

Nursery Advisory Board (NAB) Meeting
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
1220 N Street, Room 133
Sacramento, CA 95814
Wednesday, September 11, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Voting Members

Mike Babineau
David Cox
Robert Crudup
Don Dillon
Janet Silva Kister
Steve Maniaci
Steve McShane
Scott Nicholson
Elizabeth Elwood Ponce
John Rader

Non-Voting Members

Fred Crowder
Ha Dang
John Kabashima
Eric Larson
Lorence Oki
Karen Suslow
Chris Zanobini

CDFA & Guests

Courtney Albrecht
Sara Camara
Nick Condos
John Heaton
Dean Kelch
Kathy Kosta
Joshua Kress
Phuong Lao
Robert Leavitt
Karen Melvin
Amber Morris
Debby Tanouye
Kristina Weber

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Elizabeth Elwood Ponce, Board Chair. Board Members and guests provided self-introductions.

2. Public Comments

No comments from public.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Joshua Kress welcomed Board Members and guests, and reviewed housekeeping and agenda items.

4. CDFA Update – Quarantine Programs

Amber Morris updated the Board on the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) Quarantine Program. For the 2012/13 fiscal year, CDFA received a total of \$4.622 million from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for LBAM, which was about 14% lower than original request of \$5.4 million due to sequestration. CDFA has requested \$4.622 million to continue operation of the LBAM Program for 2013/14. Morris reported that industry and regulatory leaders met on July 30, 2013 and recommended keeping the Federal Order for LBAM in place. USDA responded to this request by stating that they remain committed to the program and do not intend to rescind the Federal Order.

Morris reported that CDFA is seeking participation in a new working group to update treatment options and evaluate host lists for LBAM. Chris Zanobini volunteered to reach out to members of the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC) that are located within the quarantine areas for possible participants. Board Members briefly discussed the possible effects on California nurseries if USDA rescinds the Federal Order.

Morris reported that CDFA has requested \$500,000 in task grant funding through USDA Foreign Agricultural Services for delimitation in non-quarantine areas and to fund other activities required by Canada and Mexico in order to facilitate trade to those two countries. CDFA is continuing to work with USDA to revise requirements for export to Mexico and Canada to include updated treatment options and exempt certain genera and species of nursery stock and cut flowers that are not regulated domestically.

(Item #4 was continued later in the meeting to accommodate the schedule of a participant.)

5. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Steve McShane motioned to approve the Minutes for the June 4, 2013 Board Meeting as submitted by Joshua Kress. Steve Maniaci seconded. Board unanimously voted in favor. Motion carried.

6. CDFA Update – Nursery Services Program

Joshua Kress provided a brief overview of projected Nursery Licensing revenue and Nursery Services Program expenditures for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 fiscal years.

Kress provided an estimate of the expenditures related to the Nursery Stock Registration and Certification (R&C) Programs during 2012/13. Revenue from R&C fees was estimated to cover around 50% of the calculated expenditures, which was believed to be consistent with historical practices. Kress stated that the Program will continue to review these figures and report back to the Board.

Kress estimated that Program's reserves stand at around \$1.26 million. The Program has historically tried to maintain reserves of between one-third and one-half of annual expenditures (between \$1 million and \$1.5 million). Kress reported that currently revenue is projected to be flat with expenditures, but that expenditures will be going up for 2013/14 due to higher personnel costs with the end of furloughs. Board Members recommended staying updated on the Program's reserves and considering fee adjustments proactively in order to ensure that reserves do not dip below an acceptable level. Kress stated that the Program will present a more detailed fund condition statement at the next Board Meeting.

CDFA Update – Quarantine Programs (continuation of Item #4)

Courtney Albrecht provided an update on the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and Huanglongbing disease (HLB) quarantines in California. CDFA has confirmed detections of ACP in the Central Valley near the cities of Porterville, Wasco, and Dinuba, and has established State Interior Quarantine Areas around each of the finds.

Joshua Kress reported that a voluntary program was created to ease the transition for nurseries into an ACP quarantine. A nursery outside of a current quarantine area may sign a compliance agreement with the county for the inspection and approval of insect-resistant structures used to produce citrus nursery stock. These inspections are then taken into account when determining if the structures meet federal inspection requirements upon establishment of a quarantine. CDFA and USDA provided two trainings for county inspectors regarding this new program.

7. County Agricultural Commissioners Update

Fred Crowder and Ha Dang provided updates on activities and concerns at the County Agricultural Commissioners' offices in California. Crowder reported that there is concern about the availability and/or reduction of funds for Pest Prevention programs that previously had been

provided by CDFA and/or USDA. Many counties are either using county general funds to cover expenditures or making cutbacks to these programs. The County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) is working with CDFA on exploring Farm Bill funding for detection, survey, and control programs for new pests where CDFA is not taking statewide eradication action (such as Brown Marmorated Stink Bug). Janet Silva Kister suggested that Crowder and CACASA keep the Board updated on these proposals so that industry can provide assistance with these efforts where possible.

Ha Dang reported that a San Diego County dog team intercepted a citrus tree that was shipped to San Diego from Florida through Ohio. The County has worked with CDFA and USDA to trace-back this shipment and close this pathway. Dang also reported that San Diego County is working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to survey a nursery where coqui frogs were introduced. Coqui frogs are considered a public nuisance pest due to their loud mating calls and are prohibited entry into California.

