

Nursery Advisory Board (NAB) Meeting
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
2800 Gateway Oaks Dr., Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95833
Tuesday, June 4, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Voting Members

Justin Brown
Robert Crudup
David Cox
Don Dillon
Janet Silva Kister
Steve Maniaci
Steve McShane
Scott Nicholson
Elizabeth Elwood Ponce
Daniel Waterhouse

Non-Voting Members

Kasey Cronquist
Fred Crowder
John Kabashima
Eric Larson
Lorence Oki
Karen Suslow
Chris Zanobini

CDFA & Guests

Secretary Karen Ross
Courtney Albrecht
Tad Bell
Sara Camara
Mike Colvin
Ha Dang
John Heaton
Marilyn Kinoshita
Kathy Kosta
Joshua Kress
Phuong Lao
Amber Morris
Roger Spencer
Bob Wynn

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 9:15am by Joshua Kress, Board Manager. Board Members and guests provided self-introductions.

2. Public Comments

No comments from public.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Kress welcomed Board Members and guests, and reviewed housekeeping and agenda items. Pest Exclusion Branch Chief Courtney Albrecht introduced herself to the Board and stated she looks forward to this forum for collaboration between CDFA and the nursery industry.

4. CDFA Update – Quarantine Programs

Amber Morris from CDFA's Interior Pest Exclusion Program reviewed how the various programs in CDFA's Plant Health Division fit into the Department's Plan for Pest Prevention. She reviewed the Interior Program's primary functions: High Risk inspections, Dog Teams, state-to-state communications, phytosanitary certification, and some quarantine activities. Morris also updated the Board on recent changes to export requirements for host plants shipped from the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) Quarantine area to Mexico and Canada. She informed the Board that USDA will be meeting with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to discuss the current LBAM export requirements. USDA has requested proposals for alternatives to these requirements, with an extended deadline of June 18, 2013. CDFA has issued Phytosanitary Advisory 15-2013 with further information.

Secretary of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross introduced herself to the Board. As discussions continued, she informed the Board that the expected increases in revenue at the state level will not be used to expand current budget levels. She stated that CDFA is looking at new ways of

implementing technology and analyzing practices in order to find alternatives to keep programs effective at lower funding levels. Public-private partnerships are the path to achieve this leaner, more effective government. It was suggested to the Secretary to look at “user fees” for plant and high risk material coming into California as an alternative funding source for CDFA programs.

Victoria Hornbaker, Citrus Program Manager for CDFA, addressed the Board via conference phone to introduce herself to the Board and to provide an overview of her new role as Board Manager of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CCPDPC) and liaison for citrus at CDFA. Hornbaker also provided an update on the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and Huanglongbing disease (HLB) quarantine and restricted areas in California.

5. CDFA Update – Nursery Services Program

Kress provided an overview of the functions of CDFA’s Nursery, Seed, & Cotton Program. He also provided a brief overview of the Nursery Licensing revenue and the Nursery Services budgets and expenses for current and prior fiscal years. There was a projected slight decrease in total revenue for FY 2012-13. Charts for FY 2011-12 showed that the majority of revenue comes from License Fees for nursery sales locations; additionally, one-quarter to one-third of revenue is from fees for Registration and Certification Programs.

Kress estimated that the Nursery Services budget would increase slightly for FY 2012-13 to a total of approximately \$2.9 million. This increase can be found primarily in increased cost of staff benefits, recalculation of indirect, and the purchase of vehicles. The Program’s current fund condition was not available at this time, but will be provided at the next Board Meeting.

A chart was also provided showing the changes in license and acreage fee revenue and the number of licensed nurseries over a 6-year period. Kress reported that counties are reimbursed a total of \$600,000 per year for nursery inspections, and this was calculated out to a rate of \$14.73 per acre during 2012-13.

6. County Agricultural Commissioners Update

Marilyn Kinoshita and Fred Crowder provided updates on fiscal and regulatory status at the County Agricultural Commissioners offices in California. Kinoshita reported that there is a draft Compliance Agreement for the inspection and approval of insect-resistant structures by county inspectors for compliance with ACP regulations at nurseries outside of the current quarantine areas in order to facilitate movement of nursery stock upon the establishment of a quarantine. Kinoshita also reported that the County Agricultural Commissioners would like to review the current reimbursement rates for nematode certification and would like clarification regarding the rules for fee exempt licenses. Crowder stated that he looks forward to working with this Board to help find efficiencies and set priorities in the face of cut backs.

7. Proposal of Board Mission and Objectives (Action Item)

Board Members discussed what they felt the Board’s mission and objectives should be. This included:

- Being a forum for the nursery industry to advise the Secretary on the decisions and activities of CDFA
- Relating this partnership back to the nursery industry and consumers
- Collaborating with CDFA and USDA in pest risk assessment
- Helping CDFA and the CAC be more efficient and effective
- Helping keep the business of the nursery industry viable

A mission statement was proposed as “Create and maintain a relationship between CDFA and the nursery industry in order to secure the industry’s future.”

It was suggested for the Board to encourage the use of state funds and revenue as much as possible in order to maintain control and not have programs imposed on California. This was countered with a suggestion to balance this with necessary funds from other sources, such as with emergency quarantine projects and the Farm Bill.

It was mentioned that USDA could be brought to the table to discuss issues with the Board as needed.

Albrecht suggested that a key issue for the nursery industry is the unpredictability inherent to quarantines, and suggested that the Board could help to address this issue by providing a forum for a proactive discussion and review of standards and procedures prior to and/or at the start of quarantine incidents.

8. Proposal of Board Procedures (Action Item)

Draft Board Procedures were provided to Board Members and attendees. It was suggested to add “indoor foliage plants” to the list of segments of the nursery industry to be considered when determining representation. The Board felt that continuing with 12 voting members and 8 to 9 non-voting ex officio members is sufficient at this time. The Board was in agreement that appropriate county representatives to sit as non-voting members would be the chairs of CACASA’s Pest Prevention Committee and Nursery Seed & Apiary Committee, as well as up to one additional CAC to ensure representation from Southern California.

The Board agreed to four year terms, with starting terms for half of the Board Members to end in 2015 in order to stagger reappointments. A plan for this division will be developed by CDFA and presented for approval at the next Board Meeting.

Consensus of the Board was that two regular meetings should be held annually, one in the latter half of February and one in the latter half of August.

All recommendations for changes to the Board Procedures will be presented for approval at the next Board Meeting.

9. Election of Officers

Elizabeth Elwood Ponce volunteered to serve as Chair of the Board. Daniel Waterhouse motioned that Ponce be named Chair. Robert Crudup seconded. Board unanimously voted in favor. Motion carried.

Janet Silva Kister motioned that Steve McShane be named Vice-Chair. Robert Crudup seconded. Board unanimously voted in favor. Motion carried.

10. Committee Proposals

Board discussed ideas for future committees and working groups, including South American Palm Weevil (SAPW), LBAM, citrus nursery stock, and regulation development/review. CDFA will compile Committee and Working Group proposals prior to the next Board Meeting for discussion and establishment.

11. New Items

None.

12. Next Meeting/Agenda Items

Board Members recommended that the next meeting be held in Sacramento in the latter half of August. A Doodle poll will be sent out by Kress to determine best date available. It was requested that suggestions for agenda items be sent to Kress to be included on the agenda for the meeting.

13. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joshua Kress
Senior Environmental Scientist
CDFA Nursery, Seed, & Cotton Program

Approved by Board Motion on September 11, 2013