

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Minutes

of the Meeting/Video Conferencing
of the Nursery Advisory Board (NAB)
Held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023

NURSERY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Members Present: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen, Phillip Johnson, Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Members Absent: None

OTHER ATTENDEES*

Kamal Bagri, Jim Hessler, David Kirby, Arima Kozina, Joshua Kress, Brenda Lanini, Jason Leathers, Jasmine Minhas, Keith Okasaki, Lorence Oki, Michael Paule, Wolfgang Schweigkofler, Alex Simmons, Marcie Skelton, Kristina Weber, Greta Varien, Chris Zanobini

*As self-reported in the Zoom application

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Janet Silva Kister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Kister welcomed everyone and reviewed the topics of discussion.

HLB/ACP QUARANTINES UPDATE (CPDPD PRESENTATION)

Keith Okasaki presented updates regarding the Huanglongbing (HLB) and Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantines. As of November 6, 2023, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) added 18 new California counties under the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantine: Alameda, Contra Costa, Kings, Madera, Marin, Merced, Monterey, Placer, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solana, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Yolo counties. Specific changes to the quarantine areas can be found at the APHIS ACP website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/citrus/acp>

Orange County had 4,725 HLB detections out of the 6,790 total HLB detections to date in California, including 759 HLB-positive psyllids.

FRUIT FLY QUARANTINES UPDATE

Jason Leathers updated the Board regarding invasive fruit fly quarantines in California. On average CDFA traps around 75 invasive fruit flies each year, but had

found 764 in 2023 as of this meeting. This was largest number of invasive fruit flies seen in California in over 15 years.

- There were 6 counties with active quarantines throughout California: Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Ventura.
- CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) deploy and maintain thousands of detection traps statewide to locate infestations. CDFA applies pesticide treatments to eradicate invasive fruit flies based on detection triggers. There is a focus on identifying breeding grounds and removal of any present eggs or larvae as well as fruit removal in quarantine areas.
- Assistance with efforts in quarantine areas in 2023 had come from the California Conservation Corp, USDA, and CDFA staff from many other programs and divisions.
- Within an invasive fruit fly quarantine, nurseries must remove all the fruit off host trees for one life cycle while eradication treatments are completed.
- CDFA and CAC were requesting funding for training of more pest detection dogs to increase coverage of inspections at courier facilities like Fed Ex, UPS, and USPS.

UPDATE ON VARIOUS TOPICS

- a. **AB 1573 – Water conservation: landscape design: model ordinance** – Chris Zanobini expressed concerns with the proposed requirements, however the bill was pulled and held at Senate floor. The Board discussed putting a working group together in the future regarding this issue.
- b. **FAC § 242 Update** – Arima Kozina, CDFA Deputy Secretary of Administration and Finance, gave the Board a presentation on FAC § 242, its purpose and gave historical context.
- c. **Tropical Milkweed Pest Rating** – Kristina Weber informed the Board that there were no changes to Pest Rating. Tropical Milkweed was B-rated. Weber explained the process for members of the public to submit a Pest Rating Proposal Form, found online at: <https://blogs.cdfa.ca.gov/Section3162/>.
- d. **Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Update** –Weber informed the Board that the State exterior quarantine is still in place and noted that a meeting for industry regarding SLF would be scheduled for January or February.
- e. **Cotton Seed Bug Update** –Weber reported on behalf of the Integrated Pest Control (IPC) Branch. IPC reported that 10% of all commercial cotton acreage grown in the state was visually inspected and sampled. Additionally, okra acreage was visually inspected and sampled with no detection of cotton seed bug. Boll samples will continue to be tested through the end of year and once completed, results will be reported at:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/IPC/pinkbollworm/pbw_hp.htm.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 16, 2023 AND OCTOBER 12, 2023 BOARD MEETINGS

Kister directed the Board to review the draft minutes prepared by the program staff for the May 16 and October 12, 2023 meetings. A copy of the draft minutes had been distributed to the Board members and posted on the Department's website prior to the

meeting. Kister opened the floor for any changes or corrections. The Board reviewed minutes, and no changes or corrections were made.

Board Motion

The Board approves minutes from the May 10, 2023 and October 12, 2023, meetings.

Motion: Michael Frantz

Second: David Cox

In Favor: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen, Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Absent: Phillip Johnson

Abstain: None

NURSERY PROGRAM FY2024-25 BUDGET AND FUND CONDITION

Jasmine Minhas presented the Program's proposed spending plan and fund condition statement for FY 2024-25 (attached).

The Board discussed concerns with FAC § 242 and the Program's proposed spending plan, and a recommendation was made to form a committee to investigate FAC § 242 and indirect costs over 5% before the next budget cycle. Kister appointed a task force of David Cox and herself to conduct this investigation and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Board Motion

The Board recommends a proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2024/25, as follows:

- Amendment of the spending plan as presented to reduce the total indirect charges to be limited to five percent of program revenue, in accordance with Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 242.

Motion: Michael Frantz

Second: David Cox

In Favor: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen, Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Absent: Phillip Johnson

Abstain: None

Board Motion

The Board recommends allocation of \$2,000 for out-of-state travel in FY 2024/25 for attendance by program staff at the Western Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society's Annual Meeting and Education Seminar.

Motion: David Cox

Second: Josh Puckett

In Favor: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen, Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Absent: Phillip Johnson

Abstain: None

REVIEW UPDATED BOARD PROCEDURES

Kister reviewed the current Board Procedure section 1.1 Membership with the Board, as amended during the October 12, 2023 meeting.

REVIEW LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI) FOR VOTING AND NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES

Weber shared a draft Letter of Interest (LOI) form. The LOI form can assist the Board with gathering basic information and industry specific information regarding applicants for Board vacancies. The Board suggested several edits, which would be added to the LOI and presented back to the Board at their next meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS OF NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

Kister reviewed the applications from Alexandria Simmons and Gerry Spinelli for appointment as ex-officio non-voting board members.

Board Motion

The Board recommended approval of Alexandria Simmons to represent PlantRight as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Nursery Advisory Board.

Motion: Michael Frantz

Second: Dan Waterhouse

In Favor: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen, Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Absent: Phillip Johnson

Abstain: None

Program Note: When Nursery Services staff contacted Simmons to confirm her interest in appointment after the meeting, she declined to be appointed to the Board as she was no longer associated with PlantRight.

Board Motion

The Board recommended approval of Gerry Spinelli to represent the University of California Cooperative Extension as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Nursery Advisory Board.

Motion: David Cox

Second: Dan Waterhouse

In Favor: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen,
Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Absent: Phillip Johnson

Abstain: None

The Board then discussed nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Kister called for nominations. Michael Frantz nominated David Cox for Chair. Daniel Waterhouse volunteered to continue to serve as Vice Chair.

Board Motion

The Board elects David Cox as the Chair of the Nursery Advisory Board.

Motion: Michael Frantz

Second: Bruce Jensen

In Favor: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen,
Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Absent: Phillip Johnson

Abstain: None

Board Motion

The Board elects Daniel Waterhouse as the Vice Chair of the Nursery Advisory Board.

Motion: David Cox

Second: Michael Frantz

In Favor: David Cox, Michael Frantz, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen,
Janet Silva Kister, Josh Puckett, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Absent: Phillip Johnson

Abstain: None

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING / AGENDA ITEMS

The next Board meeting will be set for Spring 2024. Proposed agenda items included:

- FAC § 242 update and discussion
- Review updated Letter of Interest (LOI) Form

ADJOURNMENT

Kister adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Michael Paule, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Nursery Services Program
California Department of Food & Agriculture