

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC)
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
October 8, 2020 Minutes**

There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present:

Dr. Etienne Rabe*

Jim Gorden*

Keith Watkins*

CDFA Staff:

Karina Chu*

Alisha Garcia*

Alex Muniz*

Kiana Dao*

David Gutiérrez*

Anmol Joshi*

Paul Figueroa*

Karla Huerta*

Keith Okasaki*

Ryan Fong*

Amelia Hicks*

Lydia Rodriguez*

Victoria Hornbaker*

Other Attendees:

Jonathan Kaplan*

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments:

Jim Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed the Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff participating via webinar. There were no public comments.

Finance Subcommittee Report

2019-20 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Victoria Hornbaker reported the expenditure total through August 2020 was \$21,847,009, with a remaining balance of \$18,640,139. September expenditure data entry is in process and transactions through June 2020 have been closed in Fi\$Cal. The remaining projected expenditure total is \$6,205,029, putting the program \$12,435,110 under previous budget projections. This difference is due to COVID-19 pausing travel and thereby reducing travel costs. As well, treatment contracts from Pest Detection Emergency Projects were cancelled from March to July 2020, with Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Department (CPDPD) staff completing this typically contracted work.

Victoria added revenue is currently over \$18 million, higher than the original projection of \$17,370,000, and that the program will carry in approximately \$39 million into 2021.

2020-21 Budget Preparation

As planned, the Committee proposed cutting the assessment fee from nine (9) to eight (8) cents per 40-pound equivalent, at the Full Committee meeting held on September 16, 2020. The motion was approved and as of October 1, 2020, all vendors were sent a letter informing them of the reduction. The program has not yet received feedback from the vendors regarding this reduction.

Operations Subcommittee Report

Keith Watkins discussed the use of Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) canines in areas with small psyllid populations. ACP canines can benefit the citrus industry by allowing psyllids to be found in areas with small populations, however, Committee members are concerned with the canine team's use

of vials filled with live psyllids. The Committee decided to invite the canine team to one location without bringing the vials, then Committee members will reevaluate this program.

Keith also brought up the buffer response treatment area and the intervals grove traps are checked in, both topics which the Committee will discuss further at a later date. Additionally, the Committee was notified Dr. Monique Rivera is looking at treatment windows in desert climates and a report is to follow. Finally, NOMAD is being replaced and Keith reported he has confirmed the replacement for NOMAD will be compatible with CalTrap, which is currently in beta testing.

Science Subcommittee Report

Dr. Etienne Rabe advised the October Science Subcommittee meeting resulted in another being scheduled for the end of the month to discuss a list of questions for the Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC). Science Subcommittee members were asked to email Dr. Rabe with questions they would like answered. Specifically, Dr. Rabe would like to know what measure of efficacy is used, as well as the cost benefit ratios of Southern California residential Huanglongbing (HLB) treatment and response.

Outreach Subcommittee Report

Victoria Hornbaker reported Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) shared at the October's Outreach Subcommittee meeting and is bringing more collaboration between the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and partners such as the University of California system, who in turn partners with master gardeners. NST has social media influencers and the return on this marketing investment is favorable. CDFA and NST are doing a line item audit of the budget to find where funds saved due to COVID-19 restrictions can be freed up and used for activities. Once the audit is complete it was recommended the newly freed up funds be used to revisit strategic planning.

The surveys for industry and grower liaisons, recently created by the Outreach Subcommittee have been sent out, with findings to be presented when ready in approximately one week.

There were concerns the number of samples submitted to the lab was low and that the cost per sample would be smaller if we submitted 10,000 samples per month. Currently the program is submitting approximately 5,000 per month, but with COVID-19 restrictions, social unrest, and wildfires throughout the state, the number of samples has gone down. CPDPD is doing a test case at one treatment site to see if it can once again, safely, implement some of its previous procedures and will report on its progress.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 4, 2020.