

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on May 14, 2014 in Ventura, California by Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Severns.

CPDPC Members Present:

Richard Bennett	Gus Gunderson	Kevin Severns
Dan Dreyer	Link Leavens	Brian Specht
John Gless*	James McFarlane	
Jim Gorden	Kevin Olsen	

CPDPC Members Absent:

Craig Armstrong	Nick Hill	Etienne Rabe
Steve Birdsall	Mark McBroom	
Bob Felts, Jr.	George McEwen	

CDFA Staff:

Jason Chan*	Magally Luque-Williams*	Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo	David Morgan*	Jay Van Rein*
Art Gilbert	Colleen Murphy-Vierra	
Victoria Hornbaker	Mike Pitcairn	

Guests:

Jill Barnier*	Charlotte Kalehacil	Cressida Silvers
Marjie Bartels	Shirley Kirkpatrick*	Zea Sonnaben*
Vic Corkins	John Krist	Karen Suslow*
Rick Dunn*	Leslie Leavens	Brian Taylor*
John Gardner	Cynthia LeVesque*	Dan Willey*
Subhas Hajeri	Cory Lunde*	Helene Wright
Dan Hamon*	Joel Nelsen	Judy Zaninovich*
Linda Haque	Joanne O'Sullivan	Bob Zuckerman*
Nancy Holland*	Tom Roberts	
Alyssa Houtby	Sylvie Robillard	

*** Participated via telephone**

Opening Comments:

Secretary Treasurer, Kevin Severns, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online.

Public Comment:

John Krist, CEO of the farm bureau in Ventura County provided a comment stating that he is concerned with the large quarantine zone in the Southern Valley because there is nothing in place keeping the movement of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) from highly infested areas to areas of low infestation. There have been repeat finds at packing houses in Ventura County that do not trigger any urban or commercial treatment. He asked the Committee to discuss and possibly advise the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to implement a delimitation trapping network around the packing houses in order to determine whether the psyllids are leaving the facilities and potentially infesting other areas and to perhaps trigger treatments.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES

Kevin Severns reviewed the minutes from the Committee meeting which took place on March 12, 2014. No corrections were identified.

Motion: Approval of the minutes from the March 12, 2014 CPDPC meeting as presented.

First: Gus Gunderson

Second: Richard Bennett

Motion Passes: All in favor

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Finance Subcommittee Chair James McFarlane provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on May 06, 2014 via conference call.

a. Review of 2012/2013 Closeout

James McFarlane reviewed the 2012/2013 fiscal year Assessment budget. The main change in the assessment funds from the last CPDPC meeting was in the contractual line item due to late billing for the grower liaisons. There were a few minor changes in travel as well leaving an ending balance of \$7,280,922. There was a transfer of \$709,226 from CDFA funds into the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) budget due to a shortfall from CDFA funds. There was discussion about the projection expenditures for the fiscal year. The Committee is concerned that year to go assessment is different from the ending balance for the year. James McFarlane agreed that the ending balance line item should be adjusted and it will be changed. The CDFA fund has a remaining balance of \$49,318 that has to be used by June 2014.

b. 2013/2014 Budget and Assessments

James McFarlane also reviewed the 2013/2014 budgets and revenues. He explained that there was a \$3.2 million increase in the assessments since the last CPDPC meeting, with a total of \$6.2 million in assessments received year to date. The total expenses are up to approximately \$2.2 million which increased the total expenses by \$1.25 million since that last meeting. The motion made at the last meeting to move \$309,037 from the “New Area Contingency” funds to into the ACP Central Valley line item was implemented. CDFA staff provided a projected

budget for the San Luis Obispo treatment and trapping activities in the amount of \$145,924. If the Committee approves, the budget funds will be moved from the “New Area Contingency”. The projected ending balance in assessment funds is now \$7,669,389.

