Bryce Belgum
Ted Batkin
Les Wright*

CDFA Staff

Victoria Hornbaker
Art Gilbert
Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo*
Craig Hanes
Susan McCarthy*
Sasha Wright

*Participated by Phone
and/or Webex

Call to Order

Chairman Gorden welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken 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 June 5, 2013. There were no comments, questions or edits.

07.03.2013. 1 Severns moved and Dryer seconded to approve Minutes from the June 5, 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 on the May 31st financials with 67% of year complete as of the end of May. We are less than budgeted on all items except for the phone at the Riverside lab and vehicle repairs. Field Staff Compensation is 98% which was for Brian Taylor who was on payroll for October, November and December.

c. CDFA Treatment Expenses vs. Budget Report

Victoria Hornbaker

Tanouye reviewed the Treatment Expenditures for 2012/13. In Ventura County they are almost finished. The areas where they continue treating are San Diego County and Coachella Valley in Riverside County. Everywhere else they are about finished.

Hornbaker reviewed the 2012/13 Budget through May 31, 2013. Total expenditures are at \$7.5 million which is 50% of the budget. It doesn't include commercial grove trapping or bio control. As requested, she added back in the Projection figures and reviewed the footnotes attached to the line items. Hornbaker stated that through June, for 2012/13, they're at \$11,548,000 in assessments which leaves an estimated outstanding balance of \$5.2 million. The assessments are on target as far as she can tell.

Hornbaker stated it is time to do budget planning the 2013/14. They need a budget in place by September. Hornbaker asked the committee if they wanted to form an ad hoc finance committee to work on the budget. She will provide budget planning documents for the subcommittee to begin working on. It needs to go before the CPDPC chairman, Nick Hill, who wasn't present at this meeting. Rabe suggested that Keck could work on the CRB side reflecting CRB's involvement. Hornbaker stated she would like to have a draft budget to propose at the August meeting. Fisher stated that the CRB side of the budget should be ready in time..

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Craig Hanes

Hanes reported that the contracts for the statewide grower liaison contract with CASS has gone to the CDFA's contract office for their review. Hanes stated they are going for a 2 year contract for statewide liaisons, going through June 2015. Those currently under a contract will be under the current one pending on October 1st. After the contract comes back from review, they will work to get those already under a contract hired on right away and put them on a 2 year contract like everyone else. Hornbaker stated they are hoping to expedite the contract process.

Hanes reported that Bryce Belgium is the new liaison for Ventura County. Krist reported that at this point-in-time Belgium is funded through a grant. It isn't known if his contract will fall under the October 1st new contract. Gorden requested being kept informed of the situation.

Bio Control Program Report

Jim Gorden/Ken Keck

Keck reviewed his powerpoints reflecting the CPDPC funds through the CRB equaling out to \$110,000 and CDFA annual operating costs of \$867,663. Further powerpoints showed the constructing of the insectary and rearing greenhouses, field cages, Cal Poly test plot and the USDA Cooperative Agreement Award, including expenditures for 2012-2013. Keck reviewed the four funding sources for the ACP Biocontrol Program: CRB, CPDPC, CHRP and USDA. There was discussion about CHRP funds being used for the biocontrol rearing facilities and dates to have everything up and running. Keck stated that the CRB board has requested an in-depth overview.

VOC Program Update

Ken Keck

Keck reported he put Batkin in charge of the removal of those eight trees in Hacienda Heights area. Batkin will be meeting with the homeowners asking them for permission to remove the trees for scientific purposes. Keck reminded the committee that it is not a regulatory action that is being undertaken. With the homeowners' cooperation, we will offer them two trees from a list and will offer three cartons of fruit per year for four years. This process will begin July 9 and communications have already taken place under that plan. McRoberts stated that under no circumstances should "compensation" be used on what is being offered to these homeowners. LeVesque requested getting root samples prior to having the trees removed to get DNA samples. Gorden stated this will be coordinated with Galindo and Magally as they will be involved through it all.

Detection Updates

Report on Any New ACP Detections

Art Gilbert

All the trapping in the valley and San Luis Obispo continues to be negative. Southern California is trapping on

has psyllids as before. Hemet, Fallbrook and Temecula and those areas, might want to consider collecting samples in those areas instead of continuing to collect traps, collecting ACP. San Bernardino, Orange County areas, they have increased the sites they are looking at and are up to 408 than they were going to while trapping. They've collected samples from about 153 orchard sites; 600 in adult samples, 214 nymphs, 42 of the 153 came back negative for HLB. They continue to see previously uninfested trap sites becoming infested in the Southern California area.

Trapping Program Report

Debby Tanouye/Tina Galindo

Tanouye reported they have the county contracts out and in the counties that more than 1,000 acres, they continue to trap. For counties in the north that have less than 1,000 acres they terminated those contracts. They continue to trap 1-1/2 miles around commercial citrus in the areas that they continue to be in. In the urban settings where they have stopped treating, they've removed those traps. In the central valley, those are all urban traps.

Galindo reviewed the current treatment areas powerpoint/handout and indicated San Diego is their busiest area right now. In Imperial all areas are complete. Riverside has 3 areas pending and will be starting those July 8th. Galindo reviewed the map of Imperial County showing finds as of June 1st. All of the areas have been treated and are up-to-date. The map for Riverside County reflects the finds as of June 1st. There are three areas at North Shore of Thermal and Coachella that are pending and will be starting on Monday. In Ventura all treatment is completed; all of the crews from Ventura are currently helping down in Fallbrook right now. There were no new detections in June.

