

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on July 11, 2018 in Visalia, California by Committee Chairman Jim Gorden.

CPDPC Members Present:

Craig Armstrong*	Ted Grether	Mark McBroom*	Kevin Severns
Aaron Dillon	Nick Hill	James McFarlane	Roger Smith
Jim Gorden	Link Leavens	Etienne Rabe	Keith Watkins

CPDPC Members Absent:

Ed Civerolo	John Gless	Brian Specht
Bob Felts, Jr.	George McEwen	

CDFA Staff:

Jonathan Babineau	Cassandra Davis	Gavin Iacono*	Maegan Salinas
Nick Condos	Tina Galindo	Sara Khalid	Nawal Sharma*
Robbie Chessey*	Victoria Hornbaker	Magally Luque-Williams*	Bob Wynn

Guests:

Price Adams	Linda Haque*	Tracy Moehnke	Kim Wilenius*
Bob Atkins	Geoff Hollenbeck*	Joel Nelsen	Robert Uyemura*
Erin Betts	Brett Kirkpatrick*	Michelle Ritkano*	Sandra Zwaal*
Teri Blaser*	Melinda Klein	Sylvie Robillard	
Hector Daviva	John Krist*	Gary Schulz	
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Leslie Leavens*	Teresa Siles	
Rick Dunn	Karen Lowerison*	Cressida Silvers*	

*** Participated via Webinar**

Opening Comments:

Jim Gorden welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online and determined that there is a quorum for the meeting. He acknowledged that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES

Jim Gorden reviewed the consent agenda which contained the minutes from the Committee meetings that took place on January 10, 2018 and February 22, 2018.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda with one correction to the committee meeting calendar.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Etienne Rabe

Motion Passes: All in favor

FINANCE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Nick Condos stated that the budget timeline was due by the budget approval meeting on September 12, 2018. The budget included a state-appropriated 12.5 million dollars in general funds for the next fiscal year, with 2.5 million ongoing and the authority for CPDPC to match 2.5 million if desired. Joel Nelsen noted a 1.5 million dollar increase to federal state budget. Nick believed next year's budget will be under 41 million dollars.

Nick explained that the Finance Subcommittee was working on a budget change proposal to propose new fund expenditures or dedicated positions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. It was suggested that the Executive Committee meet with CDFR regularly, advised by the Science Taskforce on the future of HLB, to define and cost out elements of the Citrus program prior to the September 12 CPDPC meeting. Victoria set Executive Committee meetings for July 24, August 9 and August 22, a Science Subcommittee meeting on September 4, and an interim meeting after September 12, 2018.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Victoria Hornbaker presented the 2018 MOU with CCTEA, stating that there are no changes to the MOU it just needs to be renewed.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee and the Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency as presented.

First: Nick Hill

Second: Aaron Dillon

Motion Passes: All in favor

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

Strategic Priority 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB

Los Angeles County HLB Survey Update

Tina Galindo stated that work continued in Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Rosemead and Whittier under the new 400-meter delimitation area. Tina also noted expansions were treated in Norwalk, Pico

Rivera and Whittier. She stated the survey staff continue to sample properties with inconclusive test results and intensive sample remaining and adjacent trees on find sites in LA.

Risk Survey Update

Magally Luque-Williams stated that Cycle 2 for 2017 is complete. Cycle 1 for 2018 is in progress; Fresno is 13 percent complete, Imperial county is 100 percent complete, Kern is 11 percent complete, LA is 9 percent complete, Orange county is 15 percent complete, Placer is 16 percent complete, Riverside is 6 percent complete, Sacramento is 20 percent complete, San Bernardino is 4 percent complete, San Diego is 6 percent complete and San Joaquin Valley is 3 percent complete.

Orange County HLB Survey Update

Magally stated that staff have removed 205 HLB-positive trees in Anaheim, 1 tree in La Habra, 1 tree in Fullerton, 3 trees in Riverside, 1 tree in the City of Orange, 202 trees in Garden Grove, 13 trees in Westminster, 16 trees in Santa Ana. The surveys have found no HLB positive trees in San Bernardino.

She noted that a supplemental survey was created to cover areas not covered by other surveys. 30 square miles in Orange County were surveyed, samples collected and was now 100 percent complete. The HLB border survey was also complete for winter; the spring survey was 88 percent complete in Imperial County and 100 percent complete in San Diego County. Magally stated that the program collected 2,569 quadrant samples in Orange County from January 2018 to July 2018. She noted that quadrant samples are taken from locations adjacent to HLB find sites or from inconclusive sites.

