

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on March 11, 2015 in San Bernardino, California by Committee Chairman Nick Hill.

CPDPC Members Present:

Craig Armstrong	Nick Hill	Kevin Olsen*
Richard Bennett	Link Leavens*	Etienne Rabe
Bob Felts, Jr.	Scott Mabs*	Kevin Severns
John Gless	Mark McBroom	
Gus Gunderson*	James McFarlane	

CPDPC Members Absent:

Franco Bernardi	George McEwen
Jim Gorden	Brian Specht

CDFA Staff:

Stephen Brown*	Jason Leathers*	Lydia Rodriguez
Jason Chan	Magally Luque-Williams	Debby Tanouye*
Sean Farnum	Susan McCarthy*	Scosha Wright*
Art Gilbert	David Morgan	
Victoria Hornbaker	Colleen Murphy	

Guests:

Kiersten Alvarado	Richard Dunn*	Sylvie Robillard
Bob Atkins	Enrico Ferro	Teresa Siles
Jill Barnier*	Linda Haque	Cressida Silvers*
David Bartels	Nancy Holland*	Greg Simmons
John Blasius	Ellen Kragh*	Brian Taylor
Brett Chandler*	Leonard Massey*	Helene Wright
Ed Civerolo	Joseph Morse	Judy Zaninovich*
Vic Corkins	Alex Muniz*	Sandra Zwaal*
John Demyki	Pat Nolan	
Dan Dreyer	Chandrika Ramadugu	

*** Participated via Webinar**

Opening Comments:

Chairman, Nick Hill, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online and stated there is a quorum for the meeting.

Public Comment:

Mark McBroom made a few public comments expressing his concern regarding the Committee’s and CDFA’s strategies when it comes to ACP. The Committee should direct focus and resources to HLB. Mark is concerned with length of the Committee member’s terms and stated that the Executive Committee should be made up of at least 5 members and their terms should be reviewed. The full Committee should be informed of outcomes as soon as possible when an Executive Committee meeting is held; waiting 2 months for an update is too long.

Kevin Severns asked where the Executive Committee might have fallen short and Mark stated that he would like to be informed about decisions being made by the Executive Committee. Mark also stated that there is a concern with how money is being spent on treatments; some areas are not getting any support for their efforts. Kevin stated that there is information shared with the full Committee regarding Executive Committee meetings, Summaries are presented at the full Committee meetings and meeting minutes are posted on the CDFA website. Nick stated that the Executive Committee meetings are public meetings and invited everyone interested to participate.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES

Nick Hill reviewed the minutes from the Committee meeting that took place on February 4, 2015. One Correction was noted, that Bob Atkins was in attendance at the meeting.

Motion: Approval of the minutes from the February 4, 2015 Committee meeting with one correction.

First: Nick Hill

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

a. 2013/2014 Closeout

James McFarlane reviewed the 2013/2014 closeout report. To date the program has received \$13,501,814 in assessment revenues with no additional funds to be received. The program has expended \$18,886,447 from all funding sources, leaving an available balance of \$3,564,716. The projected reserve balance is \$12,615,612. The CHRP budget is \$9,624,859. The CHRP expenditures to date are \$8,453,370, leaving a remaining balance of \$1,171,489 with no projected balance after projected expenditures. The remaining CHRP funds will be utilized by moving appropriate expenditures from the Assessment budget for commercial grove trapping back to CHRP. James reported on the other budgets, stating that the TASC grant current cycle is complete and the budget has been zeroed out. The Citrus Commodity budget has a balance remaining to be expended of \$14,870 which will roll over into the 2014/2015 fiscal year budget. The HLB MAC funds of \$45,005 are available to the program for biocontrol activities and will also roll over into 2014/2015 fiscal year.

b. 2014/2015 Budget and Assessments

James reviewed the 2014/2015 CHRP budget and sub-budgets with the Committee. To date \$2,960,445.80 in assessment revenue has been received with a remaining projected balance of \$11,555,544. The assessment budget for fiscal year 2014/2015 is \$15,344,839. Through January 2014 there has been \$3,797,371 in expenditures to the assessment budget, leaving a balance remaining of \$11,547,468. There has been \$1,169,722 spent for urban treatment and \$1,136,459 has been spent for central valley treatment and surveying year to date. These two have been the highest expenditures to date. The projected CHRP budget amount is the same amount as last year, \$9,624,859. So far, \$1,208,716 has been spent, with a balance remaining of \$8,416,143. Helene Wright from USDA noted that the CHRP budget would be receiving a one-time augmentation of approximately \$1.1 million. Victoria thanked USDA for augmenting the CHRP budget by approximately \$1.1 million. The Citrus Commodity budget has a balance remaining of \$9,011 and The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant has not been touched since the last meeting and has the same balance of \$84,194.