HLB Survey

Victoria Hornbaker and Debby Tanouye

1. Risk-Based HLB Survey (Gottwald)

Hornbaker reviewed a summary reflecting each funding source for the citrus program and requested a full budget breakdown from each source. She would like to have the full budget breakdown for the next Ops meeting. Nelson asked about the \$248,000 unclaimed gas tax dollars and where that is reflected in the budget. Hornbaker stated it is not reflected in the budget now but will be included in the assessment budget as an offset.

Galindo gave an update on treatments. They are working in San Diego County doing a visual survey of all the trees on the properties. They carefully inspect the four quadrants of the tree and try to collect at least 25 adults and 15 nymphs from each tree. They collect plant tissue from all trees with more than 25 adult psyllids and/or nymphs. Some of the staff are using GPS for each tree on the property and complete a survey card/survey log and notification logs.

Galindo recommends the proposed efficiency changes to implement:

- *To eliminate the visual survey as they spend a lot of time walking around the trees looking for psyllids.
- *If there is an obvious sign of adult psyllids present they will start collecting ACP, but if not visually available, then they will do a tap sample immediately.
- *They are going to reduce sample collection, collecting 10 adults per property and 25 to 50 nymphs per tree.
- *They will only collect plant tissue if it is symptomatic, collecting from the quadrants.
- *They will take one GPS point at each property and will spend a maximum of 30 minutes at each property.

07.03.2013 Rabe moved and Severns seconded to move forward with the efficiency change in collecting samples.

Motion carries with everyone present

Galindo reported on Hacienda Heights. They completed zone 1 and are still working on zone 2. They started zone 3 this week.

Regulatory Activities

Victoria Hornbaker/D. Tanouye

a. Detailed Workplan

Hornbaker and Tanouye informed the committee that they have big pockets of areas that they are not able to treat; either they are organic or have more than 25 trees. Tanouye suggested stepping back and look at that area again to identify those areas where they're not able to make an effective application. Maybe they shouldn't treat those areas and consider those areas in an area wide treatment where Bob Atkins and growers can get together and try to develop some sort of agreement to get that area treated. Once that is established, they can go back in again and do the urban treatments around that.

Rabe stated there should be a default and that default is no treatment unless there is an active decision to treat. How that decision is made is what they need to establish and who makes that decision. Rabe recommends it be at a local level, if possible. There was discussion on how to identify and treat those parcels, i.e., by zip code, section or township; dividing the larger areas into smaller chunks and being able to identify and decide which areas they can treat. Olsen suggested cutting out what we can and get down to a discussion on the more detailed areas. There are wide spots that nobody is going to have any disagreement about not treating and the default should be not to treat. If we need to treat then it shouldn't take too much discussion to put it into a treatment zone.

It was suggested having an ad-hoc committee to come up with a plan to take to the executive committee that can give the green light to move forward with it. Hornbaker suggested having Alan Washburn and Bob Atkins, who are in those areas, along with Tanouye and/or her staff to coordinate. Tanouye suggested the treatment coordinators for that area.

Gorden asked Tanouye if she could work with Olsen, Tanouye, Atkins as an ad-hoc committee to come up with a plan to report to the executive committee of the CPDPC and to this Operations Committee. Hornbaker suggested she could notice a meeting of the executive committee to present to them and get marching orders to start implementing changes. Gorden charged Tanouye, Galindo, Olsen and Atkins and anyone else these people need to call in to help make a recommendation to the executive committee on moving forward with this. Tanouye asked if San Diego County should be the first decision since they are spending the most in that county. It was agreed to start there.

They have begun making some cost saving efforts, implementing the reduction of the CASS staff.

Laboratory Activities

a. Riverside Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque

LeVesque reviewed her powerpoint for samples received and processed and indicated they've received 9,765 subsamples out of the 5,808 filed samples and they've all been negative. LeVesque reported on Time Frame for Goals powerpoint.

b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities

Susan McCarthy

McCarthy indicated the report that was submitted reflected the numbers for sample treatments to date. There were no questions regarding the powerpoint. Rabe questioned who makes the decision to send samples to either the CDFA lab or CRB lab. McCarthy indicated that all the plant samples go to CDFA lab. All the ACP samples go to CRB except CDFA runs any samples from the HLB quarantine area, as well as any psyllids that come on Fridays after they've made their weekly shipment to CRB.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn

Dunn reported on the current progress of the statewide citrus layer project. The lead person up at Kearney, Kris Lynn-Patterson has retired and her assistant, Robert Johnson, is now running the GIS section and is supervising interns. The interns contacted five growers and were able to assign 232 permits to polygons primarily in Tulare County.

Dunn informed the committee that his GIS assistant, Teresa Ferguson resigned and they are currently looking for a replacement. Dunn continues collecting contact details and populating the attributes of the citrus layer.

He provided the committee with a table to review. The trapping staff gets weekly trapping progress maps that help them determine where they need to accelerate their efforts. Dunn stated that primarily the grower liaisons and other interested staff get detection overview maps. Dunn reported that at the current time he still does not get the urban data. Hornbaker reported they have the MOU completely done and it is being sent out to each of the four entities involved for their complete signature.

Chairman’s Report

Jim Gorden

Gorden had nothing more to report. He attended one of the hearings on the continuation of AB281. He deferred to Hornbaker for further information of the hearing process. Hornbaker reported they had the three hearings. Comments received were all positive and there were no negative comments. Sasha is in the process of getting the summary together for the Secretary to present to her next week.

Adjournment

Gorden thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The next meeting will be on August 7, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Certification

I, Ken Keck, 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 July 3, 2013.

Date

Ken Keck, President