Strategic Priority 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations

Nawal stated that packers already reached nearly 100 percent compliance but growers and haulers of bulk citrus are still signing up and coming under compliance. His report studied numbers of growers, packers and haulers by county, with Tulare showing a clear majority. This is why Tulare has the most Notices of Violation (NOV) and Notices of Proposed Action (NOPA). Nawal noted 279 new growers signed compliance agreements in the month of June, which he credited to a combination of CRB educational seminars, deputy commissioner meetings and Citrus Insider.

Strategic Priority 3 – ACP Control/Suppression

Regional ACP Management

Bob stated that all counties are preparing for fall treatment. He stated that very few psyllids were found in San Joaquin Valley, a significant change from previous years, and South Tulare remains ACP free. Bob explained that nymphs and adult ACP have been found in Nipomo, and biocontrol was deployed into that region.

ACP Detection/Treatment - Central Valley Update

Cassandra stated that of the 413 sites tested and 1558 ACP sent in for testing from southern California groves, there was no HLB detected. Cassandra noted that San Luis Obispo County

will be adding 400 ACP traps due to the delimitation being changed from 25 to 50 traps per square mile in the 4 square miles surrounding the detection. She explained that traps have been reduced in San Joaquin Valley, barring a few locations where nets have yet to come off the trees. Cassandra listed ACP trap finds in 2018 as, trap detections at 3 sites in Kern, 18 in San Luis Obispo, and 2 in Tulare. She stated that these numbers were lower than in previous years, but that in the fall ACP activity often increases in the valley.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Strategic Priority 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing

Etienne Rabe noted that at a previous meeting, Dr. Gottwald presented information that suggested reducing delimitation distance around HLB positive trees. It was suggested this change will reduce workload down to 25 percent. The delimitation area reduction was recommended to the Secretary at the May CPDPC meeting and the Secretary supported the recommendation. The Science Subcommittee discussed reducing the treatment area to match the new delimitation area of 400 meters in the HLB response area and unanimously agreed to recommend the following change to the Committee. Recommend that the treatment area around HLB finds be reduced from 800 meters to 400 meters.

Motion: To reduce ACP treatment area around HLB finds from 800 meters to 400 meters. The motion was seconded by Keith Watkins and passed unanimously.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: Keith Watkins

Motion Passes: All in favor

Nick Condos stated that the CRB Lab will have a sample capacity of 100,000 HLB or ACP samples per year. This is in addition to CDFAs capacity for 168,000 plant samples and 75,000 ACP samples following the prospective hiring of 10 new lab technicians.

Nick explained that lab capacity drives workload projections. Etienne and Nick stated that the current budget suggested a linear increase of average infection rate as analyzed by Dr. McRoberts's lab, but the Science Subcommittee believed the increase to be exponential rather than linear. This would significantly raise costs and workload associated with delimitation and tree removal. Nick noted CDFAs only processed 75,000 ACP samples last year and judged that lab capacity for ACP samples was more than sufficient.

Etienne explained the largest cost to the program was the risk-based survey, tree removal and treatment around HLB finds in residential areas. He suggested a smaller section of the Science Subcommittee be used to study ACP further, and requested Dr. Gottwald return with a proposal. Etienne and Nick also suggested increasing HLB risk-surveys of commercial orchards by 25 percent. Nick noted that there were too many quadrants of high risk for CDFAs to sample them all in addition to testing new areas.

Etienne explained that Brianna McGuire of the McRoberts lab was in the process of identifying tree exposure potential. Etienne suggested that when HLB trees were removed it would be good

to be able to legally remove nearby potentially-exposed trees. He stated that Karen Jetter was producing a cost-benefit analysis that will explore the cost/benefit ratio of not removing HLB-positive trees in core areas.

Etienne discussed Ethyl Formate and Evergreen fumigation. CRB put up 1 million dollars to register Ethyl Formate as an option but estimated timeline was 18 months to 2 years. Joel Nelsen believed Evergreen will be an option for packing houses by the Navel harvest in October. Joel stated that Ethyl Formate should be ready by the 2019-2020 season.

Etienne stated CDFA requested the Science Subcommittee put a taskforce together to evaluate a McRoberts and Figuera risk matrix lab model. This taskforce would include subject matter experts from CPDPC, from packing houses, from CRB and from CCM. Nick noted the second charge for the taskforce would be to develop a protocol to withdraw counties from the Regional ACP Quarantine if ACP had not been detected in a year.

Etienne added that Jim Cranny put through a Section 18 for two bactericides. Those bactericides, streptomycin and tetracycline, were previously available in California for other crops.

