

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
CALIFORNIA STATE APIARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Rm 410
Sacramento, CA 95814**

December 10, 2018

2:00 PM

The meeting of the California State Apiary Board was called to order at approximately 2:05 PM on December 10, 2018 in Sacramento, California by Board Chair Roger Everett.

Board Members Present

Roger Everett, Chair
Bob Brandi

Harold "Buzz" Landon
Bryan Ashurst (via phone, non-voting)

Board Members Absent

David Bradshaw

CDFA Staff Present

Karen Ross, Secretary
Victoria Hornbaker
Courtney Albrecht

Nick Condos
Keith Morris

Presenters and Members of the Industry, Public

Sandy Elles, California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA)
Chris Zanobini, Ag Association Management Services (AAMSI)
Karli Quinn, AAMSI
Sosan Madanat, Lighthouse Public Affairs
Jackie Park-Burris (via phone), California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA)
Rick Gurrola, Agricultural Commissioner, Tehama County
Samantha Brunner (via phone), North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Roger Everett, Chairman of the California State Apiary Board welcomed the Board, staff, and members of the public participating in person and on the phone. He stated that there was a quorum for the meeting.

Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act

Courtney Albrecht and the Board acknowledged compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Pursuant to Government Code Section 11120-11132.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the June 9, 2017 and November 16, 2017 meetings. Roger Everett noted an omission on the June 9, 2017 minutes pertaining to the discussion about board member terms (page 2). Discussion was held, and it was determined that the following amendment should be made to the June 9, 2017 minutes: Add: "and in such a manner as to not interfere with the replacement schedule of vacant seats."

Motion: Harold "Buzz" Landon moved that the Board recommend approving the minutes of the June 9, 2017 Board meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Bob Brandi and passed unanimously.

Motion: Harold "Buzz" Landon moved that the Board recommend approving the minutes of November 16, 2017 Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Brandi and passed unanimously.

Apiary Board Vacancies, Rotation and Timing

Courtney Albrecht provided a hand-out to the Board members showing their appointment dates and originally scheduled term-out dates (two seats expired in June 2017; three seats expired in 2018).

Roger Everett stated that he was concerned about the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) recent press release pertaining to board vacancies, as it did not adequately stagger the terms. He noted that the board member terms should be staggered and not all seats should be replaced at once. Mr. Everett noted that the statutes pertaining to the apiary board seats need to be "cleaned-up" and should include a schedule for staggered replacements.

Victoria Hornbaker provided a potential plan to replace the two seats that expired in June 2017 in January 2019, and to replace the three seats that originally expired in June 2018 in June 2019. General concern was expressed about this plan, and it was generally seen as not providing enough time between seat replacement to ensure Board consistency. Jackie Park-Burris stated her support for staggering the seat expiration dates, indicating that that was the way it was intended.

Chris Zanobini confirmed the current efforts taking place to develop legislation that will update the statutes pertaining to the Apiary Board. Secretary Karen Ross expressed her support for updating the statutes and indicated that although the original board seat expiration dates had

passed, with the “clean-up” legislation underway, the board terms could be extended. Ms. Hornbaker noted that the Board terms will be posted to the internet.

Discussion was held regarding the selection process for new Board members. There was general agreement that all applications would be sent to the Apiary Board for review. Roger Everett recommended an extension of the deadline for submission of applications for Board vacancies to January 15, 2019 to allow the California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA) to submit their recommendations. It was agreed that CDFA would submit all Apiary Board applications to CSBA for review.

Secretary Ross concurred with extending the deadline to January 15, 2019 and clarified that CDFA would re-issue the press release advertising only the two Apiary Board vacancies that expired in 2017.

Motion: Bob Brandi moved that the Board recommend extending the deadline for applications to be received for the Apiary Board member vacancies to January 15, 2019 and to advertise only the two 2017 vacancies. The motion was seconded by Harold “Buzz” Landon and passed unanimously.

Motion: Harold “Buzz” Landon moved that the Board recommend establishing March 1, 2019 as the expiration date for the two Board seats previously expiring in June 2017. The motion was seconded by Bob Brandi and passed unanimously.

Motion: Bob Brandi moved that the Board recommend establishing March 1, 2020 as the expiration date for the three remaining Board seats previously set to expire in June 2018. The motion was seconded by Harold “Buzz” Landon and passed unanimously.

Update on Needles Border Protection Station Reconditioning Facilities

Keith Morris provided an update on the reconditioning at the Needles Border Protection Stations (BPS), stating that starting September 1, 2018, there have been a total of 1,808 apiary shipments. A total of 80 trucks have been rejected, and a total of 118 Pest and Damage Records (PDR’s) have been submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory. Interceptions include A-rated (7), Q-rated (17), W-rated (2), and B-rated (18) pests.

All BPS’s except Vidal have water available. The newest station, Mountain Pass, has the infrastructure to include an overhead watering system for bees and bids for installation of the system are in the works. Mt. Pass currently has four spigots and 100-foot hoses. The Truckee BPS has two overhead systems with six sprayers per unit. The Needles BPS has a total of 12 water sources and 12 hoses available for use by the drivers.

For the Voluntary Ant-Free Certification Program, the ant tolerance level has changed from no more than five worker ants per shipment to no more than five worker ants per species per shipment. The State of Utah has been added to the program, and the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services will have personnel available to issue certificates this season.

Regarding the apiary reconditioning site at the Needles BPS, Mr. Morris confirmed that apiary shipment reconditioning is handled by the same two individuals, but at a secure location away from the Needles BPS and confirmed that this is the only re-conditioning location in the state. Mr. Morris stated that CDFA plans to have inspectors at the reconditioning site to perform re-inspection after reconditioning, and to release the shipments from there so the trucks do not have to return to the Needles BPS for clearance.

