

California Department of Food & Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL BOARD
Virtual Zoom Meeting
March 16, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Dan Burns
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Daniel Waterhouse

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

C DFA PERSONNEL

Kaitlyn Beames
Michelle Dennis
Samuel Krasnobrod
Mark McLoughlin
Lauren Murphy

GUESTS

Melissa Cregan, Fresno County Agriculture Commissioner's Office
Tom Turini, University of California Cooperative Extension Advisor, Fresno County
Jennifer Wallace Sanders, Grower in Southern Colusa County

INTRODUCTIONS

The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board (Board) Meeting was convened at 9:33 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 January 20, 2022.

MOTION:

Daniel Waterhouse moved that the Board approve the minutes from the January 20, 2022 Special Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mario Caimotto and passed with a vote of seven yeas and one abstention.

VOTES:

YES

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt

NO

None

ABSTENTION

Ron Dalforno

Dan Burns
Mario Caimotto
Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Daniel Waterhouse

BOARD VACANCIES

Lauren Murphy stated that there are currently two Board vacancies. The first vacancy is for District I, Southern California, representing: beans, peppers, spinach, sugar beets, and/or tomatoes. The second vacancy is for District III, Northern San Joaquin Valley, representing: beans, peppers, spinach, sugar beets, and/or tomatoes.

Ms. Murphy stated that an application was received for the District III vacancy, representing tomatoes, from Jennifer Wallace Sanders and provided her resume to the Board for review.

Discussion followed.

MOTION:

Ron Dalforno moved that the Board recommend Jennifer Wallace Sanders to the BCTVCB District III position, representing tomatoes. The motion was seconded by Kyle Perez and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Dan Burns
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Daniel Waterhouse

None

None

PROGRAM UPDATE

Samuel Krasnobrod presented a Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program (Program) update on the 2022 field season.

Discussion followed.

FISCAL MATTERS

2021/2022 ACTUAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Ms. Murphy reviewed the Program budget. The Program's total FY 2021/2022 actual expenditures as of February 2022 were \$696,619.

2021/2022 RECEIVED AND PROJECTED REVENUE

Ms. Murphy reviewed the Received and Projected Revenue sheet by month for FY 2021/2022 revenues received as of January 2022 were \$1,869,014.

Discussion followed.

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board accept and approve all the financial documents as presented: BCTVCB Current Budget FY 21/22 and Proposed Budget FY 22/23, Past Actual Expenditures, Received and Projected Revenue by Month FY 21/22, and Fund Condition Statement. The motion was seconded by Dan Burns and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

- Zach Bagley
- Darryl Bettencourt
- Dan Burns
- Mario Caimotto
- Ron Dalforno
- Joseph Nicholl
- Kyle Perez
- Daniel Waterhouse

None

None

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board accept and approve the Proposed Fund Agreement authorizing six monthly transfers of \$181,550 from July 15, 2022, through December 15, 2022, as needed. The motion was seconded by Dan Burns and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

- Zach Bagley
- Darryl Bettencourt
- Dan Burns
- Mario Caimotto
- Ron Dalforno
- Joseph Nicholl
- Kyle Perez
- Daniel Waterhouse

None

None

DISCUSSION OF ASSESSMENT RATES

Mr. Bettencourt stated that based on the discussion of the current fiscal matters, an assessment rate change is not required at the moment and can be discussed in the future. The Board concurred.

LAMP ASSAY UPDATE

Michelle Dennis provided a LAMP Assay Update and addressed the following concerns from the Board and industry:

1. Why is LAMP Assay not working?
 - a. The LAMP Assay is able to detect pure curly top virus DNA without issue but is not able to reliably provide accurate results when extracting the DNA from plant samples.
2. Why is another lab able to utilize the LAMP Assay?
 - a. CDFA has had discussions with the UC Davis lab that is also working on the LAMP Assay for curly top virus, and they are getting the same results: unreliable results for crude/extracted DNA. Their reported results are coming from PCR tests and not the LAMP Assay.
3. What is happening with the CDFA LAMP Assay project?
 - a. CDFA is funding research specifically addressing the issues with the LAMP Assay, outside of the BCTVCB funds, and Ms. Dennis will provide a status update on this research at the BCTVCB Fall 2022 Meeting.

Discussion followed.

RESEARCH FUNDING AND PROPOSALS UPDATE

The Board discussed the need for research into alternatives to malathion and requested CDFA post a request for proposals.

Discussion followed.

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board recommends that CDFA post a request for proposals for research into alternatives to malathion with a budget up to \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Daniel Waterhouse and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Dan Burns
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Daniel Waterhouse

None

None

HEMP AS A NEW COMMODITY FOR ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Ms. Dennis provided a brief update on hemp as a new commodity for the BCTV assessments. She stated that she is still waiting on further clarification.

Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board requested the following items be on the agenda for the BCTVCB Fall 2022 Meeting.

- Discussion of Assessment Rates
- Lamp Assay Update
- Research Funding and Proposals
- Board Vacancy

Ms. Murphy reminded the Board of the future meeting dates that are set:

- BCTVCB Financial Subcommittee Meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2022
- BCTVCB Fall Board Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022

ADJOURN

Mr. Bettencourt adjourned the meeting at 11:18 am.

Lauren Murphy
Secretary to the Board