

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

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 03, 2014

Opening:

The conference call meeting of the Science Subcommittee was called to order at 1:03 p.m. on April 03, 2014 by Subcommittee Chair Etienne Rabe.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Jim Gorden	Jason Leathers	Etienne Rabe
Beth Grafton-Cardwell		

Committee Members Absent:

Tom Avinalis	Ed Civerolo	MaryLou Polek
Steve Birdsall	George McEwen	

Interested Parties:

Bob Atkins	Kevin Hoffman	Austin Webster
Richard Bennett	Victoria Hornbaker	Les Wright
Bob Blakely	Ellen Kraugh	Bob Wynn
Stephen Brown	Joanne O'Sullivan	Mary Ann Rajala
Cathy Fisher	Cressida Silvers	
Henry Gonzales	Debby Tanouye	

Opening Comments:

Chairman, Etienne Rabe, welcomed the Subcommittee, staff, and members of the public participating in conference call. Chairman Rabe stated that he wanted to go through the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) report and would like response or updates from CDFA if items are being implemented.

1. SAP Report Review (sections are numbered to correspond to report)

Rapid Detection of HLB

A1. Survey for HLB

Etienne asked about implementation of survey efficiencies that were discussed with Dr. Gottwald. Victoria explained that the efficiencies have been implemented and that the program anticipates completing two survey cycles each year.

- Etienne requested the current HLB survey protocol, progress and burn rate (cost).

A2. Rapid exchange of information

There were no questions or comments from the Subcommittee regarding this section.

A3. Re-training

The Subcommittee expressed agreement that key inspectors should receive training in either Florida or Texas. Victoria mentioned that California, Arizona and Texas had put forward a request to fund such training through the Multiagency Cooperative, but it was not funded.

- Etienne requested a funding proposal for training key inspectors be provided for consideration by the CPDPC

A4. Hacienda Heights Experimental CLAs survey.

Etienne expressed concern about the level of activity being conducted in the Hacienda Heights area by both the CDFA and the CRB. Beth mentioned that the SAP would like to see a more intensive survey with more frequent sampling.

- Etienne asked for a comprehensive report of activities in the Hacienda Heights find area, treatment, sampling of plant and insects, for both CDFA and CRB projects include cost & funding source for all activities.
- Is Dr. Gottwald going to provide a new risk map for East LA and HH?

A5. Commercial grove CLAs sampling.

Victoria explained that in areas of high pest prevalence CDFA has begun replacing grove trapping with grove sampling for HLB. In those areas an attempt is made to collect live psyllids for analysis.

- Etienne requested additional information about the current grove sampling activities including a protocol and cost for survey activities; include source of funding and rate of expenditure.

A6. Expanding capacity for CLAs sampling

Etienne and Beth reiterated that the SAP believes that processing a large number of samples in a timely manner is critical and the volume of this work is going to increase exponentially in the future. Thus, the sample processing capacity should to be substantially expanded if warranted.

- Etienne asked for a report from both CDFA and CRB labs, identifying processing capacity and total realized cost per sample for both labs, and the level of samples the labs are handling currently.

A7. ACP treatments/sampling in Hacienda Heights

Debby Tanouye explained that there is an extensive survey and treatment program established around the 2012 HLB positive find site. Jason Leathers mentioned that he has recommended a cyfluthrin treatment three times per year and an annual imidicloprid treatment of all host plants within 400 meters of the HLB find site. The subcommittee agrees with the SAP report that more sampling should be conducted and that the program should conduct treatments at the optimal times.

- Debby will work with Beth and Joe to develop an optimal protocol for Hacienda Heights treatments, including timing and products to be used. Debby will also work with Beth and Joe to explore organic options for refusal properties.

A8. Voluntary removal of Hacienda Heights citrus trees

The group discussed the activities that have been occurring in Hacienda Heights since the positive find in 2012.

- The Science subcommittee requested an update from CRB on the tree removal activities, including the results of the study in late 2013, what is currently being done, are zone 1 trees being tested and if so by whom and how many trees were surveyed in the follow up CRB study. Additionally, the subcommittee requested the sampling protocol that was followed for the study.

Longitudinal Study

B1. Varieties, replication, timing

The SAP reported that the CRB should incorporate a few changes to their experimental plan, including adding multiple citrus varieties, include additional replications to substantiate the data and conduct tests at the optimal time of the year.

- Etienne asked if CRB has implemented any of the SAP suggestions into the longitudinal study.
- He also asked for an update on detector dog inclusion into the longitudinal study.

B2. Other Strains of CLAs

The Science Subcommittee agrees with the SAP and would like to see different strains of CLAs analyzed at the containment facility, but both groups understand the limitations on working with CLAs.

Potential for Movement of CLAs Infected ACP with Fruit Movement

C1. Movement of fruit from Mexico into the U.S.

Victoria explained that this question was addressed by USDA at the SAP meeting in December. There is a protocol for surveying bulk citrus from Mexico at the port of entry.