Motion: To move \$145,924 from the “New Area Contingency” funds from the Assessment Budget for activities performed in response to the ACP find in San Luis Obispo.

First: James McFarlane

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Passes: All in favor

CHRP revenues have not changed since the last meeting however, expenses have increased by \$1.4 million since the last meeting. James McFarlane reported that the CDFA is waiting on approval of the contract which authorizes the fund transfers therefore the next report will show additional revenues available. Currently it appears that there is a shortfall in CHRP but that will change.

c. Draft Variance Analysis Review

James McFarlane went over the draft variance analysis and stated that progress is being made. He also reported that the variance is negative which means less money has been spent than what was projected which is good.

d. Assessment Collection Review

James McFarlane presented a new report that tracks expenditures to compare the projected expenditures for the current fiscal year with the actual expenditures for the previous fiscal year. The expenditures are compared by major expense category and also by funding source. The Subcommittee feels that this will be a good tool to assist in planning the budget for the next fiscal year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Victoria Hornbaker stated that the summary of the Executive Committee report is in the binders for review.

a. Regional ACP Management

Bob Atkins, the Grower Liaison Coordinator gave several updates. CDFA staff is working on a GIS map that will allow agencies to view all of the ongoing treatments, trapping, and all of the survey activities. The next step is reporting to the public, which is already implemented with Beth Grafton-Cardwell’s website; only the public reporting being done though this report will be more detailed. The areawide treatments are becoming more coordinated. The Coachella Pest Control District is in the process of adding ACP to the ballot that will be going out in June to approve the additional assessment to take on ACP treatments in the Coachella district. On the Central Coast, the grower liaisons gave presentations and updates to a number of the pest control advisors (PCA) and growers. There was an ACP field trip for growers and PCA’s to see live psyllids in the wild so that they are aware of what to look for. The field trip was very well attended and was covered in the Ventura newspaper as well as online. Progress continues in hiring a grower liaison for San Diego County. The neglected and abandon orchard tactical draft

plan that San Diego developed is currently being reviewed by the Pest Prevention Committee of California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association.

Victoria Hornbaker presented a draft of the April Situation Report to the Committee and asked the Committee to review and edit the draft. CDFA staff and the Ad Hoc Communications/GIS Committee have worked hard on implementing this report. It will be sent out on a monthly basis so that everyone stays up to date with program activities.

b. Review Strategic Planning Session Report

Victoria Hornbaker reviewed the facilitators report from the strategic planning session held at the last CPDPC meeting. The Committee is concerned that the planning session was not finished. Kevin Severns advised the Committee to read the strategic planning report and report to the Executive Committee with any recommendations or concerns due to lack of time and an incomplete planning session. Steve Birdsall has resigned from the Committee and the Committee should move forward with replacing him. Victoria Hornbaker suggested advertising for the position and having interested applicants send in their resumes for consideration. The Committee will then put a recommendation forward to the Secretary for appointment. There was a request to have all the information that is included in the binders available electronically on an FTP site, which is being implemented.

c. Renew MOU between CCTEA and CPDPC

Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency (CCTEA) is comfortable moving forward with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as it stands. CCTEA was told the MOU needed to be updated on an annual basis by the legal office at the CDFA. Victoria Hornbaker is trying to have this requirement changed so that the MOU does not have to be revised on an annual basis.

Motion: To support renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CPDPC and the Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency.

First: Dan Dreyer

Second: Richard Bennett

Motion Passes: All in favor

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Operations Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on May 07, 2014 in Visalia, California. Victoria Hornbaker also announced that there are a few additional reports included in the binders for review.

a. Biocontrol Program Update

Mike Pitcairn provided a summary of the Biocontrol Program Update. He reported that 146,546 wasps have been released in 2014. In April alone, approximately 87,000 wasps were released, which has increased by more than half since March. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) field cage insectaries will start harvesting in May which will increase the amount of wasps released as well. Mike Pitcairn reported that the grid system is working well. There have been releases made in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego and Ventura Counties. The second release began this month and covers every two miles within a grid. Mike Pitcairn is hopeful to get a fourth pass completed by the end of 2014.

