

CPDPC Executive Committee Webinar Meeting

September 6, 2018 Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Mark McBroom at 9:02 a.m. on September 6, 2018. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance:

Executive Committee Members

CDEA Staff

Other Attendees

Mark McBroom*
James McFarlane*
Dr. Etienne Rabe*
Keith Watkins*

Nick Condos*
Victoria Hornbaker*
Ray Leclerc*
Colleen Murphy*

Jill Barnier
Alyssa Houtby*
Leonard Massey*
Kevin Olsen*

*Participated via webinar

Executive Committee Members Absent

Jim Gorden

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Science Task Force Interim Report

Kevin Olsen presented an interim report from the Science Taskforce. The Science Taskforce examined four strategic activities below:

1. Risk Based Survey
2. Removal of CLAs Positive Trees
3. Treatment around HLB Detection Sites
4. Residential Buffer Treatments surrounding Commercial Groves

Risk Based Survey

The Subcommittee agreed that the survey was properly set up and provided key data. They agreed that giving 20 percent greater weight in risk-based survey toward commercial groves is appropriate. There was some confusion surrounding the concept that with limited funding the Committee should split funding 80 percent toward commercial while using 20 percent toward residential trees. Generally, the recommendation was if the disease spreads throughout the state and funding becomes more constrained, greater resources will need to be devoted to commercial groves and the surrounding areas. The issue of decision-making with limited resources is separate from the risk-based survey.

Removal of CLAs Positive Trees

There was agreement that removal of CLAs positive trees is a good idea until the number of positive trees overwhelms our ability to remove them in residential areas. Tree removal adjacent to commercial groves should be given priority.

Treatment around HLB Detection Sites

Treatment of residential areas should become more proactive and less reactive based on local conditions that impact the timing of flush and expansion of ACP populations. Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell has protocols and timing for each region that can be followed. CDFA staff are aware of these protocols and are implementing them to the extent resources allow. The recent change from 800- to 400-meter treatment protocol should continue.

Residential Buffer Treatments surrounding Commercial Groves

Residential buffer treatment needs to be consistent with local conditions and not “one size fits all.” In many cases these types of treatment are best handled by local jurisdictions.

Kevin reported on several additional questions that the Science Taskforce was asked to consider.

The Taskforce was asked for suggestions on survey methods to detect HLB in low ACP areas. The Taskforce noted that Early Detection Technologies (EDT) would be very useful for detecting or screening HLB in low ACP areas. At this time, we do not have any proven EDTs in California.

The Taskforce was also asked for suggestions on resampling areas with previous positive trees. Although there was not a direct suggestion from the Taskforce, Jim Gorden made a request that CDFA take a detailed look at the San Gabriel area where previous HLB positive trees were found. CDFA staff responded that it was a good idea and would follow up.

4. Finance Subcommittee Update

There was a presentation of the 2018/19 budget. There were a number of questions regarding each individual cost item. There was a focus on administrative costs that combine a number of overhead costs such as pro rata and other costs that were discussed in detail by CDFA staff. The report identified a reserve of approximately \$10 million dollars. The group generally agreed that it is a good idea to carry a healthy reserve. The Committee discussed the assessment and crop estimates and decided to use 200,000,000 cartons until better information is available such as the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) report. CDFA staff will work with James McFarlane to finalize the budget using the latest crop estimate.

5. Operations Subcommittee Update

There was discussion about hand field cleaning prior to fruit movement. Currently CDFA is looking at the appropriate number of leaves per bin as a measure of determining if the bin meets the current standards. CDFA discussed a recent survey of bins at packing plants and how many leaves they contained and stated that 20 leaves per bin is a goal that growers should be able to achieve.

6. Proposal on Dedicated Citrus Program Resources

Ray Leclerc discussed a couple of proposals with the Committee about a dedicated citrus program within CDFA. The benefits of the program were discussed and the need to have staff closer to where commercial groves are at greatest risk. There was discussion about the possible role for Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency. CDFA and Committee members would look further into this possibility.

7. Demonstration of Draft Situation Status Report

Colleen Murphy of CDFA demonstrated the draft Situation Status (SITSTAT) Report. The SITSTAT report will be an online tool that CPDPC members will have access. The SITSTAT Report would capture the most important activities that CDFA is conducting and present them in a single dashboard that is continually updated that will provide link to more detailed information. This report will streamline both the operations subcommittee and the full committee meetings by providing program updates online and negate the need for extensive program summaries at our meetings. The subcommittee members were impressed and want to see the Report implemented.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.