

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on June 11, 2014 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden.

Committee Members Present:

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| Dan Dreyer | Jim Gorden | Kevin Olsen* |
| John Gless* | Link Leavens* | |

Committee Members Absent:

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| Etienne Rabe | Kevin Severns |
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CRB Staff:

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| Rick Dunn | Cynthia LeVesque* |
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Interested Parties:

| | | |
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| Bob Atkins | David Morgan* | Dan Willey* |
| Erin Betts | Colleen Murphy | Helene Wright |
| Tina Galindo* | Sylvie Robillard | Scosha Wright |
| Victoria Hornbaker | Cressida Silvers* | Bob Wynn* |
| Lucita Kumagai* | Debby Tanouye* | Judy Zaninovich |
| Susan McCarthy* | Austin Webster* | |

*** 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 May 07, 2014 in Visalia, California.

Motion: Approval of the minutes with one correction from the Operations Subcommittee meeting which was held on May 07, 2014.

First: Dan Dreyer

Second: Link Leavens
Motion Passes: All in favor

Review of Operations Financial Reports

Victoria reported on an issue that is impacting the ability to proceed with the greenhouse construction at Cal Poly Pomona. The construction is going to cost approximately \$72,000 more than was originally projected due to water and power hook ups and ADA compliance costs. There was discussion that followed concerning the additional costs for the greenhouse production.

Motion: To approve the redistribution of funds in the biocontrol budget to cover the \$72,000 greenhouse construction shortfall.
First: Dan Dreyer
Second: Link Leavens
Motion Passes: All in favor

Kevin Olsen asked that CDFA staff keep the Committee informed on any economic situations that arise, even if there is not a lot of information available. The Committee would like to be as up-to-date as possible and kept in the loop of things.

Regional ACP Management Program Update

Bob reported that the Ad Hoc GIS\Communications Committee has continued to meet and is making good progress. CDFA staff has populated most of the data for the 2013 year and the report will be generated monthly by the 10th of each month. The reports will also be posted on an FTP and will be accessible to everyone at any time.

San Diego County has hired a grower liaison, Enrico Ferro. An RFP was posted for the vacant grower liaison positions; north Tulare County and Ventura County grower.

There will be three grower meetings held in San Diego County to help organize areawide treatments. NST has organized a grower meeting for Riverside/San Bernardino for June 10th to assist in organizing additional areawide treatment areas. The Coachella Valley has increased their pest control district and has approved funding ACP treatments.

The County Ag Commissioners are taking a look at neglected and abandon orchards. There was a vote to form a subcommittee at the CACASA spring conference. The hope is that the growers will voluntarily remove abandoned groves. There was a question about how cooperative the voluntary removal percentage might be and Bob projected that the voluntary removal rate will be high, somewhere around 80 percent.

HLB Survey Update

Debby Tanouye gave an update on the HLB Survey. Ventura, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties surveys are all 100% complete. Survey work is ongoing in San Diego and Orange Counties which should be completed by August if not sooner. CDFA staff from the Central Valley are currently in Southern California for HLB survey training. The Central Valley HLB survey will start in the Central Valley in early July.

Dr. Gottwald will be providing a risk based survey map for the Hacienda Heights area and it will be presented to the committee for consideration as soon as it is received. Currently the staff is still continuing to survey per the zone survey protocol. Debby did mention that all of the samples have come back negative for HLB.

Tina Galindo gave an update on the Hacienda Heights area. Unfortunately psyllid numbers have increased in traps within the 800 meter area. In April there were 95 adults from 51 traps and in May there were 155 adults from 56 traps. Last week staff began their 13th round of visual survey in zone 1. Zone 2 was completed in May, there were 98 adults and 37 nymphs collected finishing round 7. Round 5 will be completed in zone 3 in June 2014. Surveying will begin in zone 5 on June 16, 2014. Victoria also reviewed the breakdown of each zone.

