

Citrus Research Board Office
CRB/CPDPC Joint Operations Committee Meeting
CRB Conference Room
217 N. Encina Street
Visalia, Ca 93291
Minutes of Meeting
August 7, 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
Kevin Olsen
Mark McBroom*
Joe Barcinas*
Earl Rutz (Ex-Officio)*

CRB Staff:

Ken Keck*
Brian Taylor*
Louise Fisher
Rick Dunn
Cynthia LeVesque*
Brent Eickelberg
Marilyn Martin

Interested Parties:

Nick Hill
Judy Zaninovich
Bob Wagner
Sylvie Robillard
Melissa Cregan
Paul Story
Carrie Teiken
Linda Haque*
Bob Atkins*
Nancy Holmes*
Scott Cornett*
Tom Tucker*
Nick Gutierrez*

CDFA Staff

Victoria Hornbaker
Art Gilbert*
Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo*
David Morgan*
Greg Simmons
Scosha Wright
Cassandra Cannon
Mike Pitcairn
Noel Sherman*

*Participated by Phone
and/or Webex

Call to Order

Chairman Gorden welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken to confirm who was attending. Gorden introduced Nick Gutierrez from Mexico and asked that he give his program update on Mexico.

Mexico Program Updates

Gutierrez gave an update on the psyllid suppression program they have down in Mexico, along with the borders of Arizona and California. Their program aligns with the CDFA program in California. They set up a buffer area along the border of California with 25 traps per mile, going 1 mile out and all other areas are at 5 per mile. They also do visual inspections at each trap site with a 14 day cycle and test the ACP's they collect. All ACP have tested negative for HLB.

There was considerable discussion regarding the buffer zone trapping. McBroom expressed concern regarding the buffer trapping zone along the Mexico/California border. Hornbaker summarized what Gutierrez indicated: one mile along the border trapped at 25 traps per square mile and then any residential areas outside of that, trapping at 5 per square mile. McBroom asked if Gutierrez could provide this committee with copies of the psyllid detection maps whenever they make the maps. Gutierrez concurred.

There was further discussion regarding spraying and *Tamarixia* release and buffer zones. McBroom suggested that maybe this committee could make a recommendation to the CPDPC to further enhance our ability to detect anything once it is coming across the border. Hornbaker suggested possibly doing some highway trap lines to catch any strays that may be flying in from south of the border. Tanouye indicated this will be addressed on the SAP webinar tomorrow. Gorden suggested after the SAP maybe a small group could get together to discuss these issues for presenting to the next CPDPC meeting.

Review of Minutes

Chairman Gorden asked if anyone had any comments, questions or edits to the Joint Operations Committee meeting minutes of July 3, 2013. There were no comments, questions or edits.

08.07.2013.1 Galbraith moved and Olsen seconded to approve Minutes from the July 3, 2013 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

Review of financial reports and approval of CRB action

a. Financial Report for CRB Operations

Louise Fisher

Fisher reviewed the expenditures for the month of June and for year-to-date. Fisher reported that Data Management numbers are good. Riverside Lab numbers for the phone is over budget primarily because the internet connection the lab was using to transfer data to Visalia couldn't handle the volume, so they put in a new fiber optic system that is more than twice what the original was, but it works well. Also, rent at the lab is going to be a little over budget because of some charges for the common area that were billed late. Fisher is checking into this. Fisher stated the Operations budget for CRB, they've received April and May reimbursements from CDFA in July. For April, \$135,000 was received on July 5th and May was \$108,000 received around July 25th.

Keck called in and gave the committee a preview of the proposal regarding data operations to be presented to the CPDPC. Keck commended Dunn for establishing the operations data system without being formally trained in database management or GIS Technology. Keck said in moving forward and bringing in a GIS/Data trained person, what is now a 3 person operation could go down to a 2-1/2 person operation and ultimately a 2 person operation. The transition would involve Dunn continuing to manage that in the short term from a half-time basis, but also looking at the need that Beth Grafton-Cardwell had identified to establish some data around what is going on with the area wide treatments as those get ramped up. Transitioning Dunn into developing that kind of system would be of value to the CPDPP, as well as the industry as a whole. This should reflect an overall reduction in the CRB bottom line for our combined proposal including a zeroing out of operations all together.

Fisher informed the committee that CRB is not requesting any funds for biocontrol support in this budget. Gorden reported that there will be a comprehensive budget package and discussion at the next meeting and then CPDPC will have a budget meeting on September 11, 2013.

b. CDFA Treatment Expenses vs. Budget Report

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker reviewed the CDFA Fund Condition Statement for CPDP. They have updated the CHRP expenditures and fund balance to reflect current numbers. Hornbaker and Tanouye are working on getting a detailed CHRP budget together that will include trapping, HLB survey, laboratory costs and regulatory. The CDFA Funds at bottom of statement reflects the \$200,000 commitment for Tulare County response that they got from their executive staff and is reflected in this budget.

