

California Department of Food & Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL BOARD
Virtual Zoom Meeting
March 16, 2021
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
Lauren Murphy
Canh Nguyen

GUESTS

Tom Trini, University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno County
Ian Grettenberger, University of California, Davis

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 accepted the minutes from the Financial Subcommittee Meeting that took place on July 16, 2020.

The Board approved the minutes from the meeting that took place November 10, 2020.

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board approve the minutes from the November 10, 2020 Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ron Dalforno and passed with a vote of 6 yeas: Zach Bagley, Darryl Bettencourt, Dan Burns, Mario Caimotto, Ron Dalforno, Kyle Perez; and one abstention: Daniel Waterhouse.

VOTES:

YES

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt

NO

None

ABSTENTION

Daniel Waterhouse

Dan Burns
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Kyle Perez

The Board reviewed the minutes from the Financial Subcommittee Meeting that took place on January 14, 2021.

BOARD VACANCIES

Lauren Murphy stated that the Board vacancy for District II representing melons was recently filled with the appointment of Joseph Nicholl.

Ms. Murphy further stated that there are currently two Board vacancies open. The Board Vacancy Announcement specifies that resumes will be received through October 1, 2021.

Darryl Bettencourt commented that he may have two potential applicants: one individual from the Sacramento Valley for District III; and another individual for the Imperial Valley representing sugar beets.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Canh Nguyen presented a brief update on the status of the Malathion Contract. A purchase order (PO) for the amount of 2,600 gallons of malathion had been executed with Nutrien Ag Solutions and was set to expire March 3, 2021. The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program (Program) asked to purchase the entire amount left on the PO, but if the malathion could be stored at a Nutrien field location until the Program needed it for treatment. Nutrien stated that they could not accommodate that and once purchased, the Program would need to take possession of the malathion. Nutrien was unable to fulfill the entire 2,600 gallons of malathion identified on the PO, but the Program was able to obtain 1,299 gallons of malathion from Nutrien the day before the PO was set to expire.

Ms. Murphy reviewed the 2021 work plan summary and gave a Program update.

Beginning with the winter 2020-2021 survey, Ms. Murphy stated that the months of November, December, and January were very dry, which led to very little host vegetation on the westside foothills for the beet leafhoppers (BLH) to over-winter on. In January 2021, surveys observed no BLH activity. This is drastically different from January 2020, when the Program observed several areas with BLH populations above the treatment threshold, and even some areas with counts as high as 40-50 BLH per 10 sweeps.

In early February, host vegetation, primarily filaree and peppergrass, emerged in Fresno and Kings Counties following late rain in January. Kern County remained dry until additional rain fell in mid-February. In late February, there was scattered peppergrass in Fresno and Kings County; with *Plantago* observed in Fresno and Kern Counties. By the end of February, host vegetation began to stress -- typically a sign that a BLH hatch is right around the corner. Despite this, BLH activity remained low to nonexistent across the spring survey areas.

In March, additional rain events brought up ideal habitat for BLH on south-facing slopes. However, BLH activity continued to remain low to nonexistent in nearly all survey areas. There was one survey area in Kern County where staff observed 10 BLH in one net sweep, which was the most BLH observed during all winter and spring surveys thus far. Additionally, all surveys across Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties, observed insect activity in general (including non-BLH species) remained low.

On March 9, the first BLH nymph was observed in the Kettleman Hills area in Kings County. It was the only BLH observed during that survey and remains the only observed BLH nymph to date.

Host plant and BLH sample collection is ongoing. Samples collected from survey areas between January and March have been sent to the lab for viral analysis. As results are received, they will be included in the monthly Program reports.

Moving Forward, the Program will continue to monitor the spring survey areas to see if more rain events bring up new host plants for BLH populations to develop on. Treatments will only be conducted if the BLH populations reach treatment threshold, which is an average of 7-8 BLH per 10 sweeps. Program personnel will send out a Grower Alert if there are areas where BLH populations increase in the coming weeks.

Discussion followed.

FISCAL MATTERS

2020/2021 ACTUAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the Actual Budget Expenditures spreadsheet. He provided an update on all the expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/2020. The Program's total FY 2019/2020 expenditures came out to \$1,444,731.