Motion: To endorse bactericides or other prophylactic treatments for grower options in an aggressive HLB treatment program, as an added element of an integrated pest management approach.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: Roger Smith

Motion Passes: All in favor

Bactericides were suggested as part of the IPM program. It was stated that Florida had mixed results, but that the ineffective treatments in Florida were due to improper application. It was suggested that the infection could be reduced to near undetectability in isolated areas, unlike in Florida where the infection is rampant. It was noted that bactericides can only be used within 15 miles of an HLB find and that bactericides worked best in young trees.

Etienne stated the Science Subcommittee's recommendation to stop area-wide buffer treatments around commercial orchards was voted down based on the need for current evidence. Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell explained that there were exceptions; it was crucial to do treatments around the San Joaquin Valley finds. She stated CDFA's studies on Merit and Tempo treatments found that those treatments knocked out the infestation entirely 66 percent of the time, and she strongly recommended it be maintained.

Beth explained that most regions struggle to get 90 percent grower compliance, and CDFA struggled to line up treatment times. The Science Subcommittee suggested pest control districts (PCD) take over for area-wide treatments. It was noted that PCDs may be difficult to form in some counties due to politics. She explained that even with area-wide treatments, CDFA was not getting good control of psyllids in commercial orchards. She believed commercial groves were the issue, due to lemons' and mandarins' continuous flushing. Nick noted that 107,000 residential properties were adjacent to commercial citrus, 40 percent of which contain citrus. Correct timing was an enormous amount of work in a compact timeframe.

Beth stated that winter treatments were very effective in response to increased fall ACP numbers. She will expand treatments in Ventura, San Bernardino and Riverside because they are not controlling fall psyllid populations. Beth also noted CDFA trying to perform area-wide treatments all over the state was complicated, while PCDs could fine-tune treatments due to being local. Beth believes early treatments in residential areas would be best and last through fall. She suggested that performing treatments in December would be more efficient.

Motion: To phase out area-wide buffer treatments around commercial citrus and devolve such activity to the local level, including pest control districts, by July 2019 and investigate local level funding and support mechanisms.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: Roger Smith

Motion Passes: Nine yays; Craig Armstrong, Aaron Dillon, Jim Gorden, Nick Hill, Mark McBroom, James McFarlane, Etienne Rabe, Roger Smith, and Keith Watkins and three nays; Ted Grether, Link Leavens and Kevin Severns.

Victoria suggested that determining buffer areas with good return on investment was a good goal. It was stated that the DATOC group could address this topic, plugging this new information into the Dexi database.

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Strategic Priority 5- Outreach and Education

Price Adams described a press release urging home owners to avoid moving citrus during summer. This included Asian language media, ABC and NBC affiliates, daily newspapers and broadcast stations, billboards, PSAs and Asian media ads. Price noted that the Outreach team met with packing houses to inform packers about ACP and HLB updates, regulations, and training. She stated they sent out surveys, and worked with CCM and Annika Forester to conduct packing house training. She stated that NST redesigned the Citrus Insider with a target launch date in fall. A Grower Liaison statewide meeting was set for July 31st.

Price described increased contact with elected officials, southern California County Agriculture Commissioners, and social media. NST arranged for language speakers at a Chinese American Elected Official event, and targeted urban areas with high refusal rates.

CCM REPORT

Joel Nelsen stated that CCM participated in a CHRP audit in Riverside with USDA. He noted that USDA has increased its public and media exposure by running generic ads in tangent with what the program is doing with CDFA. He explained that CDFA developed a proposal with USDA and CCM for four 'war games' on September 16, 2018 through 19, 2018. The intention is to survey a cross section of growers in defined risk areas, combining experts as support and agitators to ensure good discussion about HLB and tree removal.

Joel noted that CCM tree removal programs focused on urban areas and abandoned orchards have sent out door-hangers, flyers and postcards. CCM received call backs within the week.

CRB REPORT

Gary Schulz stated the CRB lab passed the accreditation audit in May. He worked on protocol deviation to ramp up production. He noted CDFA assisted with improving the CRB lab. CRB will have a board meeting open to the public in October and August, meeting with researchers and providing information about research projects. NST interviewed the canine unit working to bring canine detector dogs to California in July 25, 2018 and put together a strategic plan for their use. Gary also noted the California Citrus conference on October 10, 2018 and the 50th anniversary gala on October 9, 2018.

When asked, Victoria noted that the CDFA and CRB labs have similar prices, while University of Arizona plant sample costs significantly higher. CDFA lab samples cost \$13 for ACP samples and \$22 for plant samples compared to CRB's \$20 per sample. Comparatively, University of Arizona plant samples cost approximately \$93.

CLOSING COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next Committee meeting will be held in Riverside, California on September 12, 2018 at 10:00am.