- Etienne asked for the USDA protocol.

C2. ACP treatment buffer along the California – Mexico border. The Science Subcommittee agrees with the SAP suggestion that the current treatment program two miles south into Mexico and two miles north into California be continued until such time that the Mexican strain of CLAs is determined to be present in California at multiple locations and eradication seems unlikely. Debby explained that the CDFA is treating a 400 meter area around each find in the 2-mile buffer.

C3. Movement of fruit from southern California into the San Joaquin Valley.

The Science Subcommittee discussed the movement of bulk citrus from heavily infested areas. Several questions were raised during the discussion:

- If there was an HLB quarantine of commercial citrus would fruit be able to move?
- Is 5-miles an appropriate quarantine for HLB?
- Would a CLAs positive nymph be indication of a positive tree and could it be used to implement HLB quarantine?

Stephen Brown indicated that CDFA can be more restrictive than the USDA and he also stated that an HLB quarantine would have different requirements for movement than an ACP quarantine.

Recommendations Regarding Areawide ACP Treatment Programs

Victoria described the area-wide treatment coordination efforts underway in Southern California. To date, there have been three area-wide treatments, one in San Bernardino and two in Riverside.

D1. Optimal size of areawide treatment programs

Beth reported that she is working with the County Ag Commissioners staff, grower liaisons and industry to develop area-wide treatment areas for the Central Valley. Dr Gottwald had originally offered to provide a map of appropriate sized areas, but the work is virtually completed. Dr. Gottwald will be notified that the map will not be needed.

D2. Commercial ACP treatments

Beth is currently working on an optimal area-wide treatment program and she and Dr. Morse are exploring treatment options for organic growers.

D3. Urban treatments around commercial citrus

The Science Subcommittee discussed the urban treatment activities in Southern California and the Central Valley.

- Clarification was requested on the different scenarios for treatment areas 400 vs 800 meters.
- Etienne requested a report on current urban treatment activities including cost and refusal rates.

D4. ACP sampling within areawide programs

Victoria and Debby will be working on a sampling protocol in collaboration with Beth. The protocol will be presented to the Multiagency Cooperative (MAC) and the CPDPC for funding consideration.

D5. Management of abandoned or poorly managed groves

The Science Subcommittee agrees with the SAP that areawide management programs should explore mitigation options for abandoned groves. Bob Atkins has been working with the County staff and the grower liaisons to identify and map abandoned groves statewide. Bob reported that the next step will be to conduct outreach to identify abandoned grove owners.

- The Science Subcommittee requested a protocol for abandoned groves, including definitions for abandoned groves for review.

Recommendations Affecting Quarantine Areas

E1. Tulare County quarantine area

The SAP recommends expanding the Tulare quarantine to include the entire county. The Science Subcommittee feels that maintaining the current status quo may be appropriate. Stephen explained the transition from 20-mile quarantines in Southern California to 5-mile

quarantines in the Central Valley. He noted that in order to change the quarantine it would require rule making, industry and County Commissioner concurrence.

E2. ACP trapping methods

The SAP examined preliminary trapping data in which two groves with ACP in southern California were trapped using multiple protocols. The Science Subcommittee expressed interest in the trapping study.

- CRB will be contacted to request a report on the trapping trials.

E3. Citrus cull piles.

There were no questions or comments from the Subcommittee regarding this section.

Recommendations Affecting Citrus Nurseries

The Science Subcommittee recommended that a nursery working group be assembled to review the SAP recommendations and determine with CDFA and USDA a course of action for implementation.

2. High-Risk HLB Survey

Etienne tabled this topic as it will be discussed at the CPDPC Operations Subcommittee meeting on April 9, 2014.

3. Alternative Treatment Program

Victoria presented the Alternative Treatment Program flier that is being distributed by the Santa Barbara Beekeepers Association (SBBA). There is concern that the flier includes suggestions that are intended for the grower community and the Science Subcommittee made the determination that the UC page for homeowners should be used, not the flier that was reviewed. The Subcommittee would like to encourage the SBBA to cease the distribution of the flier as presented as it will be confusing to homeowners. Beth and the Santa Barbara County staff will be working with the local UC Extension and Master Gardeners to provide education to homeowners.

4. Role of CPDPC in Research

The Science Subcommittee determined that research should go through the CRB. The committee should pass on to CRB any additional research for funding consideration. CRB should be used as the vetting body for any research proposals that might be brought to the Committee.

5. Additional Items for Discussion

The topic of replacing spray and move with areawide treatments was discussed. Beth explained that Joel wanted to explore replacing the spray and move with areawide treatments, but the timing and chemicals used for the two programs would be different. Area-wide is intended to suppress psyllid populations in large areas and spray and move is intended to disinfest bulk citrus prior to movement, areawide is more of a long term tactic. Etienne recommended that CCM and the UC continue to plan for areawide, but don't implement until the population is established

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54