

# CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM

## COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 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 September 12, 2018 in Riverside, California by Committee Chairman Jim Gorden.

### CPDPC Members Present:

Craig Armstrong	John Gless	Mark McBroom	Kevin Severns
Ed Civerolo	Jim Gorden	George McEwen	Roger Smith
Aaron Dillon*	Ted Grether	James McFarlane	Brian Specht
Bob Felts, Jr.	Link Leavens	Etienne Rabe	Keith Watkins

### CPDPC Members Absent:

Nick Hill

### CDFA Staff:

Jonathan Babineau	Cassandra Davis*	Sara Khalid	Colleen Murphy
Peter Betschart*	Kevin Hoffman*	Ray Leclerc	Keith Okasaki*
Nick Condos	Victoria Hornbaker	Magally Williams*	Luque-

### Guests:

Price Adams	John Demshki*	Melinda Klein	Sylvie Robillard*
Ruben Arroyo	Holly Deniston-Sheets	Ellen Kragh*	Jason Sapp*
Bob Atkins	Rick Dunn	Stewart Lockwood	Cressida Silvers*
Kevin Ball	John Eliot*	Greg McCollum*	Jim Stafford
Jill Barnier*	Jason Gless	Edwin Moscoso*	Helene Wright
Teri Blaser*	Joshua Gless	Pat Nolan*	Judy Zaninovich*
Chris Boisseranc	Brian Guess	Bill Oesterlein*	Sandra Zwaal*
Casey Creamer*	Gauff Hathcole	Gabe Olmos*	

\* Participated via Webinar

### Opening Comments:

Jim Gorden welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online and stated 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.

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES**

Jim Gorden reviewed the consent agenda which contained minutes from the Committee meeting that took place on July 11, 2018.

**Motion:** To approve the consent agenda that included the July 11, 2018 CPDPC meeting minutes.

First: John Gless

Second: Keith Watkins

Motion Passes: All in favor

## **FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **2017/2018 Budget Review**

Finance Subcommittee chairman James McFarlane discussed balances and variances between the projected and actual expenditures in the 2017/2018 budget. He stated that some treatment line item expenditures for 2017/2018 were down compared to projections due to changing protocols and reduced Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) detections in the central and northern region being lower than projected. He stated that the central and northern region ACP surveys and treatments were negative variance for the same reason, while expenditures were generally greater than projections in southern regions. He stated that among statewide ACP projects, biocontrol and regulatory activities were under budget, while survey and data analysis were over budget. Huanglongbing (HLB) detection surveys and diagnostics were under budget, while HLB data analysis was over budget. HLB treatment in southern counties was trending over budget due to a higher number of finds, but HLB regulatory was still under budget. Statewide administration and Data Analysis Tactical Operations Cell (DATOC) expenditures were higher than expected, while outreach was a little lower.

Victoria Hornbaker noted that some variance is a classification issue. There was a gap in budget tracking due to personnel reorganization, and the figures received by the Science Subcommittee may not be sorted properly by line item. She noted that higher than projected administrative costs were because the Citrus program has more staff, including Ray Leclerc and part of Victoria's pay that wasn't previously charged to the Citrus program.

### **2018/2018 Monthly Citrus Assessment Totals**

James McFarlane stated that of the projected \$16.47 million in revenue, current revenue according to the 2017/2018 Financial Report was \$13.97 million to date. James noted that it was unlikely the outstanding \$2.5 million would be made up in the last four months of the year, based on previous financial reports.

### **2018/2019 Crop Projection and Funding Source Projections**

Victoria Hornbaker explained crop estimates for the 2018-19 fiscal year. She stated that numbers were estimated from the NASS Citrus June Forecast and from talks with the Science Subcommittee and California Citrus Mutual (CCM). According to the estimate, the Program expects 81 million cartons of Navel oranges. It was suggested that coastal lemons may be 10-15 percent less than the NASS-projected 42 million cartons of lemons, but the desert crop should compensate for it. Together with 50 million cartons of Mandarins, 19 million cartons of Valencias and 8 million cartons of grapefruit, the total estimation is 200 million cartons. Victoria noted that she added the AB 281 Reserve, a conservative CHRP estimate, the requested citrus commodity survey farm bill funding, and a general fund to the grower assessment to estimate the budget.

### **2018/2019 Proposed Budget**

James McFarlane explained the proposed CPDPC budget for the fiscal year 2018/2019. Victoria explained that the ACP treatment protocol was changed to state that an area can be treated if ACP is detected within one year, meaning areas that could not be treated due to the shorter time frame can now be treated. She also noted that central survey costs went down because the Program changed the delimitation area from nine to four square miles and the trap density was reduced as well. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is constantly looking for process improvements and the as such has conducted an analysis of all trapping in the Central Valley, which led to the changes discussed above.