Hornbaker reviewed the updated CPDPC 2012/13 Budget as of June 30, 2013. Hornbaker stated the CPDPC authorized moving \$242,000 from the placeholder amount. It was moved temporarily into urban treatment but is going for treatment and regulatory costs for Tulare County and is hoping to be fully funded for the Tulare

County response through the \$200,000 committed from CDFA and the \$242,000 committed from CPDPC through that line item shift.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker thanked Robillard, Zaninovich and Wagner for their work in Tulare County with the Porterville finds. The CASS contract is with the Department of General Services and should be hearing something by no later than August 12th.

Bio Control Program Report

a. Cal Poly Status

Mike Pitcairn

Pitcairn reported on the CDFA insectary production (indoor cage production of the *Tamarixia*). CDFA is overseeing the team of individuals that make the releases out in the field. Any production of the *Tamarixia* that Simmons' team is doing will be fed into the release team which is being managed by CDFA and university staff. Pitcairn reviewed his powerpoint outlining the timelines for the greenhouse, plant and *Tamarixia* production and also presented the annual budget projection FY 13-14 for Mt. Rubidoux, Cal Poly and Arvin facilities. Hornbaker summarized the budget issues discussed. For 2013-14, if they are able to continue with the CHRP funding from the CPDPC, it's a commitment of \$620,000. Fisher stated CRB is not asking for anything this next fiscal year.

b. Tamarixia Release Program

Greg Simmons

Simmons stated their first goal is to release across as wide an area in Southern California as possible to establish this *Tamarixia*, targeting urban areas close to commercial areas and organic production areas. They use Gottwald's model to target high risk areas. They will also add *Diaphorencyrtus* as it becomes available to the program. Releases done by UCR and CDFA teams produced by UCR greenhouses are over 60,000, and release sites are in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego.

Simmons reviewed a Cooperative Program ACP Biocontrol Field Cage Methods Development Update as of August 1, 2013 provided to the committee. They are hoping to have a monthly report to keep everyone informed. Simmons informed the committee that the first *Tamarixia* were introduced last week and have three trees inoculated and are hoping to have the first material for release in about ten days.

Cal Poly has offered a lab and they are working there. At UCR, it looks like they are going to get a trailer laboratory and will be paid out of federal funds with a really low overhead rate. Olsen requested transparency with any agreed upon lab arrangements so that there will be no budgetary surprises in the next fiscal year. Gorden stated that some of facilities may be covered by existing CRB funding for some of the work being done with both Stouthamer and Hoddle.

VOC Program Update

Brian Taylor

Taylor informed the committee they are in the process of retesting the trees in Hacienda Heights that were tested last year with the VOC. All of the homeowners have agreed to allow removal of those trees. They will start removing after CDFA treats the trees. They have a strict permit on moving those trees and they will be moved to the Riverside lab and further tested. The trees will be replaced with another type fruit tree or an ornamental tree.

Treatment Programs

a. Tulare Urban Treatments

Victoria Hornbaker

Hornbaker reported that treatments are complete in the 800 meters with one treatment refusal and is waiting to hear back from Leavitt on how to handle that residential property with ten trees. She has a special needs adult child living with her and her husband has a heart condition and she doesn't want pesticides used. Hornbaker said they will decide whether to issue a warrant to treat or how to proceed.

Tanouye stated there is also about a half-dozen of 25+ tree properties that they did not treat as well. Wagner stated he went out Monday and looked at those properties. All of the actual owners, growers and personnel have been identified on the parcels. In the middle of the three treatment areas, they are in major blocks/groves and about 50 to 75% have already been treated with one treatment. About 50% have already complied with the second treatment. The trouble blocks are in the outlying areas with two somewhat abandoned. One may be an abatement problem and the other is a trust situation. They have been in contact with all of the smaller 25+ growers/owners. Three of them will be treating and two to three will be going back to non-commercial with fewer than 25 trees. The remaining were all positive contacts that agreed to go along with the treatment program. Wagner indicated that there are some that have expressed that they would like to take out their grove and would like to know what type of time limit should they be given to take out that grove vs. treating and then taking it out.

b. Revised Southern California Treatments

Tina Galindo

Galindo reported that in San Diego County they discontinued treatments in Fallbrook, Escondido and Bonsall. In Valley Center they are 100% complete with treatments. They have one area pending in Pauma and a couple of areas in Paula that are pending and are currently working in Riverside County. They have 12 trucks working in Coachella, Mecca, North Shore and Thermal. They recently had a find in Ventura County in Camarillo and treatment started around that 400 meters on Monday. There were some areas in Desert Shore that required meetings and they have two trucks working in Imperial County and Desert Shores. Galindo reported on the Hacienda Heights Survey. They completed all three zones in June and July and will start the next round of survey of the 400 meter area in Zone 1 next week.

HLB Survey

1. Risk-Based HLB Survey

Tim Gottwald

Gottwald informed the committee that he has agreed with the American Phytopathological Society Plant Management Network to publish this presentation and put it on their website. It will be available shortly to take a look at. Gottwald gave his powerpoint presentation, discussing the filtering process; formula and algorithm for the different risk area/categories; final risk mapping; survey protocol; assessment of survey progress and results. Tanouye stated that things were going much better since implementing the new survey efficiency change that was voted on at the last Joint Operations Meeting.