Staff is using Dr. Gottwald's risk-based model to determine how many Tamarixia to release at each location. The annual production estimate at Mt. Rubidoux is 2,990,000 with an estimate of 2,015,000 releases for Cal Poly Pomona. The Cal Poly Pomona greenhouse should be constructed and available for occupancy by August of this year. There was a question about releasing in San Luis Obispo County, which will be further discussed at the next Biocontrol Task Force meeting. Since wasp production has increased, there are now releases being made in organic orchards. FAR insectaries produced 8,000 wasps in the month of April, which were released by the CDFA program. Mike Pitcairn also stated that although Tamarixia helps control the population of ACP, it is not a solution due to the fact that ACP has the ability to transmit Huanglongbing (HLB). Tamarixia needs to be a part of an integrated program.

Greg Simmons gave an update on the USDA Biocontrol project. He reported that USDA has been collaborating with the CDFA and evaluating some of the variables involved with mass production. Greg Simmons reviewed the biocontrol strategy which was developed by the Biocontrol Task Force. Their first goal was to release across a wide area in Southern California to establish new species, targeting mostly urban areas close to commercial areas. They have also targeted organic production areas as well as high-risk areas. The next step is to add *Diaphorencyrtus* when it becomes available and to build methods to develop capacity. There will also be a methods development researcher hired to try and help address some of the mass production aspects. The program has planned for a total of 40 field insectary cages in 2014, with hopes of producing a total of 400,000 wasps from those cages. He also went over the methods development priorities for 2014, the achievements that have been made in the last 6 months, and the next steps that will be taken within the next 6 months. Jim Gorden mentioned that a trip is still being planned to visit the biocontrol facilities in Mexico this summer. There is a biocontrol task force meeting scheduled for May 28, 2014.

b. Risk-Based HLB Survey

Magally Luque-Williams gave an update on the HLB Survey, stating that Ventura, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino County surveys are 100% complete. Survey work is ongoing in San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties. There were maps provided for each of the counties to show the areas that have been completed versus areas where there is still ongoing treatment. Magally Luque-Williams reported that more staff is being assigned to the HLB survey and there will be a meeting held soon with the CDFA staff to work on administrative efficiencies. Debby Tanouye is waiting on new STR's from Dr. Gottwald for the completed counties. Once the new STR's are received, surveys in those Counties can be restarted. All samples that have been tested for HLB have come back as negative. Survey crews are going to start work in the Central Valley in June. There was a question about the high infestation of ACP in Imperial County along the border. There was a question about surveys being started in the Central Valley and Victoria Hornbaker stated that the CDFA staff have the STR's from Dr. Gottwald for the Central Valley and are mapping those out. Staff are hopeful to start the Central Valley survey in June 2014.

c. Hacienda Heights HLB Survey

Tina Galindo gave an update on the Hacienda Heights area. The last application of Tempo was made in the 800 meter area in January /February. The CDFA and USDA staff have been working in collaboration with Dr. Grafton-Cardwell to establish a more effective treatment schedule for

Hacienda Heights. A Merit application was due in April however based on the recommendations, the treatment has been rescheduled for later in the summer which will improve the Merit application efficacy. Zone 1 was last tested in January/February and there were 5 adults and 40 nymphs tested. Round 12 is in progress right now for zone 1 and there have been no ACP tested so far. In zone 2, round 6 was completed in November/December and there were 83 adults and 159 nymphs tested. Round 7 in zone 2 is currently in progress and 29 adults and 2 nymphs have been collected so far. In zone 3, round 4 was completed in December and there were 733 adults tested and 10 nymphs. Round five will be completed in zone three in June. There have been some recent detections in Ventura County, in groves as well as a few packing houses. Areawide treatments continue in Riverside and San Diego Counties. There was continued discussion about the packing house finds in Ventura; the CDFA staff will meet to discuss the next steps that need to be taken.