Debby presented a budget for the Central Valley survey and treatment. The previous requested amount to fund the eradication programs in the Central Valley and Santa Clara County will likely be exceeded due to additional ACP finds in those areas. The budget Debby presented shows a breakdown of projected costs, totaling in an additional \$455,409 for the Central Valley and \$263,056 for Santa Clara County in order to maintain the ongoing treatment and survey.

Motion: to increase the budget in the amount of \$455,409 for the Central Valley and \$263,056 for Santa Clara for survey and treatment.

First: John Gless

Second: James McFarlane

Motion Passes: the motion passed with 12 yays and one abstention

Members who voted: Craig Armstrong, Richard Bennett, Franco Bernardi, Bob Felts Jr., John Gless, Gus Gunderson, Nick Hill, Link Leavens, Scott Mabs, James McFarlane, Kevin Olsen, Etienne Rabe, Kevin Severns

Members who abstained: Mark McBroom

c. Variance Analysis Review

James reported that the variance analysis is essentially a repeat of the sub-budgets for fiscal year 2013/2014 due to it being late in the cycle. The ending variance for the assessment budget was -13.26 percent. The variance analysis for fiscal year 2014/2015 is structured differently than the previous reports because there was a section added that compares the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year. The ending variance for the assessment budget was -7.06 percent. There has been 24.75 percent of projected expenditures spent for fiscal year 2014/2015 so far.

d. CRB and CDFR Lab Budgets

The CRB lab has decided to seek recertification. During the period of decertification, CDFR and CRB thought it would be best to leave the CRB budget as it stands at \$729,000 with the understanding that CRB will only bill for fixed costs. The CDFR lab would need to seek an augmentation of its budget to cover the increased sampling costs during the decertification period. Victoria presented a breakdown of the budget estimate totaling at \$514,662.02. This

budget will decrease once CRB is recertified. There was discussion about what the probability is that the CRB lab will be recertified and it was stated that it will be a lengthy process. The Committee would like to be kept updated in regards to the recertification.

Motion: to increase the CDFA lab budget by \$514,622.02 to cover additional ACP samples and to maintain the current CRB lab budget with understanding that during the period of decertification, CRB will only invoice for hard cost.

First: Craig Armstrong

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

a. Regional ACP Management

Bob Atkins, Statewide Grower Liaison Coordinator gave several updates. All of the RFP's for the grower liaisons positions, except two that are pending, have been routed through CDFA's contact office and will take effect July 1, 2015. The area wide management areas are starting to come together well. Imperial County is approaching 100 percent of treatments completed. CDFA has been coordinating with Imperial to treat the residential properties surrounding the commercial groves. Ventura, Riverside, San Diego and San Bernardino have continued to make good progress with area-wide management. John Blasius has taken over San Bernardino County and is working with the farm bureau to put together a task force in that area. There is a psyllid management area (PMA) meeting scheduled for March 12, 2015 in Kern County. There was discussion about placing grower liaisons in counties where there have been recent ACP finds.

Bob reported that the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) has adopted guidelines for neglected and abandoned groves. CACASA is urging each of the Ag Commissioners to proceed so that there is a regulated approach in dealing with neglected and abandoned orchards. A few of the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) members and the San Diego task force have written letters to CACASA expressing the importance of removing neglected and abandoned orchards. Bob Wynn and Bob Atkins both suggested the CPDPC write a letter to CACASA to support moving their efforts on addressing neglected and abandoned groves. Victoria and Bob will work together to write a draft letter to send out to the Committee for review.

Motion: That the Committee drafts a letter of support for CACASA on their efforts addressing neglected and abandoned orchards.

First: Mark McBroom

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

b. ACP/HLB Work Plan and Action Plan

Victoria reviewed the ACP/HLB Work Plan which was amended based on the new Northern California Response protocol that was approved at the last CPDPC meeting. Victoria asked that the Committee endorse the work plan and stated that the work plan is a living document that will

be changed as the Committee implements changes and recommendations. The Committee asked for detail on the determination of eradication feasibility to be included in the Work Plan.

