

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board
2895 N. Larkin Ave. Suite A
Fresno, CA 93727
Conference Room
September 15, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Zach Bagley*
Darryl Bettencourt
Dan Burns*
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl*
Kyle Perez*
Jennifer Sanders*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Daniel Waterhouse

CDFA PERSONNEL

Kaitlyn Beames
Michelle Dennis*
Chris Dillon
Lauren Murphy
Canh Nguyen
Chris Ogawa

*Participated via zoom

GUESTS

Jimmy Hook, Kings County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Mike Montna, California Tomato Growers Association

INTRODUCTIONS

The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board (Board) Meeting was convened at 9:31 am by Board Chairman, Darryl Bettencourt, and introductions were made.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT

The meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board (BCTVCB) Special Meeting that took place on August 11, 2022.

MOTION:

Ron Dalforno moved that the Board approve the minutes from the August 11, 2022 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mario Caimotto and passed with a vote of seven yeas and one abstention.

VOTES:

YES

Zach Bagley

NO

None

ABSTENTION

Mario Caimotto

Darryl Bettencourt
Dan Burns
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Jennifer Sanders

BCTVCP LABORATORY AND LAMP UPDATE

Canh Nguyen provided an update on the turn-around time for laboratory samples submitted by the BCTVCP. He stated that the program has established a more efficient tracking system to monitor samples.

Discussion followed.

Michelle Dennis provided an update on the status of the LAMP assay for the detection of beet curly top virus. She stated that the LAMP assay protocol and supplementary data is awaiting transfer to CDFA from the University of California as part of the external research agreement.

Discussion followed.

BCTVCP SURVEY AREA UPDATE

Chris Ogawa provided a BCTVCP survey area update. He stated that the Program is reviewing the survey area north of California Highway 152, for Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties, and exploring staffing options between both the CDFA and the Counties to conduct year-round surveys in these areas. The Board asked Mr. Ogawa what was needed for staffing to cover the highway 152 area. The Program stated two additional program staff were needed year-round to cover this area.

Discussion followed.

PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE

Chris Dillon provided a public outreach update. The Program is currently in the process of establishing contact with the University of California Cooperative Extension to develop an online educational module directed towards growers, pest control professionals, and the general public regarding awareness of the beet curly top virus (BCTV) and the beet leafhopper (BLH). Mr. Dillon also stated that he will be speaking at an upcoming vegetable crop meeting at the University of California West Side Research and Extension Center in Five Points to deliver a Program update and to discuss BLH dispersal concerns. He further stated that he is in the process of putting together additional presentations for future public outreach meetings and conferences.

Discussion followed.

BCTVCP PERSONNEL/STAFFING UPDATE

Lauren Murphy provided an update on current BCTVCP personnel and staffing levels. She stated that the Program recently hired an Agricultural Pest Control Specialist (APCS) for the Kern County region, and the Program is in the interview process for another APCS position for the Sacramento Valley region.

Discussion followed.

BCTV DATA UPDATE

Mr. Dillon provided an update on BCTV data review. He reviewed literature regarding BLH dispersal and reported that the estimated dispersal radius of 1-3 miles by BLH after mowing or disking of host vegetation is largely anecdotal, but is supported by both Program field staff and by consulted experts.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Nguyen provided a brief update on coordination efforts with Caltrans regarding vegetation removal along the I-5 corridor.

Discussion followed.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Nguyen provided an update on the Technical Advisory Committee. He stated that Ms. Dennis has moved the Technical Advisory Committee request forward to the CDFA Secretary.

Discussion followed.

The Board would like to move forward with reconvening the BCTVCB Research Subcommittee rather than a Technical Advisory Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board requested the following items be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Progress of on-going action items from the previous meeting
- Workload analysis for positions required for conducting year-round intensive surveys statewide
- Creating a 12-month spreadsheet breakdown of all BCTVCP survey areas and corresponding resources needed to cover the surveys
- Contacting independent or university laboratories that could process insect and plant samples for the Program
- Program will provide information on active BCTVCB subcommittees

The Board discussed future meeting dates. Ms. Murphy stated that she will send out email reminders for the following meetings:

- BCTVCB Special Meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2022
- BCTVCB Financial Subcommittee Meeting: Thursday, October 27, 2022
- BCTVCB Fall Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022

ADJOURN

Mr. Bettencourt adjourned the meeting at 11:39 am.

Lauren Murphy
Secretary to the Board