d. Trapping Activities

Art Gilbert gave a presentation on the statewide trapping and ACP sampling for HLB. There have been no detections this year in Tulare County. There was an ACP find in San Luis Obispo County on March 20, 2014. There are currently 257 traps deployed with no additional detections. Monterey, San Joaquin and the counties south to Kern County have started their urban detection trapping in March of this year. There are approximately 11,900 traps deployed with no further detections since May 09, 2014. The statewide commercial trapping is continuing on schedule and ACP sampling is continuing as well. There are now 2,827 collection sites with a total of 6,691 adult psyllids collected and 3,181 nymphs. There have also been improvements made to the trapping system. Traps have been relocated so that they are near human activity and traps are now all hanging.

e. Regulatory Activities

Nawal Sharma gave a regulatory update. Currently the main focus is to ensure that commerce continues even within a large quarantine. The CDFA is working with USDA to facilitate the movement for growers. All plants in retail nurseries are currently being treated and tagged. A protocol is being developed so that products can be moved from San Joaquin Valley to the Los Angeles area. Most of the growers who are moving fruit outside of the quarantine are using the spray and move option which helps reduce the population if any. There was discussion about staff being laid off due to budget reductions and the CDFA is currently working on seeking some additional funding for regulatory activities. Since CHRP funding is limited, if the Committee would like additional staffing or increased regulatory activity, funding would need to come from assessment funds. There was a comment made about lack of communication between the CDFA and CPDPC. Victoria Hornbaker let the Committee know that they were informed by the CDFA staff in 2013 about the lack of funding for regulatory issues and the layoff of staff and it has also been discussed in the executive committee meetings. There was a comment made in regards to funding sources for regulatory activities: one being general fund money from the CDFA and another being the county agricultural commissioner.

There was a question about the Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) quarantine progressing in Southern California. Under the current USDA protocol nurseries would not be able to ship out of the SOS quarantine, however the CDFA is currently in negotiation with USDA to allow nursery movement. The CDFA also needs to be CEQA compliant before entering any quarantine for

SOS. Joel Nelsen expressed concern about the CDFA not being CEQA compliant in regards to the quarantine since this has been an ongoing issue. Victoria Hornbaker mentioned that the CDFA is in the process of working on a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that will be used for many different programs. Unfortunately SOS was not an issue at the time the report was made and the fungicides that are required to treat or mitigate movement of SOS are not included in that document. Once the PEIR is certified, the CDFA can complete a risk assessment and tier to the document. There was also a question about quarantine funding. Victoria Hornbaker stated that there is funding secured from the federal government, and that funding could be used if there is a five mile quarantine in place. If the quarantine exceeds five miles there would be additional funding needed.

e. Laboratory Updates

Jim Gorden reviewed the laboratory updates with the Committee. There was a detection of HLB by a dog team at a postal service distribution center in Sacramento County. The leaves found were shipped from Florida. Otherwise, all of the lab reports are in line and the labs have been keeping up with the work flow.

F. Additional Items

Victoria Hornbaker pointed out that there were several additional reports in the binder that the Committee should review on their own, the Report from Mexico on ACP and HLB finds, Rick Dunn's report on Psyllid Management Areas and the Treatment Matrix that Debby Tanouye provided. All contain valuable information.

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Outreach Subcommittee Chair Kevin Olsen provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on April 9, 2014 in Visalia, California.

a. Redirection of PSA Funds

Kevin Olsen reported that the Subcommittee voted by consensus to move \$34,000 from English and Spanish public service announcement (PSA) to advertisement line item. There would not be an increase in expenses, just moving budget amounts from one line item to another to better meet Committee needs.

b. 2015 World Ag Expo Booth

Kevin Olsen also reported that the Subcommittee voted to have a booth at the World Agricultural Exposition next year with an estimated expense of \$1,800.