Motion: To approve the ACP/HLB Work Plan as amended to include detail on determination of eradication feasibility.

First: Kevin Severns

Second: John Gless

Motion Passes: All in favor

c. Statewide Quarantine Working Group Report

John Gless reviewed a summary of the statewide quarantine working group meeting that was held on February 27, 2015. The group would like to create a list of all of the pros and cons of the statewide quarantine for the next meeting. The group will be holding a meeting with scientists from California, Florida and Texas to get their perspectives on ACP and HLB; they would also like to have the Science Advisory Panel (SAP), USDA and CDFA at the meeting to give input.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Operations Subcommittee vice Chair Link Leavens provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on February 25, 2015 in Visalia, California. Link stated that the Operations Subcommittee is currently not a full Committee and needs additional members.

a. Trapping to Psyllid Collection Transition Plan

Art Gilbert presented a plan to transition from trapping to collecting psyllids. Art presented a map showing what areas in southern California have already transitioned to psyllid collection, areas of interest and what areas have not yet switched from trapping. This will be a good opportunity to monitor for HLB since the yellow panel traps only detect ACP. There was discussion about identifying HLB on an ACP found on a trap. The Committee would like to push forward with this plan sooner than later.

c. HLB Survey Updates

Magally Luque-Williams gave several updates. Cycle 0 in Tulare and Fresno are both 100 percent complete. Cycle 1 for Imperial and Ventura is also 100 percent complete. All other counties are in progress for cycle one. CDFA staff are currently surveying to have cycles completed every 6 months and staff are surveying the highest risk STRs first. Staff are working on developing a survey to incorporate the data from Dr. Bartels research into the survey. There was a question about Santa Clara and Madera Counties being sampled. Santa Clara will be sampled in cycle two and there will be some sampling done in Madera as well.

Tina Galindo gave several updates. CDFA is no longer doing the zone surveying in Hacienda Heights, they have moved to a risk-based survey. There are 100 traps placed in the core square mile in Hacienda Heights. In December there were 52 traps with ACP samples and an estimated 153 ACP collected. In January there were 19 traps with ACP samples and an estimated total of 37 ACP collected. In February there were 36 traps with ACP samples and a total estimated amount of 63 collected. Imidacloprid and cyfluthrin treatments were completed September 16, 2014 through October 29, 2014. CDFA plans to treat again in summer and the next imidacloprid treatment will be in the fall of 2015. Survey cycle 6 was completed on December 31, 2014.

There were 214 sites visited with, 154 ACP samples collected, 6 plant samples collected and 57 sites negative for ACP. Cycle 1 was completed on February 24, 2015 and 683 sites were visited. The survey resulted in 456 ACP samples, 10 plant samples collected and 225 sites negative for ACP. Cycle 2 began March 2, 2015. Thus far there have been 61 sites visited with, 39 ACP samples collected, 4 plant samples collected and 20 sites negative for ACP.

b. Treatment Updates

Tina gave an update in regards to treatment in Southern California. Area-wide treatment began in Fillmore and Piru on January 17, 2015. Fillmore, Camarillo and Piru are 95 percent complete. Santa Paula is 98 percent complete. Two areas in Moorpark are 100 percent complete. There are public meetings being held in mid-March in Ventura, Somis, Camarillo, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark and Simi. Staff has started area-wide treatment in Hemet which is 75 percent complete. In San Diego, San Ysidro is pending a public meeting and is 30 percent complete in two areas. Pauma is 10 percent complete and area wide treatment is ongoing. In Imperial, the Calexico border is 30 percent complete. There was concern expressed regarding timing of the treatments being completed. Treatment needs to be completed in 2 to 4 weeks however not all growers are in compliance with CDFA's treatments. This is an issue in every county due to the lag in the use reports from the growers. This is inefficient and there needs to be a new protocol developed to receive the use reports in a timely manner.