He stated that in the proposed budget for 2018/2019, ACP border treatment, northern and southern ACP surveys are the same as last year. Central region ACP survey and treatment and northern ACP treatment are down from last year, while southern ACP treatments are higher than 2017/2018. James stated that the proposed budget listed biocontrol as slightly increased. Statewide ACP surveys are budgeted the same, while regulatory is budgeted less and data analysis is budgeted higher for 2018/2019. When asked, Victoria noted Pest Exclusion is nine hundred thousand dollars lower than last year's proposal due to having a better idea of what the proposal should be, and that last year included getting tarping and other projects in place.

James McFarlane stated that HLB detection border survey costs are proposed to double from the previous year, while the southern HLB survey will remain the same. The statewide survey will increase due to adding a third round to the risk model and including a risk model for commercial groves. Statewide diagnostics has increased significantly, while data analysis is unchanged. HLB treatment and regulation will be lower in the 2018/2019 budget. It was explained that the DATOC will increase significantly in 2018/2019 to account for a full staffing and a no-cost extension carryover from last year. Outreach such as NST and grower liaison contracts will remain unchanged.

James McFarlane noted that the total budget has less than \$1 million difference between 2018/2019 and the previous year, thanks to increased costs like tree removal but decreased costs due to a smaller treatment area. Victoria stated that the total Citrus Research Board (CRB) budget will be \$3.5 million and cover diagnostics, data

management, several research grants and a small amount for the use of the CRB meeting room.

### **CPDPC Citrus Rate Alternatives and Projected Balance**

James McFarlane stated that the beginning reserve balance as of January 31, 2018 was \$9.1 million. Added to that was projected grants and revenues from CPDPC assessments, CHRP, general funds, TASC, the citrus commodity survey and MAC. James explained that following expenditures, the projected ending balance for the 2017/2018 fiscal year is \$11.86 million. For the 2018/2019 fiscal year, James projected \$25 million in non-CPDPC revenues (\$12 million from CHRP, \$12.5 million from general fund allocations, and \$478,000 from the citrus commodity survey). Total budget expenditures are expected to be \$40 million with a projected cash flow of \$15 million and a balance subtotal of \$3.2 million short before CPDPC assessments. The Finance Subcommittee's recommendation is to continue with the nine-cent assessment rate, resulting in \$18 million in revenue and a positive \$2.9 million cash flow.

**Motion:** To approve the 2018/2019 budget at \$40,056,601 presented by the Finance Subcommittee.

First: John Gless

Second: Etienne Rabe

Motion passes: All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

When asked, James McFarlane stated that September expenditures and revenues had not yet come in, so it was decided not to offer uncertain numbers. It was suggested that going up to a ten-cent assessment rate would indicate more of a willingness to combat the issue. It was agreed that outreach programs are frequently asked, particularly by legislature, if assessments could or should be higher. Nick Condos stated that CDFA is currently spending the revenue they have available, but the program only has so many resources to spend that revenue.

**Motion:** To set grower assessment at \$0.09 cents per carton.

First: Kevin Severns

Second: Link Leavens

Motion passes: All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **Dedicated Resource Needs**

Ray Leclerc presented two organizational charts that he had developed to the committee. Ray explained that they are based on the Org Chart that Nick had provided at a previous meeting and CDFA's Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP), although he noted the PDCP enlists county staff rather than CDFA personnel. Victoria explained that CDFA uses counties for local enforcement, detection trapping, but counties were not comfortable handling treatment themselves. When Victoria queried the counties several years ago, they noted that they did not have the staff, training or equipment for treatment. It was stated that Citrus is a bigger, more urban-focused program with larger range than

PDCP. Ray also noted that it would be more difficult to rotate work between counties as HLB sites are discovered if work is done at the county level.

Ray stated that the first organizational chart focuses on the current workload, with much of the HLB/ACP work being done south of the Tehachapi mountains. The second organization chart focuses on anticipated future workload with a greater focus on commercial citrus. This involves shifting resources like staffing towards the groves to have support in place beginning July 1, 2019. Victoria noted that having staff in the area decreases response time for survey and treatment and is more efficient overall, and foundations for protecting commercial groves should be laid now.

