

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
October 20, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Mario Caimotto*
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl*
Kyle Perez*
Jennifer Sanders*
Daniel Waterhouse*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Burns

CDFA PERSONNEL

Kaitlyn Beames
Michelle Dennis*
Chris Dillon
Mark Mcloughlin*
Colleen Murphy*
Lauren Murphy
Canh Nguyen
Chris Ogawa
Heather Scheck*

*Participated via zoom

GUESTS

Mike Montna, California Tomato Growers Association
Lynda Schrupf, Kings County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

INTRODUCTIONS

The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board (Board) Meeting was convened at 9:30 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 Special Meeting that took place on September 15, 2022.

MOTION:

Ron Dalforno moved that the Board approve the minutes from the September 15, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mario Caimotto and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

Zach Bagley

NO

None

ABSTENTION

None

Darryl Bettencourt
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Jennifer Sanders
Daniel Waterhouse

BCTVCP PERSONNEL/STAFFING

To augment and address staffing concerns, the program worked with PDAS to provide an app for collecting and recording data. Colleen Murphy, from CDFA's Plant Data Analysis Services (PDAS), presented a demonstration of the Beet Leafhopper Sighting Report Application that is currently being developed for industry, growers, pest control advisors, etc., to collect information from the field regarding beet leafhoppers (BLH) and curly top virus (CTV) using their phones, tablets, or computers that will be submitted directly to the BCTVCP.

The Board was very supportive of the application and provided input on additional data that could be collected using the application. PDAS and the Program will work together to finalize the application and provide notification to the Board once it's ready to be deployed.

Discussion followed.

Lauren Murphy provided an update on Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program (BCTVCP) Personnel/Staffing. She stated that the program filled two Agricultural Pest Control Specialist positions: one for Kern County and one for the Sacramento Valley region. Additionally, Canh Nguyen and Ms. Murphy attended the Fresno State Career Fair on October 5 and received considerable interest from several students in the possibility of working for CDFA.

BCTVCP SURVEY RESOURCES

In response to the Board's previous request, Chris Ogawa presented an update on BCTVCP survey staffing resources. He presented quarterly breakdowns of the different types of surveys that are completed throughout the year, the different locations statewide that are surveyed, and the number of staff required to cover all surveys year-round. The presentation highlighted the total number of positions needed in order to provide full year-round coverage for all statewide surveys, including some of the non-traditional areas in northern California that have seen a much greater influx of disease in the past 2 years. (See Attachment 1)

Discussion followed.

The Board discussed the need for expanding year-round survey efforts due to several factors: the changing landscape in California, drought, water availability, increase in fallow fields and permanent crops containing BLH host plants. The Board was concerned about the Program's ability to conduct year-round surveys in many of the new, non-traditional areas (Sacramento Valley Counties; Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties; etc.), given the Program's current staffing levels. The Board understands that the need for positions may change based on further determination by the Program, but that there is a current urgency to identify the need and willingness to fiscally support the increase in positions immediately.

WORKLOAD ANALYSIS

Mr. Nguyen provided an update on the workload analysis that the Program is currently putting together as justification for additional permanent positions for the BCTVCP.

Discussion followed.

MOTION:

Due to the increased presence of beet curly top virus in new, non-traditional areas since 2020, the Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board requests that the California Department of Food and Agriculture add 2.5 Agricultural Pest Control Specialist and 8 Pest Prevention Assistant positions to the Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program in order to cover statewide surveys to ensure that all commodities that are paying, and have been paying, assessments into this Program are provided services from this Program. The motion was moved by Ron Dalforno, seconded by Mario Caimotto, and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Jennifer Sanders
Daniel Waterhouse

None

None

BCTVCP SAMPLES

LAMP UPDATE

Michelle Dennis provided an update on the status of the beet curly top virus (BCTV) loop-mediated amplification (LAMP) assay. She stated that the most recent update from the UC Davis laboratory is that they are still working on validation issues. The UC Davis lab researchers will meet with CDFA lab personnel soon and present the status of the LAMP assay, discuss any progress that has been made, and provide training for the new protocols.

Discussion followed.

OUTSIDE LABORATORIES UPDATE

Mr. Nguyen provided an update on the potential use of outside laboratories for testing plant and beet leafhopper (BLH) samples for BCTV. He stated that he reached out to California State University, Fresno and University of California, Riverside. He received communication back from Dr. Maggie Ellis with CSU Fresno, but she is currently working with the California Tomato Research Institute (CTRI) on a research proposal for BCTV samples. Zach Bagley clarified this by stating that CTRI reached out to Maggie Ellis regarding this proposal only in the event the Program is unable to find a reasonable research alternative for processing BLH and plant samples in a timely manner.

Dr. Kerry Mauck, with UC Riverside, provided an amount to Mr. Nguyen and stated that their lab would be able to process various amounts of samples year-round with a 1–2-week turnaround time.

Discussion followed.

PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE

Colleen Murphy from CDFA's Plant Data Analysis Services (PDAS) presented a demonstration of the Beet Leafhopper Sighting Report Application that is currently being developed for industry, growers, pest control advisors, etc., to collect information from the field regarding beet leafhoppers (BLH) and curly top virus (CTV) using their phones, tablets, or computers that will be submitted directly to the BCTVCP.

Discussion followed.

Chris Dillon provided a public outreach update. He stated that on October 12th he attended a melon and tomato crop meeting at the University of California West Side Research and Extension Center in Five Points where he presented a BCTVCP update to the group.

Mr. Dillon also stated that he is in discussions with representatives from Pesticide Applicators Professional Association (PAPA) and California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA) in order to schedule opportunities for the BCTVCP to provide outreach and awareness regarding BCTV and BLH at their upcoming meetings and seminars. He further stated that he is working with the University of California Cooperative Extension to develop an online educational module with content curated around BCTV and BLH.

Finally, Mr. Dillon announced that there is a new BCTVCP webpage that is now live. Ms. Murphy presented the new BCTVCP web page to the Board.

Discussion followed.

RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Murphy provided an update on what she was able to discover regarding previous BCTVCP subcommittees. She stated the Board previously established a Diagnostics Subcommittee that discussed and provided recommendations on items such as developing criteria for requests for proposals, directing funding for research efforts, etc. The Board decided there is a need to establish a new Diagnostics Subcommittee to take a deeper look into issues that are more prevalent to the BCTVCP today.

Discussion followed.

MOTION:

Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board Chairman Darryl Bettencourt requests the establishment of a Diagnostics Subcommittee. Chairman Bettencourt nominated Board member Ron Dalforno as Chairman of the Subcommittee. Board member Zach Bagley was

nominated to sit on the Subcommittee. External subject matter experts Tom Turini, Vegetable Crops Advisor for University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources; Rebecca Creamer, Professor of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science at New Mexico State University; and Carl Strausbaugh, Research Plant Pathologist for United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, were also nominated to sit on the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee shall meet a minimum of twice a year, prior to each of the Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board spring and fall meetings. The Board reserves the right to add additional members, as needed. The motion was moved by Zach Bagley, seconded by Ron Dalforno, and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Zach Bagley

None

None

Darryl Bettencourt

Mario Caimotto

Ron Dalforno

Joseph Nicholl

Kyle Perez

Jennifer Sanders

Daniel Waterhouse

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Murphy reminded the board of future meeting dates:

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

ADJOURN

Mr. Bettencourt adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

Lauren Murphy
Secretary to the Board