Regulatory Activities

Debby Tanouye

a. Southern California Update

Tanouye updated the committee on the original charge this committee gave CDFA to figure out what to do in San Diego. They met with Bob Atkins and were able to eliminate several areas not to treat anymore and have narrowed that area down. They met with the Southern California counties that are infested to see if we can get some type of an agreement on how to proceed. Most of the counties, with exception of Orange County, agree to go to an area wide treatment program. The next steps are to determine how to implement that and what CDFA's interaction will be with that area wide treatment program. They should be able to cut back on urban treatments substantially.

Olsen expressed concern with treatment programs and costs and wants it quantified as to the dollars in treatments that are not being spent since cutting treatments. Hornbaker stated they are not going to be reacting to psyllid finds, they are going to be doing a planned treatment in the areas they have identified, in cooperation with the growers and treat twice a year. They will look at the area whether it is urban, in between orchards or a buffer and that will be what they treat, in coordination with the area wide treatment. Olsen is concerned with the current dollars being spent and the timeframe of cutting back. Hornbaker said they are working with each of the counties to identify the areas so Tanouye and her crews can go into those particular areas and identify the number of residences they are going to treat, then they'll know what the treatment will be. They will know, once they have the budget in place, where they're going to be treating next year with two coordinated treatments.

Galindo reported that in Fallbrook alone, 21 areas were cut. The Coachella area, if we need to cut down, maybe do area wide treatments. San Diego was the only one willing to cut; San Bernardino and western Riverside want to continue with area wide treatments, but probably can't afford a buffer around them; would only be able to afford to do the homes that fall within those areas. The same thing should be done in the Coachella area.

Tanouye reminded the committee that at the last meeting the charge was to figure something out for San Diego. Tanouye reported that Galindo pulled all of the trucks and stopped treating in Fallbrook, Bonsall and Rainbow. Also, Atkins called Morgan and they released some *Tamarixia* in the area.

Hill agreed with Olsen's concern and further stated we need to see where we're at with where we're treating and not treating. The whole program needs to be set before us. The whole program needs to be laid out before us and then we can decide if we want to cutback any further. Gorden stated this committee needs a comprehensive overview of where we are treating and where we aren't, and what the protocols are. This will give us an overview of where we are.

Galindo stated that Tanouye did present to this committee cutting down to only treating 1.5 mile buffer around commercial areas. Tanouye said they did cutback substantially. Tanouye said at the last meeting the big decision was what to do with San Diego with so many areas to treat. They met with the County and Atkins and they eliminated 21 of those areas and stopped treating. Olsen asked for quantification of the 21 areas (out of how many areas) and the dollars spent on treatments.

Tanouye said they are trying to eliminate the 1.5 buffer as discussed at the last meeting and just go to area wide concept and that way, if the growers are treating, we'll provide the urban treatment. Those that choose not to treat then 1.5 regardless, they're just not going to treat. Tanouye stated they need to make it clear to the counties, growers and liaisons that CDFG can't continue with the 1.5 mile; if they find something they are going to treat the 400 meters. They can't set a budget that way. Most of them have gone along with the area wide treatment but they haven't set the parameters yet. Gorden stated there may be some further discussion at next week's CPDPC. Tanouye said she will try to have some maps for next week's meeting. They have been trying to push this along.

b. Tulare Update

Sherman reported on Tulare. They have visited and put plants on hold in the two big nurseries and the small retail nurseries. There is only one flea market in Porterville. It was visit last Saturday and was in contact with the manager. They are not going to sell any citrus plants. There is no certified farmer's market in the area. There are 54 packing houses inside of Tulare County which are under compliance and receive fruit from Select California.

Sherman reported that within the Hacienda Heights quarantine area they continue to monitor four flea markets and farmer markets inside of HLB quarantine. It is an ongoing monitoring every weekend. No one is selling any product at those flea markets.

Laboratory Activities

a. Riverside Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque

LeVesque gave a brief overview of the lab samples received and processed and the time frame for goals; both were provided to the committee.

b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities

Susan McCarthy

In McCarthy's absence, Hornbaker informed the committee that McCarthy provided an update on the lab and was provided in the meeting folders.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn

Dunn reviewed the citrus layer production activity for June 2013. Dunn informed the committee that they are working on recruiting a replacement GIS technician, now possibly a GIS analyst.

Hornbaker reported they have received the MOU signed by all parties, including Secretary Ross. Copies have been sent out to all parties (CDFA, CRB and UC Riverside). USDA is not a party to the MOU because they have separate MOU’s already on the books. The MOU is in place and now they are going to work on how they are going to share the information with CRB (weekly, daily, etc. and meets the requirements of the MOU.)

Chairman’s Report

Jim Gorden

Gorden apologized for the very full and lengthy agenda. Gorden stated what wasn’t able to be covered thoroughly at this meeting will be carried over to the August 28, 2013 meeting.

Adjournment

Gorden thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The next meeting will be on August 28, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 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 August 7, 2013.

Date

Ken Keck, President