

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 05, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on February 05, 2014 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden.

Committee Members Present:

Dan Dreyer	Kevin Olsen	Link Leavens
Jim Gorden	Kevin Severns*	

Committee Members Absent:

John Gless
Etienne Rabe

Interested Parties:

Erin Betts	David Morgan*	Cressida Silvers*
Craig Hanes	Colleen Murphy	Debby Tanouye*
Susan McCarthy*	Sylvie Robillard	Judy Zaninovich
Luci Kumagai*	Rick Dunn	Cynthia LeVesque*

*** Participated via telephone/webex**

Opening Comments

Chairman, Jim Gorden, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. There is a quorum for this meeting.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gorden reviewed the minutes from the Operations Subcommittee meeting which took place on December 11, 2013 in Visalia, California.

Motion: Approval of the minutes with one correction from the Operations Subcommittee meeting which was held on December 11, 2013.

First: Dan Dreyer

Second: Kevin Olsen

Motion Passes: All in favor

Review of Operations Financial Reports

There were no financial reports for this meeting.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Craig Hanes gave an update on the regional ACP management program. All of the residences and commercial properties associated with 2013 800 meter eradication areas have been treated. Southern California activities are still ongoing. CDFA, grower liaisons, and County staff are all working in San Bernardino, San Diego, Riverside and Imperial County to identify Area-wide management areas. In Riverside County, all of the UCR's citrus on campus has been treated as well as the areas surrounding the campus. Hemet will be the next area that undergoes an area-wide treatment. There is a public meeting scheduled in Hemet next week. All commercial groves in the Ojai area in Ventura County have been treated due to the find there last year. All of the regional positions except for one are now filled. Craig introduced Erin Betts, she is the new grower liaison in Tulare County and Cressida Silvers, and she is the new grower liaison in Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo County area. The new statewide grower liaison coordinator is Bob Atkins. Bob's most recent position as San Diego County grower liaison should be filled soon.

HLB Survey Update

Debby Tanouye gave an update on the HLB Survey. Ventura, Imperial and Riverside Counties treatments are all complete 100%. Treatments are still ongoing in San Diego, San Bernardino, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties. All of the recommendations that Dr. Gottwald suggested were implemented and crews are moving along much faster. CDFA staff is working on including the data into a biweekly report which will be ready to present at the next full CPDPC meeting being held on March 12, 2014. Everything that has been tested for HLB has been negative so far.

Biocontrol Program Update

David Morgan gave a presentation on Biocontrol program updates. There has not been much production the last two months due to the weather. Tamarixia releases declined in December to 11,000, and in January there were 13,000 released. Last year, a total of 250,000 wasps were released into Southern California. The new grid release strategy has been implemented in Los Angeles County as well as in Orange. Orange is 50% completed. There have also been some releases in organic groves, approximately 1,000 Tamarixia released per site. David explained how the grid release strategy system works. The grid strategy is being implemented to get the Tamarixia to spread more evenly. Each square mile is identified with a unique identifying number. Tamarixia are released based on the risk model, with 200, 400, or 600 wasps being released. There are teams that cover approximately 20 sites in one day. Teams should be able to cover each site once a month. Teams also go back and identify special risk concerns for example, organic production and abandon groves, and releasing 1,000 wasps per site at those specific sites. There are now 150 cages operating at Mt. Rubidoux, the green houses at Cal Poly are still undergoing construction, and the plant production at the Arvin field station is going very well. David also discussed concerns of ACP build up along the border in Mexico. Mexico does have HLB and it needs to be targeted to prevent it from coming into California. There are currently two Biocontrol facilities in Mexico however they have not been in good communication with us. Hopefully by the next Operations Committee meeting there will be a plan established. CDFA and Greg Simmons have also been working with UCR to get 1,000 wasps a week to Arizona to help them out with the ACP suppression.

Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque gave an update on CRB's current lab activities. There have been 18,429 samples tested since March 2013. 3,484 samples have been tested since the last meeting and all subsamples came back negative for HLB. There have been 3,045 nursery samples tested, 1,714 since last meeting all of which are negative for HLB as well. CRB has finished testing the less expensive QPCR master mix which has saved \$39,842 based on estimated costs. CRB has also completed QPR testing in Hacienda Heights. They are currently testing the six trees from Hacienda Heights area that were removed. The proficiency testing panels for the USDA certification has been completed. The lab is also assisting with the Hacienda Heights transect samples. The lab is currently working with Dr. Slupsky to develop high through put version of her metabolomics subsection. There was discussion about how long HLB can last in a psyllid once the insect is no longer living. The psyllid found in Hacienda Heights that tested positive for HLB was in the lab for three months before it was tested. As long as the psyllid is kept in alcohol, it will be stable.

Luci reported on behalf of CDFA's lab. For the month of January 1,697 plant samples were tested, 87% from Los Angeles in the Hacienda Heights area. 317 ACP samples were tested, all from Hacienda Heights. CDFA's lab just completed USDA HLB proficiency testing. Fruit samples also came into the lab, one was intercepted at the Winterhaven border station and the other was detected at the USPS in Yolo County. Both of those samples tested PCR positive for HLB.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reviewed the data management report from December 2013 – January 2014 with the Committee. Rick is still in cooperation with the University of California's Kearny Ag Center GIS facility. There was a change in leadership at that facility. The Ag center anticipates hiring a couple of part time interns to work on the citrus layer project within the next week. They have finished updating Madera County and San Bernardino County is the next priority. We are starting to make a path through every citrus producing county. Rick is continuing to work on the Statewide Citrus Layer as time allows. Rick has also been working with CDFA staff, mapping combined detection data from CDFA and CPDPC (which Rick handles internally). Rick has assisted with the ACP trapping protocol study data analysis and is assisting with the Hacienda Heights HLB transect sampling study. Starting last week, Rick has been working with the San Joaquin Valley grower liaisons on defining some proposed CHMA's.

Chairman Report

There was a Biocontrol taskforce meeting last month. It was a very positive meeting and a great working group. There was discussion about planning a trip to the Biocontrol facilities in Mexico, hopefully by the next meeting there will be a date for that trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 05, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.