

CPDPC Executive Committee Meeting

April 28, 2017 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Nick Hill at 9:00am on April 28, 2017. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance:

Executive Committee Members

Nick Hill*
James McFarlane*
Kevin Severns*
Keith Watkins*

CDFa Staff

Victoria Hornbaker
Leandro Ramos
Duane Schnabel
Bob Wynn*

Other Attendees

Ha Dang*
Marilyn Kinoshita*
Rob Smice*
Tom Tucker*
Ed William*
Les Wright*
Pricilla Yaney*

*Participated via webinar

Discussion of County Enforcement Contracts

Victoria Hornbaker stated that CDFa staff is currently working to get work plans put together and get agreements executed with the counties for enforcement. There has been some confusion with CDFa staff which had a misunderstanding with what was requested by the Committee.

Los Angeles County Commissioner Update

Rob Smice with Los Angeles County gave a presentation regarding bulk citrus monitoring in Los Angeles County. Rob presented a PowerPoint which included pictures of truck beds full of untarped citrus that are moving across quarantine zones as well as trucks selling citrus out of the back of their truck beds. Many distributors handle stem and leaf citrus from the field. Victoria stated that there is currently ongoing outreach in the Los Angeles area and NST has a good relationship with two radio stations in the Los Angeles area. It was asked if the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is monitoring untarped citrus loads and CHP is not due to the postponing of the tarping enforcement safeguarding.

San Diego County Commissioner Update

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Pricilla Yaney gave an update on behalf of San Diego County. Pricilla stated that San Diego has a lot of small farms and four large packers in the area. A lot of the growers and packers are not in compliance and those who have signed compliance agreements are confused and are unsure of what they are required to do. There is also a lot of situations in San Diego in which people are traveling with untarped loads as well. The Executive Committee stated that there needs to be better communication with CDFa and county staff. Everyone in the industry needs to put more effort into this. The Executive Committee would like to see trucks pulled over by CHP if they are seen driving with an untarped load.

Fresno County Commissioner Update

Les Wright with Fresno County stated that county staff does not have the authority to pull over a vehicle and ticket them. Les stated that the packing houses receive shipment when the Agricultural Commissioners are not present untarped loads are hard to enforce.

Tulare County Commissioner Update

Marilyn Kinoshita stated that the work plan that was developed was reasonable based on the number of packing houses and juice plants in Tulare County however the second work plan stated that the Commissioners were not to do any inspections which causes an issue. The Executive Committee would like to see more cooperation with the county sheriff's office and CHP. Victoria stated that CDFA can partner with CHP and work with them at the weigh stations and rural areas. There was a plan in place to begin in January however it was put on hold because of issues with the compliance agreements. Duane Schnabel with CDFA reached out to the rural crimes task force and the issue at hand and unfortunately is not on the task force's top priority. There was discussion about giving those who are not in compliance warnings and if the same packers continue to not follow the regulations then tickets should be issued.

Victoria stated that the all of the county work plans total at \$2.5 million and \$1.5 million has been allocated for this activity so there needs to be some decisions made to lower the amount of the work plans. There was discussion regarding how to get the budget for the work plans down to \$1.5 million and a few options were discussed.

Motion: To prorate the existing County enforcement work plans for 5 months (May 1, 2017 – September 30, 2017), reducing the level of compliance agreement audits and putting a miscellaneous section in the work plan to allow Counties to cover expenses associated with fruit dumping, including dump fees and appropriate supplies. The prorated work plans will be developed by CDFA and shared with the Committee and the Counties. The Counties will develop 12-month work plans cutting the budgets by 40 percent. The new work plans will be customized to County needs and circumstances, but will focus on safeguarding violators. The revised work plans will be provided to CDFA Pest Exclusion Branch by July 1, 2017

First: Keith Watkins

Second: James McFarlane

Motion Passes: All in favor

It was asked if there could be a regulation put into place that allows the dump fee to be paid by the violator. Rob Smice stated that it is difficult to get an address or contact information from the violators and a lot of them do not have money as it is so the county always ends up paying for the dump fee. It was agreed that the dump fee can be discussed further at another time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.