North Dakota Apiary Pre-Inspection Pilot Program

Keith Morris discussed the 2018 North Dakota Apiary Pre-Inspection Pilot Program, noting that over 45,000 hives from a total of 11 shippers were inspected. Certificates of Quarantine Compliance were issued to individual shippers who self-certified their shipments. As of November 28, 2018, over 21,000 pre-inspected hives have entered the state. The remaining hives are in enclosed warehouses and are not expected to enter the state until early spring. North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) inspectors are planning to visit the Truckee and Needles BPS in January 2019 to see the inspection process carried out by CDFA inspectors.

Bob Brandi asked if the North Dakota Pilot Project would be continued in the future. Nick Condos responded that ideally the program would continue, but CDFA is still in the process of developing the program, including having the NDDA inspectors view CDFA's inspection efforts, and to work with the counties to develop a follow-up protocol for pre-inspected shipments.

Roger Everett asked if CDFA intends to broaden the program to include shipments from other states. Nick Condos replied that he anticipates a two-to-three-year period of program development and expansion to other states, and then he anticipates being able to pass the program on to the other states as an Origin Inspection Program. Victoria Hornbaker confirmed that the focus of the program will be on warehoused bees.

County Apiary Program Changes – Bee Safe

Courtney Albrecht reported on the new Bee Safe Program, stating funding for the program was the result of an approved Budget Change Proposal (BCP) submitted last year. The BCP requested funds for county apiary activities, and to support a new Environmental Scientist position at CDFA for the program.

Ms. Albrecht stated the goals and objectives of the Bee Safe Program are:

- To improve apiary theft prevention efforts through use of apiary brands and assist local law enforcement to investigate incidents of apiary theft;
- To decrease apiary pest pressure by conducting pest inspections, both on incoming hives and in support of local county ordinances;
- To decrease apiary stress due to pesticide exposure by identifying and tracking locations free of pesticides where bees can be placed (areas also known as “safe harbors”);
- To increase apiary foraging opportunities by identifying and tracking foraging locations.

The full amount approved by legislature for the program is \$1,853,000 per year for three years. Approximately, \$1,500,000 million would be directed to 40 counties this year, with the remaining funds supporting the CDFA program personnel. The CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioners worked together to identify program activities, including apiary pest inspections of out-of-state hives, inspections to support county pest ordinances, and efforts to help local law enforcement investigate incidents of apiary theft.

Sandy Elles clarified that funding and activities for the Bee Safe Program are separate from other apiary programs, such as the Bee Where program, but cost and resource efficiencies from all apiary related programs will help improve service and bee health.

Jackie Park-Burris asked how the program objectives were decided and indicated that she did not list “theft” as an issue when she provided testimony to the legislature. Roger Everett also expressed concern pertaining to the “safe-harbor” objective and stated the difficulty in finding any qualifying areas outside of federal or state-owned land. Victoria Hornbaker and Ms. Albrecht responded, indicating that the apiary theft incidents that were reported in 2016-17 were influential in the development of the BCP, as well as the ideas shared by stakeholders at the 2015 Healthy Pollinators Working Group Meeting.

Victoria Hornbaker also shared the state hiring process, and confirmed that the new Environmental Scientist, Patricia Bohls, would work with the Apiary Board. Karli Quinn stated that Ms. Bohls should move forward working with the Board. Ms. Madanat asked if Ms. Bohls could meet more regularly with the Board.

Sosan Madanat asked if reports from the Bee Safe Program would be developed, and if the Apiary Board could get the reports. Ms. Albrecht stated that counties will report on their activities, and that CDFA is required to submit a report on the Bee Safe Program to the legislature.

Review of Assembly Bill 2468 – Colony Relocation

Sandy Elles introduced the topic, stating that the intention of the bill was to give resources to the County Agricultural Commissioners to help bees. Rick Gurrola indicated that GIS mapping

used for bee hive tracking will provide up-to-date and modern tools for both Bee Safe and Bee Where programs.

Mr. Gurrola summarized the main changes to bee hive registrations contained in AB 2468, including changes to the notification requirement for inter-county movement of bees from five days to 72 hours; requiring notification for intra-county movement of bees; and providing that County Agricultural Commissioners can assess civil penalties for violations of the California Food and Agricultural Code. Mr. Gurrola indicated that the civil penalty authority has been approved in Tehama County for approximately 8 years and to date there have been no civil penalties issued. Compliance has historically been accomplished through education.

Rick Gurrola indicated that regulations will be needed to define levels of violations to provide statewide enforcement consistency. The California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) will work with industry to develop future regulations. Ms. Elles stated that enforcement will not start until January 2020 and that counties will provide education first. Ms. Elles also stated that since this was a new program, CACASA needs feedback from industry and will set up a system to receive feedback.

Questions regarding the pesticide permit numbering system, the CalAg permit system, “field watch”, and site registrations were asked, and Roger Everett expressed concern regarding adequate funding. Ms. Elles and Mr. Gurrola explained that efforts were being made to ensure resources such as system upgrades and training material could be of benefit to both Bee Where and Bee Safe Programs.

Public Comments

Jackie Park-Burriss indicated that she would like Patricia Bohls to be invited to the CSBA Board meeting.

Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Roger Everett stated that there was a break-down in communication, specifically regarding the North Dakota Apiary Pre-Inspection Pilot Program, from CDFA and wanted to know what could be done to ensure it does not happen again.

Discussion was held regarding options to improve communication, including scheduling more board meetings, developing an apiary list serve, and sending reports to board members via email. Victoria Hornbaker stated that meetings could be held via webinar, but all locations where Board members accessed the webinar would need to be accessible to the public.

Next meeting

It was decided that the Board would postpone scheduling their next meeting.

Adjourn

Roger Everett moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob Brandi and passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.