Biocontrol Program Update

David Morgan provided an update for the biocontrol program. *Tamarixia* production has increased and approximately 270,000 wasps have been released across Southern California using the grid system. Due to the increased production, staff have moved from the standard release rate that was previously used in urban areas of 300, 400 or 600 (depending on the Gottwald risk model) to 400, 800 or 1,200. The second layer is almost complete. Next the first layer will be revisited and releases will be made again with the increased release rates. David presented a map to the Committee that showed in more detail how well the grid system has been working and what all areas have been covered. Over 400 organic growers have been contacted via email with a survey that asks for their contact information and their grove information. There have been 60 responses so far. Several releases have been performed in organic groves. Link suggested staff get in touch with the Ventura County Task Force to ensure people are aware that biocontrol is not an alternative method to treatment. Link is also concerned with getting releases made into areas with high ACP infestation where treatment may not be reasonable.

David announced that the biocontrol program received funding from the MAC group which was very helpful. The biocontrol taskforce is arranging a visit to the Mexico biocontrol facility the last week of July 2014.

Laboratory Activities

Cynthia LeVesque gave an update on CRB's current lab activities. There have been 12,255 samples and 12,861 subsamples that have been tested since January 2014. All samples have come back negative for HLB. All 324 Hacienda Heights bark and root survey samples were tested and were also all negative for HLB. CRB is currently testing 324 Hacienda Heights transect leaf samples as well as testing a more sensitive QPCR enzyme on all Hacienda Heights samples. They are also testing high throughput protocol for the siRNA protocol with HLB samples from Florida. They are continuing to work with Dr. Slupsky on developing a high throughput version of the metabolomics extraction. Current CRB staff remains the same. Victoria asked for some kind of an interim report on the current status of the transect survey since she has received some questions in regards to those samples. Cynthia agreed to send Victoria a summary. There was a question about the bacteria on the samples staying intact. Cynthia stated that if the samples are put into ethanol, the bacteria will stay with them. Cynthia also stated that the number of single psyllid samples that the lab is receiving has gone down to 20 percent which is good.

Lucita Kumagai gave an update on CDFA's current lab activities. As of May 30, 2014 CDFA has tested 5,900 plant samples from residential areas in Los Angeles County, 64 percent of those samples were collected from the Hacienda Heights area. Approximately 14 percent of the total plant samples tested came from the high risk areas identified using Dr. Gottwald's model. All of the CRB transect samples from the Hacienda Heights area have been tested and all been negative for HLB by real-time PCR. The CDFA lab is continuing to provide Dr. Slupsky's lab with plant samples from Hacienda Heights zones 1-3 as well as samples from Tulare, Kern, Fresno and San Diego Counties for their metabolomics study. So far they have been provided with 835 samples.

There have been a few instances where psyllids have tested at a 36 or a 38 which is not a completely positive psyllid. Dave Bartel from USDA is using this information to form a cluster analysis in which staff go back to the area where the psyllid was collected from and test for HLB in the trees. CDFA staff is providing Dave with the 2013/2014 lab data to see if he can compile something similar like what is currently being done in Texas for survey work in California.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reviewed the data management report from April 2014 with the Subcommittee. The UC has finished updating Santa Barbara and Imperial Counties citrus layers and they are now working on San Bernardino County. Rick is continuing to work on the Statewide Citrus Layer as time allows. He is continuing to produce HLB/ACP detection overview maps, the Biocontrol Workgroup activity maps, and the CPDPC trapping/sampling activities. Rick has also been submitting data for the new ACP/HLB program situation report workgroup as well as working with the San Joaquin Valley grower liaisons on defining some proposed psyllid management areas (PMA)'s. Rick has finished outlining the proposed PMA's for all of Tulare County. Rick provided contact data to Dr. Gottwald, he is going to duplicate what he used for Florida and staff will overlay that data with what is currently ongoing and compare. This will be helpful in Southern California to help get a feel for what the PMA's should look like and will also help facilitate the process for Fresno and Kern Counties. There was further discussion about PMA's. Industry, UC, CCM and CPDPC will all be in collaboration with establishing these PMA's.

Chairman Report

Jim had nothing additional to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 06, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Visalia, California.