



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
August 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Tulare, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brett Kirkpatrick, Chair
Kevin Severns, Vice Chair
Etienne Rabe
James Sherwood
Ron Matik
John Eliot, Jr.
David Hines
Franco Bernardi
John Gless
Gus Gunderson

INTERESTED PARTIES

Bob Blakely, California Citrus Mutual
Vic Tolomeo, USDA NASS
Adam Wosoba, USDA NASS
Bob Salcedo, California Citrus Growers
Association

CDFA

Steve Patton
Susan Shelton
Andrew Valero
Sarah Cardoni
Stacey Hughes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Golden

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Etienne Rabe noted a correction under ITEM 4: AG STATISTICS in the fifth paragraph. It should state crop estimate instead of acreage survey.

MOTION: Dr. Rabe and Mr. James Sherwood seconded to approve the March 22, 2011 Meeting Minutes, as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Ms. Sarah Cardoni discussed member terms and vacancies. Members whose terms will be expiring on September 30, 2011, and are eligible for reappointment, are Dr. Etienne Rabe, Mr. Mark Golden, Mr. David Hines, Mr. James Sherwood, and Mr. John Eliot, Jr. Mr. Kevin Severns is currently serving his fourth consecutive two-year term and will not be eligible for reappointment. There is one current vacancy for a producer member representing navel and Valencia. Once Mr. Severns' term expires, one handler of navel and Valencia member position will become vacant.

ITEM 4: CITRUS ASSESMENTS

Dr. Rabe presented the Committee with the recommendations made by the subcommittee whose goal was to determine accurate mil assessments for each

commodity based on services delivered. Dr. Rabe stated that subcommittee arrived at the proposed assessment rates using an estimated program cost of \$715,000, which includes county contracts, crop estimates, acreage surveys, and pro rata. Crop estimates for each commodity were then used to determine the respective proposed mil assessment rates, which are: navels at 6 mils; Valencias at 6 mils; mandarins at 5 mils; and lemons at 1 mil.

Discussion ensued regarding the costs for mandarin estimates. Mr. Kirkpatrick tabled the discussion until after ITEM 5: AG STATISTICS.

ITEM 5: AG STATISTICS

Mr. Vic Tolomeo of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) discussed with the Committee the proposed mandarin objective measurement project. He stated that NASS currently completes for USDA monthly estimates for production numbers of both mandarins and tangerines; where mandarins and tangerines are one classification. He then stated that an objective measurement would be different because it would include tree counts, objective counts, fruit sizes, and that the information gathered would be put into models so that a production forecast could be made. He stated that there are two options for conducting a mandarin objective measurement. One option would be strictly mandarins and hybrids. The other option would have mandarins and hybrids, and include the following subgroups: Clementine, Tango and W. Murcott Afourer, and Tangelos. He stated that there would be higher costs associated for the additional subgroups. In addition, it would take at least three to five years to develop a statistical model because of the data that would need to be collected.

The Committee discussed whether or not to include mandarins in the subcommittee's recommendation. Because of the high costs associated with NASS' proposed mandarin objective measurement, and because the estimate could not be completed for this year's crop, the Committee agreed not to include the \$90,000 for crop estimates on mandarins in the subcommittee's recommendation.

Mr. Kirkpatrick questioned whether the mandarin industry should start building funds to go toward the mandarin objective measurement in case the mandarin industry decides to go forward with the project next year. Dr. Rabe suggested that it should be funded as the project moves forward. Mr. Tolomeo stated that if the project were to move forward, the time to begin would be next June. Dr. Rabe stated that it should start at the end of July. Mr. Severns questioned when the information would be available and Mr. Tolomeo replied that it would be available the following September.

MOTION: Dr. Rabe motioned to make a recommendation to the CDFA Secretary to accept the proposed citrus assessment change as follows: navels at 6 mils; Valencias at 6 mils; mandarins at 1 mil; and lemons at 1 mil. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: REGULATION UPDATE

Mr. Patton provided the Committee with the regulation update. He stated that the written comment period ended August 1, 2011, for the proposed regulatory package for the California Standard, which is a maturity standard exclusively for navels. There was a public hearing held in Visalia on August 5, 2011. The next step is the Department will receive the transcript from the public hearing and address the comments made during the hearing. After all comments are addressed, the proposed regulatory package will be sent to the CDFA Secretary for review and will be up to her discretion as to whether the package will move forward.

ITEM 7: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Patton discussed organizational changes within the Inspection Services Division. He stated that there is a new addition to the Inspection and Compliance Branch (I&C), Stacey Hughes. She has previously worked for I&C and has come back to work for the Standardization, Citrus, and Certified Famers' Market programs. In addition, Mr. Rick Jensen has accepted the position as the Director of the Inspection Services Division. Mr. Patton also stated that he is now Chief of I&C.

Mr. Patton presented a resolution to Mr. Severns and thanked him for his dedicated service to the Committee.

ITEM 8: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2011, in Kern County.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Matik motioned and Mr. Gless seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Susan Shelton, Supervising Special Investigator
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services