

Minutes of the NAVEL ORANGEWORM ACTION COMMITTEE

May 24th, 2024

A meeting of the Navel Orangeworm Action Committee (NOWAC) was held at the offices of the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) and via Zoom on Friday, May 24th, 2024.

Members in Attendance –

Michael Kelley
Ted Sheely
Rob Goff
Gary Martin

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance –

Roger Isom, WAPA
Christopher McGlothlin, WAPA
Steven Vasquez, CPRB
Michelle Dennis, CDFA
Victoria Hornbaker, CDFA
Matthew Aubuchon, USDA
Michael Garvey, USDA

Guests in Attendance –

Dr. Charles Burks, USDA ARS
Dr. Houston Wilson, UC Riverside

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ted Sheely at 8:02 am.

Introductions and Roll Call

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and who they were affiliated with.

Insect Damage Results from 2023

Michelle Dennis provided an overview of the damage data collected from 2023. The highlights of the conversation were as follows:

- Damage Results
 - Almonds
 - Release Areas – 4.3% and 11.8%
 - Non-release Areas – 15.0% and 21.1%
 - Pistachios
 - Release Areas – 0.34% and 0.83%
 - Non-release Areas – 1.08% and 3.88%
- In 2024 Zone 4 will be replaced with Zone 9 due to issues with the grower
- Almond damage is based on CDFA crackout
- Pistachio damage is based on processor report
- Goal is to look at having CDFA personnel perform damage analysis on pistachio sites, but may not happen until 2025 due to cost constraints

Consideration of 2024 NOW Areawide Integrated Pest Management Program

Michelle Dennis, CDFA and Matthew Aubuchon, USDA presented the updated 2024 Navel Orangeworm (NOW) Area-wide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program. The plan is largely the same as considered by NOWAC in February. There was concern expressed about the approach of only one magazine and the staggered release program (almond into August, then switch to pistachios), but it was conceded this is the best approach given the rearing facility can only produce one magazine of moths per day for FY 2024. **On a motion by Michael Kelley and seconded by Gary Martin, the 2024 Operational Plan was unanimously approved.**

USDA ARS Research Proposal –

Dr. Charles Burks, USDA ARS provided an overview of a USDA ARS research proposal entitled “Impact of Sterile Release of Navel Orangeworm in Replicated Blocks in Organic Almonds using Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles”. There was some discussion mainly expressing concerns about taking moths away during a time when we are only producing one magazine of moths per day. **However, the group decided to move forward and on a motion by Gary Martin and second by Mike Kelley, the NOWAC unanimously voted to approve the proposed research.**

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.