

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Craig Armstrong	John Gless	James McFarlane
Kevin Ball	John C. Gless	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Brad Carmen	Jim Gorden	Gregorio Rundini
Ed Civerolo	Nick Hill	Roger Smith
Aaron Dillon	Mark McBroom	Keith Watkins
Bob Felts, Jr.		

Committee Members Absent:

Kevin Severns

CDFA Staff:

Jonathan Babineau	Alisha Garcia	Alex Muñiz
Carl Baum	David Gutierrez	Keith Okasaki
Fernando Berber	Amelia Hicks	David Phong
Brian Bishop	Victoria Hornbaker	Derek Schulz
Karina Chu	Gavin Iacono	Michael Soltero
Kiana Dao	Anmol Joshi	Patty Tran
Paul Figueroa	Magally Luque-Williams	ThuyVy Truong
Ryan Fong	Dahmoon Maaesomy	Claudia Vazquez
Tina Galindo	Zachary McCormick	Jennifer Willems

CRB Staff:

Holly Deniston-Sheets	Dr. Melinda Klein	Qijun Xiang
Rick Dunn	Marcy Martin	

Guests:

Price Adams	Nick Hill	Le Nguyen
Bob Atkins	Chuck Hills	Margaret O'Neill
Fernando Berber	Alyssa Houtby	Curtis Pate
Teri Blaser	Scott Hudson	Sylvie Robillard
Casey Creamer	Karla Huerta	Dr. Monique Rivera
Pierre Derycz	Jonathan Kaplan	Cressida Silvers
Natalie DeAngelo	Jessica Leslie	Jack Williams
David Dodson	Francisco Lopez Garcia	Helene Wright
Lisa Finke	Karen Lowerison	Judy Zaninovich
Sara Garcia-Figuera	Johnny Martinez	Sandra Zwaal
Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Neil McRoberts	

Opening Comments:

The Committee meeting was called to order via webinar at 10:00 a.m. Mark McBroom welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. He stated that there was a quorum for the meeting.

Public Comments:

Craig Armstrong stated that there was a grower meeting regarding the first Huanglongbing (HLB) detection in a Riverside commercial grove that was well attended and contained pertinent information that was useful to growers. Chuck Hayes stated that San Bernardino County's voluntary treatments only average 60 percent and suggested changing to mandatory treatments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McBroom stated that the Consent Agenda consists of the meeting minutes from the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) meeting on July 15, 2020.

Motion: To recommend approving the consent agenda as presented.

First: John Gless

Second: Keith Watkins

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Review of 2019/2020 Budget Expenditures and Revenue

Bob Felts, Jr. stated that the program expended \$19,700,000 through August 2020. Top expenditures are Southern Treatment with \$3,214,860, ACP Statewide Regulatory with \$2,129,404 and HLB Diagnostics with \$2,066,146. Projected expenditures remaining for the year are \$9,441,867, totaling \$29,200,000. The remaining yearly balance is projected to be \$11,287,010. Revenues were \$1,250,000 in July, \$1,000,000 in August and \$71,400 in September. Total revenues for Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20 are \$17,450,632, \$80,000 above projected budget.

Victoria Hornbaker explained that the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) straight-lined some California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) activities, backed out any University of Arizona remaining balance and added full expenditures for the Citrus Research Board (CRB) lab balance. Projected budget expenditures include all contracted amounts for county trapping, California Agriculture Support Services (CASS), CRB, Grower Liaisons and Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST), though the program likely won't fully expend those contracts.

2020/2021 Funding Sources

2020/2021 Citrus Crop Projections

Mr. Felts, Jr. stated that the program projects 202,600,000 cartons for FY 2020/21. Ms. Hornbaker stated that the funding baseline from the Federal Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) is \$12,144,000. CPDPD requested \$450,000 in Citrus Commodity Survey Farm Bill funding through June 30, 2021 and ongoing funding through June 30, 2022. The ongoing \$5,000,000 in State general funds brings funding to \$17,600,000.

Carry-in from FY 2019/20 provides approximately \$38,000,000 in Agricultural funds.

2020/2021 Proposed Budget

Mr. Felts, Jr. stated that the proposed budget is \$42,248,145. Mr. Felts, Jr. noted that prior FY 17-18 expended \$33,000,000, FY 18-19 expended \$29,000,000 and FY 19-20 will expend \$29,000,000. No direct amount is kept in reserves, but six months of operating reserve is recommended.