8. Board Mission and Objectives Discussion and Approval

Joshua Kress presented a summary of the Mission and Objectives discussion from the June 4, 2013 Board Meeting. David Cox recommended adding how the Board will interact with other commodity advisory boards. A working group was appointed to further develop the Mission and Objectives and report back to the Board for approval. The working group consists of Steve McShane, Chris Zanobini, and Eric Larson, with McShane as the chair.

9. Board Procedures Discussion and Approval

Joshua Kress presented draft Board Procedures and reviewed edits made after the June Meeting. Steve McShane motioned to adopt the Board Procedures as presented. David Cox seconded. Board unanimously voted in favor. Motion carried.

10. Committee Proposals Discussion

Board Members discussed whether or not to form a citrus committee. Board Members felt that the existing Citrus Nursery Regulatory Advisory Committee chaired by Bob Zuckerman should continue to fill this role. Board Members also recommended that Don Dillon act as the Board's citrus nursery representative, and that CDFA maintain communication with Dillon regarding citrus nursery issues so that he can relay such information to the Board and citrus nurseries.

Board Members discussed CDFA's formation of a South American Palm Weevil (SAPW) Working Group. John Kabashima agreed to assist CDFA with contacting potential nursery industry participants for this working group. Board Members suggested that this working group should consider all palm weevils, rather than just SAPW.

A standing committee was appointed to review and make recommendations regarding Nursery License fees. The committee consists of Mike Babineau, Chris Zanobini, Steve Maniaci, and Scott Nicholson, with Zanobini as chair.

John Kabashima reported on Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, a newly discovered pest with a broad host range that infests large parts of Los Angeles and Orange counties. Kabashima recommended that Board Members keep an eye on this pest as an emerging pest of concern.

11. New Items

Elizabeth Elwood Ponce expressed a concern for improved communication regarding urgent issues such as new pest finds. Joshua Kress explained that CDFA is hoping to have names of

Board Members to work closely with for specific issues, such as Don Dillon for citrus pests. Ponce recommended that specific Board Members could be identified as being the best points of contact as new issues come up. Kress agreed to communicate information regarding new issues to the whole Board via e-mail.

Mike Babineau asked whether there is a formal process for resolution for a dispute between a nursery and a County Agricultural Commissioner over a hold or other order. John Kabashima related that nurseries were confused regarding a recent appeal hearing held by CDFA and suggested that the nurseries be provided with more information as to what to expect for such hearings. Ha Dang explained the appeal process available to recipients of a fine via a Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) from the county. Babineau explained that he was looking for a method of resolution for a situation before it reached the point of a formal fine and a formal appeal. Amber Morris suggested contacting the program at CDFA that oversees the particular activity (such as the Pierce's Disease Control Program for issues regarding Glassy-winged Sharpshooter).

Mike Babineau requested that the most recent recommended treatment protocols for Diaprepes Root Weevil and Red Imported Fire Ant be reviewed. It was also suggested that organic alternatives be considered. Joshua Kress stated that any suggestions regarding alternative treatments can be forwarded to him along with research showing the treatment's effectiveness and he will submit the request to the appropriate CDFA scientists for review and possible addition to or revision of current protocols.

David Cox provided an overview of his participation in the National Plant Board's Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) Committee. SANC is developing a comprehensive nursery stock certification program based on Best Management Practices. Cox will be attending a meeting later in September regarding an upcoming pilot program. His hope is that SANC can lead to less cost for regulatory oversight and a streamlined phytosanitary certification process for nurseries to ship interstate. Board Members felt that this program will need buy-in from all US states in order for it to be worthwhile for nurseries to participate.

Janet Silva Kister brought up recent reports regarding connections in the media between neonicotinoid pesticide use and Bee Decline. Kister asked Joshua Kress to forward to the Board a handout on this issue developed by the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) and the Society of American Florists (SAF).

Steve McShane asked about previous efforts to establish a nursery marketing assessment for the creation of a nursery commission. Chris Zanobini explained that the previous efforts failed due to heavy opposition from certain members of the industry. Elizabeth Elwood Ponce suggested revisiting this issue in the future.

Dean Kelch mentioned two newly found weeds that he has seen causing problems at nurseries in California: *Fatua villosa* (hairy crabweed) and *Mercurialis ambigua* (Spanish mercury). Kelch agreed to send further information on these weeds to the Board Members.

Kathy Kosta thanked Board Members who had offered their assistance on a multi-state research project on soil solarization being performed by Jennifer Parke from Oregon State University in association with the National Ornamental Research Site at Dominican University of California (NORS-DUC).

Joshua Kress mentioned that Program staff drew lots to determine the initial term lengths of the Board Members as decided at the June Meeting. The new term ending dates were added to the Board Member list.

Steve McShane suggested that a representative from PlantRight provide a presentation to the Board in the future. Joshua Kress stated that he is a member of California Horticultural Invasives Prevention (Cal-HIP), which is the steering committee for PlantRight, and that he would work with the group to arrange a presentation at a future meeting.

John Kabashima asked about the current financial situation at CDFA. Nick Condos stated that they do not expect further budget cuts at this time. Kabashima also suggested that the Board Members attend the upcoming “21st Century Symposium” being held by CDFA at UC Davis.

12. Next Meeting/Agenda Items

Board Members recommended that the next meeting be held in Sacramento in late February or early March 2014. A Doodle poll will be sent out by Joshua Kress around December 1, 2013 to determine best date available. Future meetings will begin at 10:00 am.

13. Adjournment

Robert Crudup motioned to adjourn the Board Meeting. Don Dillon seconded. Board voted unanimously in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Approved by Board Motion on February 26, 2014