Victoria stated that to establish new programs the Committee must have an approved budget, authority, and revenue to spend the budget. She explained that with revenue coming in, the hang-up is often authority. The program has \$2.5 million in general funds and \$2.5 million in authority above the \$16.5 million in authority for assessment dollars, and more authority may be granted if requested. This allows flexible spending. It was noted that the organizational chart listed 206 staff totals. Victoria stated this includes existing CDFA bodies, seasonal staff and pest prevention assistants. Pooled resources that work partly on citrus and partly on other programs would be shifted to citrus full-time. Contractors would be added on top of this staff. Victoria stated that ideally the Committee would approve a motion to allow CDFA to move forward on acquiring dedicated resources by the beginning of the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

**Motion:** To approve moving forward on the concept of dedicated staff aligned with CPDPC's current budget and strategic plan.

First: Roger Smith

Second: Mark McBroom

Motion passes: All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

It was suggested that specifics be discussed with the Executive committee going forward, and a personnel budget put together later. Victoria agreed and noted that CDFA must bring any budget over the usual amount to the Committee, per a bill passed approximately five years ago.

### **Draft Situation Status Report for ACP and HLB Activities**

Colleen Murphy stated that she put together a password-protected website to keep the Committee up to date on important program activities. This Situation Report keeps track of ACP, and HLB activities, including trapping, survey and treatment area maps using a visual medium, that are updated as new information is added to the database. Colleen noted that she intends to add biocontrol data and to create a help document to assist with reading the program data in the future. Colleen wanted to use these maps to show cumulative data and data over time. A written report will also be put on the FTP site. It was noted that going forward this program should streamline the Operations Subcommittee meetings. Colleen noted anyone can be trained to operate the website and the process should be mostly automatic as data analysts upload their data to the website.

## **Residential Buffer Treatment surrounding Commercial Groves**

Alyssa Houtby stated that CCM hosted a series of grower meetings on devolving buffer treatments to Pest Control Districts (PCD) for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. She explained that it was decided there are inefficiencies with CDFA maintaining buffer treatments but devolving the task to the local level would require a regional approach on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, some locations such as Ventura may require more CDFA involvement due to lacking a strong local apparatus to administer the program. Alyssa noted that Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell believed that a scheduled treatment was more effective than making treatment contingent upon 90 percent grower participation.

## **SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **Strategic Priority 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing**

#### **Science Taskforce Meeting**

Etienne Rabe explained that the Science Taskforce (Taskforce) believed the risk-based survey should continue, switching to a commercially-based model if revenue is limited or if HLB tree finds reach the exponential growth phase. Some scientists on the Taskforce believe the exponential phase has already been reached. Etienne Rabe suggested the Dr. Gottwald risk survey devote 20 percent weight to commercial groves and deliver a commercial risk-based survey to the Committee. He stated that removal of CLas-positive trees should remain a core function until it is no longer feasible. He stated the Taskforce agreed that optics of ceasing HLB tree removal may not be well received and should be debated. The Taskforce suggested HLB detection should be carefully monitored, and response to an HLB find should be proactive and immediate. Etienne stated that the Taskforce was unsure if the HLB numbers given are true or due to a lack of manpower. Residential area-wide buffer programs should devolve to the local level such as the PCD's, to meet the needs of each region. He noted that concerns were raised by Ventura due to lacking a local apparatus to devolve the buffer treatments, and that CDFA may need to stay involved in some areas.

The motion forwarded by the Science Subcommittee is focused on treatments in residential areas, which Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell noted treatment should be pro-active and not reactive. Victoria Hornbaker stated that Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell suggested that areas with poor grower compliance not receive area-wide treatments. In response to a question on funds to cover this more aggressive treatment, Victoria stated that CDFA would need to work out a staggered HLB treatment schedule to account for manpower concerns.

**Motion:** In regions where area-wide management of psyllids are ongoing in commercial orchards, to treat neighboring residential areas with Tempo and Merit in the fall and Tempo in the winter (December/January period) in a prescribed way rather than a reaction to a threshold of psyllids, or treatments by the growers.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: Craig Armstrong

Motion passes: All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

Etienne stated that Ray Leclerc would gather information for the Science Subcommittee on US/Mexico border buffer treatments. Karen Jetter presented a cost/benefit analysis on dog teams versus human surveying. Jim Cranney and Beth Mitcham presented treatment options for post-harvest quarantine bulk fruit. Etienne noted DPR is expediting their review of Evergreen treatment. He explained that for the fumigant Ethel formate it is looking like a 27-month timeline, including eight to ten months for five toxicological studies.

Etienne noted that there is a Taskforce meeting on how to move fruit from low-risk areas to high-risk regions. He stated that neither of the current standards (spray-and-move and wet-wash) should be removed until Ethel formate is put in place.

## **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Strategic Priority 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB**

Keith Watkins stated that there was concern about the 50-meter response area related to the recent Nipomo ACP finds. The Operations Subcommittee recommended continuing to use 400-meter treatments when two or more ACP are found in a trap or tree in non-infested areas.