Motion: To recommend approving the proposed Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget for the CPDPD.

First: John Gless

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion carries: 12 yays (Craig Armstrong, Kevin Ball, Ed Civerolo, Aaron Dillon, Bob Felts, Jr., John Gless, John C. Gless, Jim Gorden, Nick Hill, Mark McBroom, James McFarlane, Roger Smith) and 2 abstentions (Etienne Rabe, Keith Watkins)

2020/2021 Assessment Rate

Mr. Felts, Jr. stated that the Finance Subcommittee discussed reducing the amount of carry-over and recommended lowering the citrus assessment rate. Lowering the assessment rate to \$.08 per 40-pound equivalent will generate \$16,208,000 in revenue.

Motion: To recommend lowering the citrus assessment rate by \$0.01, from \$0.09 to \$0.08 per 40-pound equivalent.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: James McFarlane

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Discuss Frequency and Length of Committee and Subcommittee Meetings

Dr. Etienne Rabe suggested changing CPDPC meetings from every two months to every three months. Ms. Hornbaker added that the Executive Committee discussed starting CPDPC meetings at 9:00 a.m. rather than 10:00 a.m.

Motion: To recommend moving the CPDPC meetings to quarterly meetings.

First: James McFarlane

Second: Roger Smith

Motion carries: 14 yays (Craig Armstrong, Kevin Ball, Ed Civerolo, Aaron Dillon, Bob Felts, Jr., John Gless, John C. Gless, Nick Hill, Mark McBroom, James McFarlane, Etienne Rabe, Gregorio Rundini, Roger Smith and Kevin Watkins) and 1 nay (Jim Gorden)

Report on ACP Detection Canines

Lisa Finke stated that the dog teams were trained in 2019 in San Bernardino County and have now moved to Hemet. She suggested using canines to locate ACP for testing, re-inspections of areas focused on eradication, inspecting bins and assisting growers with ACP management. The proof of concept was funded by HLB MAC, whose funding

ends October 31, 2020. Annual costs are \$1.1 million for 3 handlers, vehicles and two dogs each.

OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Review Business Process Timelines

Paul Figueroa presented three treatment timelines under optimum conditions: 74 days after an HLB-positive detection; 53 days after an Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs)-positive detection; and 67 days after an ACP positive identification. Delays may occur due to unavailability of sufficient treatment trucks, inclement weather, expansion of quarantine area, inability to make contact with resident, and COVID-19. He noted that one truck containing two vendors and one CPDPD staff can treat 25-30 properties per day.

Review of Buffer and ACP Response Treatment Areas

Discuss Reducing Buffer Border Treatments to 200 Meters

Dr. Monique Rivera stated that residential acceptance and availability, timeliness of applications and acceptance of residential distance can all inhibit the success of areawide buffer sprays. An unpublished study from Dr. Setamou suggests that ACP are mostly coming from residential areas 100 feet away from groves but noted that there were very low ACP recapture numbers. She recommended reducing border treatments to 200 meters within a two-week treatment window. The first 100 feet are the most critical.

Motion: To recommend tabling the discussion of reducing buffer border treatments from 400 meters to 200 meters to the November 18, 2020 CPDPC meeting.

First: Mark McBroom

Second: Craig Armstrong

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Extending Buffer Zone Treatments Beyond October

Dr. Rivera stated that organic growers in San Joaquin Valley (SJV) have developed the SJV Organic Citrus Management Guide to cover scouting, cultural, mechanical and chemical control options.

CDFA Operational Update

David Gutierrez stated that the Southern District delimitation treatment and survey continues in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The area surrounding the positive ACP find in a Riverside County grove was surveyed, all trees in the perimeter were sampled, and all tested negative for HLB. The grove will be resampled in late spring 2021. Staff began the 2020 Fall cycle of areawide treatments in August. He explained that 79 trees tested HLB-positive in August 2020. The second risk-based survey cycle of 2020 began in August and will continue until January 2021. The border buffer survey is completed in San Diego County and 81 percent complete in Imperial County. In the Central District, risk surveys for Kings, Kern and Tulare counties began on August 24, 2020. Fresno staff are assisting the Northern District with new adult and nymph ACP detections in Santa Clara county. *Tamarixia radiata* releases began on July 28, 2020. Find sites and

adjacent properties were surveyed, and public meetings held. HLB Risk Survey Cycle 2 began in September 2020 in 20 counties.

