



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (CCAC)
Tulare, CA
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2009

Members

Robert LoBue
John Gless
Ron Matik
Franco Bernardi
Etienne Rabe
Kevin Severns
Gus Gunderson
Brett Kirkpatrick
John Eliot

CDFA Representatives

Rick Jensen
Maria Hicks
Andrew Valero
Steve Patton

Interested Parties

Rafael Garcia, Tulare County
Manuel Williams, Kern County
Alpha Kamara, Kern County
Carol Hafner, Fresno County
Bob Blakely, Citrus Mutual
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Bill Martinet
Bob Salcedo, CCGA
Vic Tolomeo, NASS
Geoffrey Sechter, NASS

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made. Mr. Rick Jensen announced that Mr. Steve Patton accepted a training and development assignment as Branch Chief I of Compliance within Inspection and Compliance Branch, Inspection Services, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Rabe reiterated his statement that he thought the assessment for a standard unit is based on a 40 lb. unit, and would like this added to Item 8, subcommittee report on standardized containers in the March 12, 2009 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Rabe moved to approve the March 12, 2009 minutes as amended. Mr. Ron Matik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Mr. Patton announced that there is currently one navel producer vacancy representing Kern/Tulare County.

ITEM 4: COUNTY MATURITY ENFORCEMENT

Tulare, Kern, and Fresno counties reported that the majority of fruit is passing maturity inspections with a range of 8:1 to 11:1 sugar acid ratios, although there were some initial rejections.

Mr. Patton reported on San Bernardino and Ventura counties concurring that the majority of fruit tested having had 8:1 to 11:1 sugar acid ratios.

ITEM 5: SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT ON STANDARDIZED CONTAINERS

Dr. Rabe stated that he believes containers should have a standard weight of 40 lbs. Dr. Rabe stated that multiple entities in the industry have implemented a standard weight of 40 lbs. for assessment purposes, and that the California Citrus Advisory Committee (CCAC) would benefit by implementing the 40 lb. standard weight for assessment purposes as well.

Mr. Patton recommended that the committee explore a legislative change that would define a carton to be a 40 lb. unit. Discussion ensued regarding standardized containers.

ITEM 6: STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUDIT

Mr. Patton reported that five audits were conducted for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/2009 on five separate commodities. Mr. Patton stated that the CDFA has received the results on four out of the five audits conducted. The fifth audit is not finalized. Mr. Patton stated that two of the audited entities overpaid their assessments to the State Program. The overpaid amounts were refunded. The other two audits revealed an underpayment due to accounting errors. Both entities were notified and assessments were paid. Mr. Patton explained that each audit costs \$600, and the audits are being conducted by CDFA's Market Enforcement Branch.

ITEM 7: USDA/NASS ORANGE REPORT

Mr. Vic Tolomeo, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provided an overview for the FY 2009/2010 California Navel Orange Objective Measurement Report. The CCAC expressed concern, and feel that the forecast may not be accurate due to Cara Cara oranges and Blood oranges being included in the forecast.

Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick stated that he feels it would be helpful if there was a footnote added to the report clarifying that Cara Cara oranges and Blood oranges are included in the forecasts. Discussion ensued about the Orange Report.

ITEM 8: AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Arroyo was not present at this CCAC meeting. Mr. Patton reported that the Food and Agricultural Code states that if an individual possesses over 200 lbs. of one commodity, he or she is required to have proof of ownership. Mr. Patton reported that that number has been changed to 25 pounds. The commodity can now be confiscated on the spot if it is in one's possession without proof of ownership.

ITEM 9: FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Patton provided an overview of the Fund Condition Report. Mr. Patton stated that there was an increase in assessments for FY 2008/2009. The agricultural fund reserve is currently \$1,317,845.65. The county spent \$309,000 last year. The proposed budget for FY 2009/2010 is approximately \$841,000.

Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick stated it would be helpful to the CCAC if the Fund Condition Report was in a more basic form next year.

Mr. Matik inquired if CDFA is still banking with Bank of America.

Mr. Kevin Severns questioned how safe the Bank of America account is, and if it is Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured.

Mr. Jensen stated that the money is currently in a Bank of America account. Mr. Jensen stated that the Legislature does have the authority to borrow from "special funds", but they would have to pay it back with interest. Mr. Patton stated that he will confirm with Bank of America that the funds are FDIC insured. Discussion ensued regarding the Fund Condition Report, and the funds being FDIC insured.

ITEM 10: CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Kirkpatrick thanked the CCAC members for attending the meeting today. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that although everyone is concerned about the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), it does not directly impact this committee.

ITEM 11: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Patton distributed the Annual Report from the Division of Inspection Services and informed the CCAC that there is pertinent information in this report.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING

The CCAC will have a teleconference on December 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss county maturity enforcement. Counties must submit all reports for November 2009 to CDFA by December 7, 2009.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Rabe seconded. The committee was adjourned by the chairperson at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Patton, Branch Chief I
Compliance Unit
Inspection Services