**Motion:** To expand the 50-meter treatment to 400 meters for finds of two or more ACP in a trap or live-collected from a property in non-infested areas.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Link Leavens

Motion passes: All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

Victoria noted that there is an exit strategy in the action plan to shift from actively treating ACP to checking psyllids for HLB provided a threshold of ACP detections is reached. Keith Watkins suggested DATOC take up the issue of deciding trigger in which it was not worth it to treat an area for ACP.

### **Protocol for Hand Cleaning Fruit**

A member of the public requested direction from the Committee for protocol. He stated that there are growers who cannot spray-and-move, or who are not conveniently located near packing houses. He noted that haulers, growers and packing houses all have compliance agreements to look for ACP, and suggested harvesters should also take that step. Victoria noted that CDFA had harvesters under compliance in the past.

Keith Okasaki stated that he presented a draft hand field cleaning protocol to the Operations Subcommittee. He proposed this protocol be used for moving from low risk to high risk zones (zone 2 or 3 to zone 4 or 5, for example). Keith Okasaki and the previous and current state primary entomologists defined low risk zones as less than 30 ACP detections per county on average and no HLB detections in the previous 12 months. Keith noted that zone 2 averaged 17 ACP finds and zone 3 averaged 12 finds per county.

Per the protocol, the grower informs their local Agricultural Commissioner of their intent to hand-clean fruit. The local Agricultural Commissioner contacts CDFA to apprise them of grower compliance. The origin Agricultural Commissioner conducts random inspections to ensure the standard is met. Growers should notify the destination Agriculture Commissioner 24 hours prior to shipment; the new ACP-free declaration should be presented, initialed by the origin Agricultural Commissioner. The destination Agricultural Commissioner should conduct random inspections at the packing houses. Keith suggested that grower shipments with more than 20 leaves per bin be rejected and the grower receive a Notice of Violation (NOV). He stated that CDFA can provide optional training to growers and harvesting crews to explain the requirements in English and Spanish.

Keith stated that by necessity of the regional concept, some areas with lower ACP within high-ACP zones will need to perform this additional compliance. It was suggested that Imperial County's PCD further break the county down into nine growing zones, a superior design to a one-size-fits-all approach. Victoria stated that HLB proximity should also be considered for this protocol. Jim Gordon suggested this protocol be taken before additional committees prior to the next CPDPC Committee meeting.

Victoria stated that currently every load moving from one zone to another, moves with an ACP-free declaration indicating the cleaning used. It was suggested that Pet Exclusion issue an advisory for the standard hand cleaning counts following the Friday meeting.

## **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Strategic Priority 5- Outreach and Education**

Price Adams stated that outreach programs recently coordinated audio news releases in English and Spanish and are producing new video content and infographics for social media. Price stated a public service announcement is performing very well on television and radio, and hyperlocal outreach programs are seeing a lot of engagement via community events. Price stated outreach put on a grower liaison meeting, a survey for non-engaged industry members, and covered Governor Brown's support for citrus.

Price explained that CCM and Annika Forester are putting on private train-the-trainer meetings. Outreach is redesigning Citrus Insider and will facilitate grower liaison forums and packinghouse meetings. Price noted that providing elected officials with media updates they can plug into their own social media channels has met with good reception. Meetings were scheduled with the San Diego Agricultural Commissioner, the new Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner and the Los Angeles County Supervisor.

### **CCM Report**

Alyssa Houtby stated that Department of Pesticide Regulation's review of Evergreen will finish today, and EPA will give their approval within five weeks. She noted that they will be seeking a Section 18 registration for use on grapefruit and lemons, while post-harvest mandarins and oranges do not need to be reviewed.

### **CRB Report**

Gary Schulz stated that CRB biocontrol releases have reached 763 thousand *Tamarixia* to date this year, increasing by 40 percent. Gary noted the CRB diagnostic lab is processing 6,000

psyllid samples per week and is working on a work instruction deviation in order to use a new robotics method. He stated the strategic plan includes retraining and researching canine teams and should have them in California by January 2019, in partnership with researchers and CDFA for early detection screening. Gary noted that CRB was holding the annual California Citrus Conference in Visalia on October 10 and the international research conference on HLB in Riverside on March 10-16, 2019.

Dr. Melinda Klein stated that 33 continuing projects and 23 new proposals are under consideration. The research committees made their recommendations to the full board which will be meeting on September 25. She noted the Citrus Grand Challenge is an event optimizing USDA Agriculture Research Service resources to seek a systems-wide approach to combating citrus HLB. She stated there is a meeting in Denver to minimize risk of moving citrus breeding material across state lines and to streamline transgenic approaches.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m. The next Committee meeting will be held in Ventura, California on November 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.