

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

August 17, 2016

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: John Fisher, Dean Gillette, Stan Ishii, Jonathan Moody, Steve Scarbrough, Jim Zimmerman. **Staff:** Jill Barnier, Program Manager; Vic Corkins, Agency Outreach Contractor; Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Plant Pathologist/Lab Operations Manager, Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager. **Others:** Victoria Hornbaker, CDFA; Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County Ag Commissioner. **Commissioners absent:** John Corkins.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ishii called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

II. OPEN SESSION:

A. **Public Comments:** Chairman Ishii indicated that public comments would be welcome during the course of the meeting as each agenda item was addressed.

B. **Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of June 15, 2016 as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

C. Reports:

1. **Ag Commissioners:** Tulare County Ag Commissioner Marilyn Kinoshita stated that notices have gone out to packing sheds regarding the new Korean requirements for Fuller rose beetle treatment. She reported that ACP finds have been ongoing, with a significant population near the Tipton juice plant, where landscape citrus trees were subsequently removed.

2. **Pest Control District Updates:** Nothing to report.

3. **Agency Outreach Contractor:** Vic Corkins reported that he continues to visit growers. He mentioned that the total number of HLB-infected trees in southern California has now risen to 22. Victoria Hornbaker, statewide citrus program manager for CDFA, shared additional details and provided an update on recent finds.

4. Departmental Operations:

a. **Field Activities – June and July, 2016:** Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report of field activities, including collections, removals, and mapping, for June and July.

b. **Laboratory Activities – June and July, 2016:** Laboratory Operations Manager Subhas Hajeri reviewed the written report of tests completed for June and July.

i. **Update on Risk-based Survey Model Development Project:** Ms. Barnier reported that the project has been on hiatus since Technician Matthew Robinson's departure in June, so that focus could be placed on completing establishment of the new laboratory as well as the Agency's water quality issues. A teleconference will be scheduled shortly to strategize with Dr. Gottwald about getting progress going again.

ii. **Update on Establishment of Molecular Biology Laboratory:** A tour was conducted for Board members prior to the start of the meeting. Dr. Hajeri stated that final steps, to be scheduled in the next couple of weeks, include the installation and orientation/training of the Versette liquid handler and the PCR machines, and preparing the application for the CDFA permit for non-regulatory diagnostics.

c. Greenhouse/Screenhouse Activities: Dr. Hajeri reported that in the greenhouse, severe strains have been inoculated into the commercial variety rootstocks selected for Dr. Yokomi's screenhouse experiment. These plants are now ready for testing to ensure that infection has occurred. In the fall, they will be planted in-ground in the screenhouse.

d. Administrative Activities:

i. Income and Expenses: June and July, 2016: Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports. Focusing on the June report, she pointed out that these are the fiscal year-end figures and should line up with audit results (annual audit scheduled for the end of August). She explained the over- and under-budget items in both income and expenditures.

ii. Review and Ratify Warrant Lists – June and July, 2016: **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Gillette, to ratify payment of the bills for June and July as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

iii. Corrective Action Plan in Response to Nitrate MCL Violation Compliance Order: Ms. Barnier explained that in April, routine required testing of the well revealed an excessive nitrate concentration. As a designated public water system, the Agency is required to correct this situation. Working closely with the state Water Boards, a corrective action plan was devised calling for four Point of Use treatment units. Ms. Barnier reviewed the locations, timeline, and projected costs. The Board approved the plan by consensus.

iv. Capital Expenditures – Review and Ratify Expenditures for Establishment of Molecular Biology Laboratory; Update and Renew Toshiba Lease for Copier/Printer Equipment: Ms. Barnier reviewed the updated record of expenses relating to the preparation of the Molecular Biology laboratory, showing \$28,296 in excess of original projections. Ms. Barnier explained that the current lease for copier/printer equipment has expired, and reviewed the proposal for a new 63-month lease, at projected annual savings of \$4,585. **It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Moody, to approve the new lease. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

F. Announcements: The next Board meeting will be held on October 19, 2016.

III. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Ishii adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Stan Ishii, Chair

Jill Barnier, Assistant Secretary

Dean Gillette, Secretary