CDFA Regulatory Update

Review List of Fines/Penalty Structure

Keith Okasaki stated that CPDPD staff and Agricultural Commissioners have increased enforcement presence at farmer's markets and CPDPD maintains a statewide list of markets. It is illegal to move fruit without a compliance agreement, and Notices of Violation and Notices of Proposed Action may include a county fine. Compliance agreements may be suspended or revoked after any violation.

Motion: To recommend utilizing a compliance agreement to require certified producers in the HLB quarantine area to remove all stems and leaves prior to moving fruit to a market and to provide a monthly notification of anticipated market venues to CDFA.

First: Mark McBroom

Second: John C. Gless

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Amelia Hicks stated that she met the Pest Control Districts (PCDs) on potentially expanding their duties. The California Citrus Tristeza Eradication Agency and the Coachella and Imperial PCDs could assist with ACP tracking and coordinate area wide treatment. The Imperial PCD could facilitate more outreach and assist CPDPD's delimitation and survey activities. The Coachella PCD can contribute to ACP/HLB activities, outreach and ACP detection, and hiring seasonal staff to take on HLB risk-based visual survey.

Organic Fruit Movement Options

Dr. Rivera stated that she conducted a preliminary organic trial to see if any adjuvants extend the life of other products. She stated that one organic-approved insecticide treatment is not enough, and grate cleaning is more effective at removing psyllids. Insecticide treatments are an investment in long-term management and the need to catch ACP populations early.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing

Ethyl Formate Registration Update

Dr. Etienne Rabe stated that Dr. Jim Cranney submitted the Ethyl Formate registration package to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in July. They have 19 months to respond. California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is concerned about off-gassing and may look for a full toxicology package that would push Ethyl Formate back two years.

Neonicotinoid Risk Mitigation Update

Dr. Rabe stated that research is being done into neonicotinoid alternatives.

Data Analysis Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) Update

Dr. Neil McRoberts stated that DATOC is updating data displays on the DATOC public website, producing Citrograph articles on tarping analysis and a preliminary report on grove trapping data.

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 –Outreach and CPDPC

General Outreach Update

Price Adams stated that the program activated the crisis communication plan in response to the ACP positive found in a Riverside commercial grove. Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) notified key industry and stakeholder groups via CitrusInsider email blast resulting in 11 stories about the detection. They held a virtual Riverside grower meeting on August 21, 2020. CPDPC will be coordinating with the California Association of Pest Control Advisors to record a Continuing Education course. NST will be updating CitrusInsider.org, producing the FY 19-20 Annual Report, doing a question and answer session with committee members or CPDPC, and developing media kits for the F1-K9 unit.

Grower Liaison Working Group Update

Mr. Gutierrez stated the working group has discussed the AB-5 bill and its effects on the Grower Liaison program. They will be surveying Grower Liaisons and the industry for feedback on how to improve the GL program.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Update

Helene Wright stated that a pre-award letter is in place for the ACP/HLB cooperative agreement starting October 1, 2020. It will begin with 25 percent funding with more added as necessary. USDA is waiting for federal appropriations.

California Citrus Mutual (CCM) Report

Casey Creamer stated that CCM is tracking information on neonicotinoids in coordination with DPR. He is confident that the mitigation proposal will not be much different from label requirements, citrus regulations and standard industry practices.

Citrus Research Board (CRB) Report

Marcy Martin stated CRB will be holding nomination meetings for Districts 1, 2 and 3. The CRB annual meeting will be September 22 in preparation for the 2020/2021 season.

Recap of Action Items from this Meeting

ACTION ITEM: It is requested that Lisa Finke prepare a budget for the Operations committee to review to discuss funding to continue the Canine Detection project.

ACTION ITEM: It is requested that Dr. Rivera generate a specific proposal for Buffer Zone areas taking into account specific geographic areas. CDFA will identify the number of properties within 100, 200 & 400 meters in these areas, incorporated into a map if possible, and provide that info to Dr. Rivera.

ACTION ITEM: CDFA will continue conversations with Pest Control Districts to gauge interest in expanding and/or adding activities.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m. The next meeting will be held by webinar on November 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.