Mr. Nguyen then reviewed the expenditures for FY 2020/2021 as of March 2021. He stated there is a 2-month delay for some expenditures, but that the Program's total expenditures as of March, was \$867,671, with an approved budget of \$2,219,242.

2020/2021 RECEIVED AND PROJECTED REVENUE

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the Received and Projected Revenue sheet and discussed revenues received in FY 2019/2020, and thus far in FY 2020/2021. In FY 2019/2020 the Program's total received revenue was \$1,546,449. The FY 2020/2021 total received revenue, as of February, is \$2,137,631.

FUND CONDITION STATEMENT

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the Fund Condition Statement sheet. Total revenues received for FY 2019/2020 were \$1,587,741 and total expenditures for that FY were \$1,521,617. The total Program reserve at the end of FY 2019/2020 was \$2,311,719.

Mr. Nguyen further discussed the projected Fund Condition Statement items for FY 2020/2021. The projected revenues are \$2,137,631 and projected expenditures are \$1,786,623. The projected total Program reserve at the end of FY 2020/2021 is \$2,672,202.

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board approve the financial documents as presented for the Actual Budget Expenditures, Received and Projected Revenue, and Fund Condition Statement. The motion was seconded by Dan Burns and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTENTION</u>
Zach Bagley	None	None
Darryl Bettencourt		
Dan Burns		
Mario Caimotto		
Ron Dalforno		
Joseph Nicholl		
Kyle Perez		
Daniel Waterhouse		

2021/2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the FY 2021/2022 Proposed Budget sheet, which was put together by Program personnel based on past actual expenditures and projected needs.

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the current Board Approved budget for FY 2020/2021 and stated that the total Program Approved Budget was \$2,134,100 and the year-to-date expenditures spent were \$867,671, with an available balance of \$1,266,429.

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the Proposed Budget for FY 2021/2022 and stated that the total Proposed Budget is \$2,081,800.

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board approve the FY 2021/2022 Proposed Budget. The motion was seconded by Kyle Perez and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTENTION</u>
Zach Bagley	None	None
Darryl Bettencourt		
Dan Burns		
Mario Caimotto		
Ron Dalforno		

Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Daniel Waterhouse

2021/2022 FUND AGREEMENT

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the FY 2021/2022 Fund Agreement and stated that the Program would need to make the six transfers listed on the Proposed Fund Agreement for July 2021 – December 2021 in order to maintain the CDFA account.

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board approve the FY 2021/2022 Fund Agreement authorizing six monthly transfers of \$174,000 from July 15, 2021, through December 15, 2021, on an as-needed basis. 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

DISCUSSION OF ASSESMENT RATES

Mr. Bettencourt discussed the assessment rates and stated that based on the financial presentation the Board did not need to make any changes to the current assessment rates and asked Michelle Dennis for her input. Ms. Dennis mentioned that the assessment rates are good; and that the Program is continuing to closely monitor the account. She further stated that if there is a change, the Board will be notified immediately so that the Program could hold a special meeting.

HEMP AS A NEW COMMODITY FOR ASSESMENTS UPDATE

Ms. Dennis provided an update on hemp as a new commodity for the CTV assessments. She stated that hemp has 90 days until their regulation change is processed. Once the hemp regulation change is processed, the Program will start the regulation process for CTV assessments.

RESEARCH INTO ALTERNATIVES TO MALATHION UPDATE

Ms. Dennis gave an update on the research into alternatives to malathion. She stated that CDFA has executed the contract for additional research. Ms. Dennis clarified that the funding for the additional research is coming from outside the grower assessments and is not charged to the Program's budget.

Ms. Dennis then offered time to researchers Ian Grettenberger and Tom Trini, who are familiar with the project, to provide additional information to the Board.

Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates were discussed as agenda items for future meetings:

- Fall Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021.
- Financial Subcommittee Meeting: Thursday, July 29, 2021

ADJOURN

Mr. Bettencourt adjourned the meeting at 11:08 am.

Lauren Murphy
Secretary to the Board