Victoria gave an update on treatment activity in San Jose. There have been 4 treatments completed at a total of 3,184 properties with a refusal rate of 7.4 percent.

c. Biocontrol Program Update

David Morgan gave a brief update on the Biocontrol Program. 104,046 Tamarixia have been released year to date. In 2014, 1,124,091 agents were produced and 931,522 agents were released in the southern California area. These numbers include the greenhouse, as well as the outdoor screen house production. Releases are ongoing in organic groves as well. Staff has initiated a monitoring program at a total of 29 sites which include high, medium and low risk areas according to the risk based HLB survey. The monitoring data has shown parasitism at the sites being monitored.

d. Laboratory Updates

Victoria stated that the reports are in the Committee member's binders for review and all samples have come back negative for HLB.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

a. Update on Early Detection Technologies

Bob Atkins reported that the Early Detection Technologies (EDT) task force met in early March 2015 and reviewed the results of the tests that were done in Texas. Their first decision is to engage a statistician to review the results from the Texas sampling analysis to determine how much variability exists across all methods where there is statistically valid agreement. The second decision was to conduct a study in Florida and Texas, collecting flesh and nymphs separately to determine the correlation between positive flesh and positive nymphs to identify a localized infection at an early stage rather than collecting symptomatic plant material. The task

force also recommended that Dr. Bartels cluster analysis be incorporated into the risk-based survey, which is currently being done. The task force recommended gathering and reviewing the data on clean plant material to determine the frequency of Ct-values below 40. Etienne stated that there has been great progress made and thanked the Committee for funding the study.

b. Update from 4th International HLB Conference

Etienne Rabe gave a brief update on the 4th International HLB conference that was held in Orlando, Florida. The dog teams and the ACP cluster analysis were the two most popular subjects. The dog teams are able to detect an infected HLB tree which is fascinating. Florida has also started treating infected HLB trees with thermal therapy. The 5th International HLB conference will be held again in Florida in two years however the 6th International HLB conference is going to be held in California.

c. ACP Cluster Analysis

Dr. David Bartels with USDA presented a PowerPoint regarding spatial point pattern analysis of diagnostic Ct-values for ACP samples. Dr. Bartels discussed HLB diagnostic testing and stated that a reaction must surpass a set threshold to be considered positive. Initially the threshold was set at 32 for psyllid samples and has been raised to 37 for plant samples. If Ct-values above threshold are a result of random noise or errors in the qPCR reaction, then these samples would also have a random spatial distribution. The objective is to analyze the spatial pattern to determine any underlying biological process and to provide information to target plant tissue surveys. Dr. Bartels gave some background on the survey efforts and Ct-value results that were processed in Texas from 2010 to 2014. The Hot Spot Cluster analysis compares the local mean of the global mean of the data set using spatial statistics and determines areas of high and low Ct-values. Dr. Bartels has received 33,867 samples in 2013 and 22,707 samples in 2014 from CDFA and the CRB lab. Unlike the Texas study, there is little overlap with the sample sites over the past few years in California. 43 percent of the 2014 samples are within 1km of the 2013 samples tested in Southern California. Dr. Bartels reviewed Ct-values from samples taken in 2013 versus 2014 in the Hacienda Heights area and the 5 mile quarantine area. 2013 had slightly higher Ct-values however both years have a similar Ct-value range. The samples ranged from 34 to 40. There was also a difference in Ct ranges shown between CDFA and CRB. Ranges 37, 38 and 39 seem to cluster around ranges lower than 37. The spatial pattern and history seems to indicate that there is a biological process involved. There was a question regarding Imperial County and if there is a cluster or hot spot there. There is a cluster in Imperial County in the 38 range, however there is no indication that psyllids are coming in from Mexico. It was asked what Dr. Bartels recommendations are moving forward regarding ACP sampling. Victoria stated what is currently being done with Dr. Gottwald's model and the risk-based survey. It was suggested to schedule an SAP meeting as soon as possible to determine how to adapt the risk-based survey based on Dr. Bartels data.

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

a. Update on Northern California Message Research

Teresa Siles with NST presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding research of citrus tree owners in northern California. NST completed an online focus group and an online survey to determine if homeowners support or oppose pesticide applications and if their stance on

treatment changed once informed about HLB. The participants in the focus group were averse to pesticides for health and environmental concerns however after educating them about HLB, nearly all respondents agreed treating their trees and/or removal of their trees if HLB was confirmed would be necessary. Teresa provided a detailed summary of the focus group stating how many have heard of ACP, what percent have used pesticides, and for those that have not used pesticides, would they if a serious pest threatened their tree and most would. Teresa also reviewed new message concepts to consider.

CRB REPORT

Ed Civerolo stated that CRB intends to seek reaccreditation of the lab in Riverside however it will take some time. CRB has started to develop and plan to move forward seeking reaccreditation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be held in Ventura, California on May 13, 2015 at 10:00am.