

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
CALIFORNIA APIARY BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Sacramento, California  
June 9, 2017

The meeting of the California Apiary Board was called to order at approximately 11:05 AM on June 9, 2017 in Sacramento, California by Committee Chair Roger Everett. The following were in attendance:

**Board Members Present**

Roger Everett, Chair, Terra Bella, CA  
Bryan Ashurst, Westmoreland, CA  
Harold "Buzz" Landon, Richvale, CA

**CDFA Staff Present**

Nick Condos  
Victoria Hornbaker  
Roger Cline  
Courtney Albrecht

**Members of the Public**

none

**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 previous meeting. An error was identified pertaining to the date of the previous meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. Motion was seconded. A vote was conducted with the following results:

Ayes: Roger Everett, Brian Ashurst, Harold "Buzz" Landon  
Nays: None

### **Apiary Board Committee Reports**

None

### **California Department of Food and Agriculture Report**

Courtney Albrecht informed the board of two upcoming board member expirations at the end of 2017: Bob Brandi and Bryan Ashurst. Discussion was held and a recommendation and motion were made to extend their terms until after the current issue pertaining to apiary shipment reconditioning at the CDFA border stations is resolved and in such a manner as to not interfere with the replacement schedule of vacant seats.

A vote was held with the following results:

Ayes: Roger Everett, Brian Ashurst, Harold "Buzz" Landon  
Nays: None

Nick Condos opened the discussion pertaining to the cleaning of rejected apiary loads at the Needles Border Inspection Station. Mr. Condos informed the board that the cleaning or "reconditioning" of rejected shipments at Needles and all other stations exposes the state to liability issues pertaining to public and employee safety. He clarified for the board that the "reconditioner" is a private business operating on state property adjacent to the needles station, and that this private business must find a new location.

Mr. Condos stated that cleaning of rejected shipments can still occur, but must be performed away from the stations.

A discussion was held with the following comments, questions and responses:

Roger Everett asked if CDFA has any other property nearby to the Needles station. Mr. Condos responded that the cleaning cannot occur on state property.

Harold "Buzz" Landon asked if there is any way to address the issue from a timing perspective. Roger Cline responded that during the busy season, everyone shows up all at the same time and there can be delays as drivers need to wait in line for the inspection. An idea was shared pertaining to the scheduling of appointments for inspection times to avoid the delay.

Roger Everett commented that a "fast pass or free pass" provided through interstate cooperation would be preferable to scheduling appointments. Both Nick Condos and Roger

Cline responded that the idea is similar to the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)-Free program which over time has not been found to be effective.

Roger Everett commented that the stations appear to have different policies pertaining to pests; for instance, the difference between small hive beetle rejections at the northern vs. southern stations. Roger Cline stated that rejections would occur at all stations for all state-actionable pests.

Roger Everett identified two courses of action:

1. Inform reconitioner of the need to find a new site;
2. Reach out to other states and national associations so they are aware of the issue. Mr. Everett stated that if the cleaning were to occur in another state, guidance would be needed from CDFA regarding how to approach the other states.

Nick Condos responded that CDFA would contact other states regarding a new cleaning location in the other states, and also to pitch the idea of a pre-inspection program.

Roger Everett commented that a state-run program would be preferable to a privately-run program because the current cleaning process is not always complete, and shipments may still be dirty.

Discussion was held pertaining to the states from which the rejected shipments originated. Motion was made and seconded for CDFA to share rejection data with the board. A vote took place with the following results:

Ayes: Roger Everett, Brian Ashurst, Harold "Buzz" Landon  
Nays: None

Nick Condos informed that board that CDFA would share data pertaining to the origin state of the rejected shipments with the board.

### **Next Meeting**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded. Voting took place with the following results:

Ayes: Roger Everett, Brian Ashurst, Harold "Buzz" Landon  
Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:55 AM.