Motion: To approve the Outreach Subcommittee's recommendations from the April 9th subcommittee meeting including the Spanish and English public service announcements and radio advertisements and to support renting a booth at the 2015 World Agricultural Exposition.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: Richard Bennett

Motion Passes: All in favor

c. Crisis Communication Plan Implementation

Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) and California Citrus Mutual (CCM) have implemented a Crisis Management Plan that is ongoing in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo due to the new finds there. The plan has been working very successfully so far. Staff has been working closely with the County Agricultural Commissioners in both counties. In San Luis Obispo, flyers have been sent out to homeowners in the area and there were advertisements in the local newspaper. There was a homeowner meeting in Santa Barbara which was well attended by growers in the area.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT & DISCUSSION

Victoria Hornbaker provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on April 3, 2014 via conference call. One item reviewed during the meeting is the alternative treatment program that the Santa Barbara Beekeepers Association has been handing out to residences near Santa Barbara find sites. The Science Subcommittee feels that there is existing information available on the University of California (UC) website that can be used to give homeowners a full picture of all available treatment options. The issue the subcommittee had with the alternative treatment program as presented was that it pulled information from areas that were not intended for homeowners, but for growers which may cause confusion for homeowners. Dr. Grafton-Cardwell is working with the Santa Barbara UC extension, Master Gardeners, NST, and CCM to develop handouts that can be given to homeowners to educate them about treatment options. Another issue that was discussed is the role of the CPDPC in research. Victoria Hornbaker reported that the consensus of the Subcommittee was that research should go through Citrus Research Board (CRB), but that CPDPC can consider research proposals that have been vetted through CRB.

SAP Report

Victoria Hornbaker reviewed the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) report with the Committee. She went over implementation plans that the CDFA is proposing, noting that the proposed implementation plan is listed for each item in red font and she reviewed several of the most important implementation plans. First was the implementation of the recommendation to make the treatment areas consistent, 400 meters in non-HLB area and 800 meters in HLB areas. The second item that Victoria Hornbaker discussed was the SAP recommendation that a CLas positive nymph should be an indication of a positive tree and appropriate action should be taken to remove the positive tree. The CDFA primary entomologist and primary plant pathologist and the County Ag Commissioners all agree with this and the CDFA will implement the recommendation. The third item that she discussed was the option for growers to use a preharvest insecticide application. The SAP does not feel that the insecticide applications sufficiently mitigate the risk of ACP movement. The CDFA will not implement the recommendation at this time, but will continue to offer the bulk citrus performance standard. The SAP also made recommendations on application timing and new or alternating chemistries; the CDFA will continue to work with the UC Extension to review these items. Victoria Hornbaker noted that many of the SAP recommendations were outside the CDFA sphere of influence and that we will work with the other parties to review the recommendations. A large section of the SAP report focused on nurseries and the nursery industry working with the CDFA and USDA to develop procedures for both retail and production nurseries. There is an upcoming nursery

meeting being held on May 29, 2014 in Lindcove which will have an Ad Hoc Committee present to discuss the recommendations in the SAP report.

REPORT FROM CHRP COUNCIL

Joel Nelsen gave an update on CHRP and announced that things have been going well. The multiagency cooperative (MAC) has provided some funding for the Biocontrol Program and will be funding a few more programs later on in the year. One-hundred twenty five million dollars was received through the farm bill to fund programs in Florida, Texas and California to achieve objectives relative to ACP/HLB research programs. There are going to be some discussions about reorganization of the National Science and Technology Subcommittee.

CRB REPORT

Victoria Hornbaker reported that Ken Keck has been working with the MAC on the \$1.5 million grant for the Biocontrol project and has put together a proposal for California's portion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be held in Visalia, California on July 09, 2014 at 10:00am.