

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 07, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on May 07, 2014 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden.

Committee Members Present:

Dan Dreyer	Link Leavens*	Kevin Olsen*
Jim Gorden		

Committee Members Absent:

John Gless	Etienne Rabe	Kevin Severns
------------	--------------	---------------

CRB Staff:

Rick Dunn	Cynthia LeVesque*
-----------	-------------------

Interested Parties:

Bob Atkins*	Colleen Murphy*	Austin Webster
Brett Chandler*	Joanne O’Sullivan*	Scosha Wright*
Tina Galindo*	Sylvie Robillard	Judy Zaninovich
Victoria Hornbaker*	Cressida Silvers*	
David Morgan*	Debby Tanouye*	

*** 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 April 09, 2014 in Visalia, California. The Subcommittee approved the minutes as presented.

Review of Operations Financial Reports

Victoria reported that there was a Finance Subcommittee meeting held on May 06, 2014 and everything is currently on track. She mentioned that the Finance Subcommittee will make a recommendation to move \$145,000 from the New Area Contingency Budget for San Luis Obispo response activities.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Bob reported that he has continued meeting with the AdHoc GIS/Communications Committee and has continued to work on a monthly situation report. CDFA staff is continuing to add to that report which hopefully should be ready to present at the next CPDPC meeting. Bob also gave an update on the ongoing areawide treatments. He met with the Coachella Valley Pest Control District and reported that they are producing a ballot on authorization to raise the assessments and commit funds for ACP treatments. NST has helped organize a field trip to Orcutt Ranch in the West San Fernando Valley on May 08, 2014 to show Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo growers and pest control applicators all stages of ACP. There has been progress in finding a new grower liaison for San Diego County and hopes that the position will be filled soon. Bob forwarded the draft Abandoned Grove Tactical Plan to the County Ag Commissioners for presentation at the CACASA Spring Conference, the week on May 12th. There was further discussion about abandon groves versus neglected groves and the fine line between the two. The definitions need to be clarified very soon to avoid confusion in the field.

HLB Survey Update

Debby Tanouye gave an update on the HLB Survey. Ventura, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties surveys are all 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. Debby reported that more staff is being assigned to the HLB survey and there will be a meeting held soon with staff to work on administrative efficiencies. Debby 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. Everything that has been tested for HLB has been negative. Survey crews are going to start work in the Central Valley in June. There was a question about the Central Valley being added to the risk-based survey so quickly when the higher risk areas are located in Southern California. Debby explained the survey in the Central Valley has already been budgeted for with CHRP funds. Also, the staff working in the Central Valley will be local staff therefore there will be no travel expenses. There was also a concern at the last SAP meeting to start the risk-based survey in the Central Valley sooner than later. The work in the Central Valley will not divert from any work being done in Southern California.

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. CDFA and USDA staff have been working in collaboration to establish a more effective treatment schedule for Hacienda Heights. A Merit application is due this month however due to the recommendations from the SAP, it has been decided to wait until summer to make that application. There will be further discussion with USDA and the SAP to make a final decision on that. Trapping is continuing, in March there were 180 ACP adults from 52 traps and in April there were 92 adults from 51 traps. Zone 1 was last tested in January/February and there were 5 adults and 40 nymphs tested. Round 12 are in

progress right now for zone 1 and there have been 0 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 2013 and there were 733 adults tested and 10 nymphs. Round 5 will be completed in zone 3 in June 2014.

Biocontrol Program Update

David Morgan gave a presentation on updates regarding the Biocontrol program. *Tamarixia* releases have increased due to the warmer weather. In April, there were approximately 88,000 *Tamarixia* released which is more than what has been released total since January 2014. The increase in production is also due to Foothill Agricultural Research providing *Tamarixia* to the program, which is great news. The first layer of releases has now been completed for every County in Southern California. David presented a map to the Committee that showed in detail where *Tamarixia* have been released and how efficient the grid system has been so far. Currently, one of the top priorities is trying to get organic growers to cooperate more with the program. David discussed trying to get a database set up where not only organic groves are recorded but abandon and neglected groves as well. There was a question about how the *Tamarixia* are doing after being released and David reported that Dr. Mark Hoddle has been working on monitoring. The Biocontrol program is preparing a proposal to get monitoring of the wasps and part of the funding for that will come from the MAC funding that was just recently received. David also reported that he has recently done a lot of Outreach which is also very encouraging. There was a question regarding *Diaphorencyrtus* and David reported that unfortunately the permit is being held up by the environmental impact report; however the program is hopeful that releases will begin within 2014. David also reported that the Cal Poly Pomona greenhouse is coming along well and should be up and running by August 2014.

David gave a presentation of behalf of Greg Simmons. David reported that USDA has been collaborating with CDFA and evaluating some of the variables involved with mass production. David 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 steps are 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. David also went over the achievements that have been made the last 6 months and the next steps that will be taken within the next 6 months.

Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque gave an update on CRB's current lab activities. There have been 28,406 samples tested since March 2013. 6,420 subsamples have been tested since the last Operations Subcommittee meeting and all subsamples have come back negative for HLB. There have been 5,546 nursery samples tested, 2,501 since last meeting all of which are negative for HLB as well. There have been 410 Hacienda Heights bark and root survey samples tested since that last meeting and Cynthia presented some maps of the Hacienda Heights survey as well. Current CRB staff remains the same. CRB is currently assisting with processing Hacienda Heights transect

samples. They are also testing high throughput protocol for the siRNA protocol with HLB samples from Florida. The lab is currently working with Dr. Slupsky to develop a high throughput version of the metabolomics extraction, and testing for the UCD containment facility early detection experiments. Testing has been completed on the trees that were removed from the Hacienda Heights area and everything has come back negative. There was a handout provided to the Committee in their packets for the CDFA lab activities.

Austin Webster gave an update on behalf of CDFA's lab. There was a detection of HLB by a dog team at a postal service distribution center in Sacramento County which did test positive. The leaves were shipped from Florida. There have been a total of 17431 ACP and plant samples tested so far this year. 55% of the plant samples have come from the Hacienda Heights area and 13% have come from high risk areas identified using Dr. Gottwald's model. The lab is going to begin providing data to USDA for the cluster analysis which will help out with targeting survey activities.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reviewed the data management report from April 2014 with the Committee. Rick is working in cooperation with the University of California's Kearny Ag Center GIS facility. They are now working on Santa Barbara, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties. Rick is continuing to work on the Statewide Citrus Layer particularly in Tulare County. He is making some changes in the HLB/ACP detection maps, the Biocontrol Workgroup activity maps, and the CPDPC trapping/sampling progress activities. Rick has assisted with the ACP trapping protocol study data analysis and is assisting with the Hacienda Heights HLB transect sampling study. Rick has also been working with the San Joaquin Valley grower liaisons on defining some proposed psyllid management areas (PMA)'s, 58 PMA's have been mapped in the Central Valley. Rick has also been working with the HLB/ACP situation report work group. The psyllid management area project has been mapped to some extent and a few large zones that were distinctive graphically or by county lines divides them into psyllid management areas.

Chairman Report

Jim reported that the Committee is still working on getting together with the Biocontrol facilities in Mexico.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.