

California Department of Food & Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board
2895 N. Larkin Ave. Suite A
Fresno, CA 93727
Conference Room
November 10, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Burns
Daniel Waterhouse

CDFA PERSONNEL

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

*Participated via zoom

GUESTS

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) Meeting that took place on October 20, 2022.

MOTION:

Mario Caimotto moved that the Board approve the minutes from the October 20, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ron Dalforno and passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno

NO

None

ABSTENTION

None

Joseph Nicholl
Kyle Perez
Jennifer Sanders

BOARD VACANCY – Lauren Murphy

There is currently one Board vacancy for District I, Southern California, representing beans, peppers, spinach, sugar beets, and/or tomatoes. A vacancy announcement will be sent out, and resumes will be accepted through March 15, 2023.

PROGRAM UPDATE – Christopher Dillon

Christopher Dillon, CDFA Environmental Scientist, presented a Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program (Program) update for the 2022 field season.

Discussion followed.

BCTVCP STAFFING UPDATE – Michelle Dennis

The motion from the previous BCTVCP Special Meeting regarding requesting additional field staff positions was submitted to and signed off by the Secretary. Ms. Dennis stated that the next step will be for the Board to review the budget and ensure there is funding available for these additional positions. Final approval is needed through the CDFA Budgets office.

The Integrated Pest Control Branch, that houses the Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program, will be hiring a new Administrative Manager to oversee items such as the BCTV assessments.

Discussion followed.

BCTVCP SAMPLES – Michelle Dennis

Ms. Dennis discussed the definitions of and differences between service samples, regulatory samples, and research samples, and how they pertain to Program operations. A discussion followed on the needs and benefits of additional board funded research by the program.

LAMP UPDATE – Michelle Dennis

A status update on the beet curly top virus (BCTV) loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay was provided. CDFA was informed that Dr. Robert Gilbertson (UC Davis) is transferring the LAMP Assay protocol to the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostic Center staff on November 10, 2022.

Discussion followed.

OUTSIDE LABORATORIES UPDATE – Canh Nguyen

Canh Nguyen, Environmental Program Manager for the Program, provided an update on utilization of external laboratories for research on plant and beet leafhopper (BLH) samples for the presence of BCTV. This process is ongoing and Mr. Nguyen will provide another update on this item at the next Board meeting.

Discussion followed.

BCTVCP PEST TRACKING APP UPDATE

The BCTVCP pest tracking app is now live. The app has been updated to include options for submitting data regarding BLH specimens found on sticky traps; an idea that was proposed at the previous Board meeting.

Discussion followed.

Jennifer Sanders suggested adding an option for submissions to include information regarding whether or not plant or BLH samples have been collected from locations and if they tested positive for BCTV.

PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE – Chris Dillon

CDFA is coordinating with the Pesticide Applicators Professional Association (PAPA) and California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA) to deliver outreach seminars in 2023 and is awaiting confirmation of speaker lists from both entities. The Program is in the process of working with the University of California Cooperative Extension to develop an online educational module with content curated around BCTV and BLH.

Discussion followed.

HEMP AS A NEW COMMODITY FOR ASSESMENT UPDATE – Michelle Dennis

Hemp review is considered as a potential new commodity for the BCTV assessments. The Program is going through the evaluation process for hemp and what risk category it would fall into. Criteria the Program utilizes to determine the risk level and the susceptibility factor was presented

Discussion followed.

SUBCOMMITTEES

FINANCIAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Subcommittee Chairman, Ron Dalorno, reported that there were no updates or recommendations at this time.

DIAGNOSTICS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE – Lauren Murphy

The motions from the previous BCTVCB Special Meeting, recommending the establishment of a Diagnostics Subcommittee, were approved. The next step in the process is to contact nominated external members and/or subject matter experts to verify that they are willing to participate in Subcommittee meetings. Ms. Murphy will reach out to nominated Subcommittee Chairman, Ron Dalorno, to determine future meeting dates and will send out a scheduling poll to the Subcommittee members.

Discussion followed.

FISCAL MATTERS

2022/2023 ACTUAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES – Canh Nguyen

The Program's total FY 2022/2023 actual expenditures as of October 2022 were \$285,519.

Discussion followed.

2022/2023 RECEIVED AND PROJECTED REVENUE – Canh Nguyen

The Received and Projected Revenue sheet by month for FY 2021/2022 was presented and reviewed and thus far in FY 2022/2023. For FY 2022/2023, revenues received as of October 2022, were \$1,579,728.

Discussion followed.

2023/2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

The FY 2023/2024 Proposed Budget was presented and reviewed with two options: 1) FY 23 Proposed Budget based on past actual expenditures at \$2,075,800 and 2) FY 23 Proposed Budget based on past actual expenditures and staffing level increase at \$2,801,058.

Discussion followed.

DISCUSSION OF ASSESMENT RATES

The Board decided 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.

Discussion followed.

MOTION:

Ron Dalforno moved to adjust the current FY 22/23 Budget to reflect the addition of \$362,629.00 to fund the addition of 2.5 Agricultural Pest Control Specialist and 8 Pest Prevention Assistant positions for January 2023 through June 2023; and an additional \$100,000.00 for Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program (BCTVCP) research. The motion was seconded by Zach Bagley and passed with a vote of 6 yeas.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Kyle Perez
Jennifer Sanders

None

None

MOTION:

Ron Dalforno moved that the BCTVCP develop a 3–5 year research cooperative partnership between the state and industry, led by the BCTVCP, to assist in the determination of the path forward as the Program continues to explore alternatives in how the Program conducts a comprehensive statewide program, as well as monitoring populations of pest/disease hot spots and migration patterns from the foothills into the agricultural areas. The motion was seconded by Mario Caimotto and passed with a vote of 6 yeas.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Kyle Perez
Jennifer Sanders

None

None

MOTION:

Jennifer Sanders moved to accept the financial documents as presented: FY 22/23 Actual Expenditures, FY 21/22 and FY 22/23 Revenues Received, FY 21/22 Comparison of PTAB Tonnages and Actual BCTVCB Revenues Received, and the Fund Condition Statement. The motion was seconded by Mario Caimotto and passed with a vote of 6 yeas.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Zach Bagley
Darryl Bettencourt
Mario Caimotto
Ron Dalforno
Kyle Perez
Jennifer Sanders

None

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Research Sub-Award Options
- BCTVCP Operational Resources Update
- Financial Review
- Progress on the LAMP Assay

The Board agreed upon the following meeting dates for 2023:

- BCTVCB Special Meeting: January 19, 2023
- BCTVCB Spring 2023 Meeting: Thursday March 16, 2023
- BCTVCB Fall 2023 Meeting: Thursday November 9, 2023

ADJOURN

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:38 pm.

Lauren Murphy
Secretary to the Board