

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 11, 2013

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on December 11, 2013 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden.

Committee Members Present:

Dan Dreyer	Link Leavens*	Kevin Severns*
John Gless*	Kevin Olsen	
Jim Gorden	Etienne Rabe*	

CDFA Staff:

Jason Chan*	Luci Kumagai	Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo	Susan McCarthy*	Scosha Wright
Art Gilbert	Mike Pitcairn*	
Victoria Hornbaker	Nawal Sharma*	

CRB Staff:

Yonas B	Louise Fisher	Brian Taylor*
Rick Dunn	Cynthia LeVesque*	

Guests:

Bob Atkins	Nell Lerma	Helene Wright
Marilyn Kinoshita	Sylvie Robillard	Judy Zaninovich*

*** Participated via telephone**

Opening Comments:

Chairman, Jim Gorden, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes:

Chairman Gorden reviewed the minutes from the Operations Subcommittee meeting which took place on November 7, 2013 in Visalia, California.

Motion: Approval of the minutes from the Operations Subcommittee meeting which was held on November 7, 2013 as presented.

First: Kevin Olsen

Second: Etienne Rabe

Motion Passes: All in favor

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Craig Hanes reported that because of the freeze, the Statewide Coordinator interviews that were scheduled for December 11th are going to be rescheduled on January 7th. The Liaisons for San Bernardino and Santa Barbara are in the process of being placed. Gail Covey will be the Liaison for San Bernardino and Cressida Silvers has been offered the contract for Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo. Interviews for the 2nd Tulare and Ventura Liaisons will be conducted sometime after the New Year.

Nell Lerma from Cooperative Ag Support Services (CASS) gave a brief introduction to the Subcommittee about CASS stating that they provide temporary staff and functions to CDFA as well as other clients.

Sylvie Robillard reported that at the latest sites in Central Valley everyone has expressed cooperation, with seven out of the ten commercial growers having turned in treatment reports. All commercial properties in the Exeter eradication areas have been treated. The Liaisons continue to work with the 25 plus tree properties, which should all treat as well. The question was raised about organic options for eradication treatments, but at this time there are no UC IPM approved organic options.

Biocontrol Update

Chairman Gorden presented a PowerPoint developed by Mike Pitcairn that went over the Tamarixia releases in Southern California. In 2013 biocontrol program staff visited 645 sites, 499 were new release sites. Releases occurred at 524 sites, several sites that had multiple releases. Many of the new release are in San Diego and Riverside Counties. Tamarixia activity was identified at 81 sites. The program produced 238,000 wasps in 2013 and is very hopeful that they will have a large increase in 2014 as the program gets fully operational.

The next Biocontrol Task Force meeting is scheduled for January 14th at the CRB lab in Riverside.

Brian Taylor presented Greg Simmons's update of the field cage insectary biocontrol project. The program currently has 30 operational field cages in production using mostly oranges some limes and some grapefruit trees. The program has produced more than 113,000 Tamarixia, but production may decrease in winter. The program will review data on the inoculation rates of ACP and timing of introductions to determine the best rate to optimize Tamarixia production. The program is also developing a manual for technology transfer to private insectaries. In 2014 the program will be looking at the effect of pesticides, both conventional and organic on biocontrol agents.

Chairman Gorden reported that the Dr. Mark Hoddle's work on the parasitoid *Diaphorencyrtis* is going really well. He has filed for the appropriate USDA permit to release begin releases. It can take six months or more to get the permit in place. Helene will check on the status of the permit.

Detection and Treatment Updates

Tina Galindo gave a brief treatment update. There are a few new areas in Ventura, three trucks are currently treating and one area in Santa Paula is pending a public meeting. Four trucks are treating in Riverside, conducting the first area wide treatment in Riverside around UCR. Activity in Calexico has picked up; there are six new pending areas.

HLB Survey Update

Tina reported on the proposed changes to the HLB survey. The new protocol will reduce the amount of time spent collecting plant samples and searching for/collecting ACP which allows for an increase in the number of sites inspected. The stream lined protocol will allow for a two-cycle survey each year and increase the chances of detecting HLB in an area. Dr. Tim Gottwald from the USDA spent time in the field with survey staff to observe the processes and make recommendations for improving the protocol. CDFA would like to implement the improved protocol immediately. The Subcommittee expressed unanimous support of implanting the improved protocol as it will allow the survey crews to cover more ground.

Laboratory Activities

Riverside Laboratory Activities - Cynthia LeVesque reported that the Riverside lab to date has received 15,100 samples, QC failed on 171 out of 24,714 sub-samples and all samples have been negative for HLB. They are testing the less expensive OPCR master mix and have gotten positive samples from Florida to see what to work with. She reported that further testing of Hacienda Heights trees will start in January. The Riverside lab will undergo USDA recertification in January.

Sacramento Laboratory Activities – Luci Kumagai reported that in the month of November the Sacramento lab analyzed 1075 plant samples and 115 ACP samples 68 percent of the plant samples are from the HLB quarantine area, most are from zone 1. Luci reported that the lab is pooling up to 25 ACP adults and 75 nymphs per sample, but will continue to testing adults and nymphs separately. Six Sacramento Laboratory staff took the HLB proficiency testing for 2014.

CDFA has provided 102 lyophilized plant tissue samples to UC Davis researcher, Carolyn Slupsky who is conducting a metabolite study in collaboration with CRB. The lab will continue to share samples as they become available.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reviewed the ACP detections and quarantine boundaries. He reported that there will be a communications meeting on January 9th in Visalia to continue working on developing a Quarterly report that can be shared with will all interested parties and to develop a uniform mapping and reporting procedure. The previous meetings have been very good and the group is

making progress. One item that the group is interested in is having varying levels of access to maps and information depending on a person's need.

Chairman Report

Chairman Gorden discussed the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) Meeting. He felt that there was good exchange and everyone went away feeling pretty good about the meeting. A draft summary report was presented at the meeting and a copy has gone out to the Committee. A final written SAP report will go out sometime in January. Victoria stated that the CPDPC has reached out to organic and nursery industries for more information and participation at the January CPDPC meeting.

The freeze was also discussed. Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner is working very closely with industry and the packing sheds working out details about what the damage will be. She reported that some of the fruit is looking pretty blasted and will need to move directly from fields to juice. Victoria reported that CDFG and USDA are working on a permit to allow movement from the field to juice using safeguarding which will require tarping. There was additional discussion about the potential impact to revenues.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 5, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.