

ALLIANCE OF PEST CONTROL DISTRICTS
22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE at 22847 Road 140, Tulare (APCD office):

Commissioners: John N. Fisher IV and John Corkins (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*)
Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough (*Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD-STCCPCD*)
James McKinney (*Central Valley PCD -CVPCD*)
Milo Gorden and Jeff Steen (*Tulare County PCD- TCPCD*)

Staff: Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Managing Director; Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager; Dr. Saurabh Gautam, Field Manager; Dr. Dhiraj Gautam, Lab Manager; Ron Carter, Field Supervisor; and Hailey Jones, Administrative Assistant

Other: Judy Zaninovich, Kern ACP/HLB Grower Liaison; Jessica Leslie, S. Tulare County Grower Liaison; Sam Conant, Tulare County Ag Commissioner (CAC); Lisa Finke and Team, Canine Detection Services; and Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technology

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Commissioners: Jay Gillette (*Central Valley PCD – CVPCD*)

Other: Jennifer Willem, CDFA; Chris Romero, Kern County Ag Commissioner; and Rissa Stuart, APCD Legal Counsel

Absent Commissioners: None.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher IV called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All in attendance identified themselves.

OPEN SESSION:

Public Comments:

Lisa Finke of Canine Detection Services announced that her team would be ready to begin work during the last week of September 2024.

APCD Agreement for New Member

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve and adopt the APCD Agreement for New Members, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Review and Discuss the amendments to the APCD Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws

Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri reviewed the amendments made to the Joint Powers Agreement. A significant change that was made was to adopt a “senate-style” approach and appoint only two board members from each pest control district to serve on the APCD Board of Commissioners.

Another significant amendment discussed was increasing the budget cap. Commissioner Corkins asked if it was required to state a set budget cap. APCD Legal counsel, Rissa Stuart explained that she did not believe it was a legal requirement to set forth a maximum budget amount. However, it had always been done and had grown to become a best practice.

Commissioner Corkins agreed with Stuart and went on to ask what the protocol would be in the event of a “tie” amongst voting board members. Stuart noted that the current Agreement did not yet cover that situation, however the Agreement could be reviewed and amended further to include that protocol. Commissioner Fisher suggested that the Board could add that into the agenda at a later date.

Rissa Stuart finished reviewing the minor changes made to the Bylaws.

Resolution to Amend the Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws (2024-04)

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve and adopt Resolution 2024-04, Amending the Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, June 19, 2024

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 19, 2024, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Ag Commissioner Updates

Chris Romero, from the Kern County Ag Commissioner’s office appeared via Zoom. Romero stated that there had been no new ACP detections. There was a residential ACP find in late January. CDFA continues to make periodic releases of the parasite *Tamarixia radiata*, in residential areas that have had past ACP detections.

The San Joaquin Valley ACP/HLB Area Wide Task Force recommended that a coordinated treatment be conducted in all commercial citrus east and south of Bakersfield. The treatment was set for mid-August through mid-September to prevent ACP populations from building on the fall foliage.

Romero reported that ACP Bulk Citrus activity decreased considerably due to grape season starting. In June and July, eight compliance agreements were issued to fruit sellers and farm labor contractors, and 49 transporter inspections were conducted.

Sam Conat, from the Tulare County Ag Commissioner’s office then gave his report. Conat reported that Bulk Citrus inspections have decreased due to staff being moved to the GWSS urban treatments. Thus far, 598 residential properties have been treated using methods such as soil drenching and foliar treatments when possible.

CPDPC Grower Liaison Updates

Tulare County Grower Liaison Jessica Leslie reported that there had been two total ACP detections at a packing house in Lindsay. Two insects were detected, one on Thursday, August 15, and the other on Monday, August 19. All growers within 800 meters of the find(s) were contacted and had begun treatments.

Jennifer Willems of CDFA explained that trap screeners found the first ACP on a sticky trap on a Thursday afternoon and then discovered the second ACP upon returning to work the following Monday. There is speculation that both insects came from the same box of traps. It was unclear whether the detections could be classified as a regulatory find or not. Further investigative work was needed.

Dr. Hajeri asked if the traps were placed on the same property. Willems explained that the property consists of three separate packing houses, however, they are not in operation, and they all share the same owner and property lines.

Dr. Hajeri went on to ask how many growers were impacted by the detections. Leslie stated that six separate blocks, with six separate growers, were affected within the 800-meter radius. During the discussion, Commissioner Jay Gillette inquired about the origins of the shipments. Leslie clarified that the shipments originated from Fillmore in Southern California in late July.

Leslie moved on to thank CDFA and Tulare CAC for tracking paperwork to investigate where fruit shipments came from. The last shipments that were identified incoming to that packing house were from out of town.

Kern County Grower Liaison, Judy Zaninovich referenced a spreadsheet displaying total ACP detections. One regulatory detection occurred in Fresno County in May 2024. Kern County had one residential detection in Shafter.

Zaninovich reviewed a graph displaying Kern County ACP detections in residential yards vs. commercial citrus blocks. She noted the correlation between coordinated treatments in the fall for commercial citrus and low ACP detections.

Zaninovich reviewed the number of HLB positive trees found in California. To date, there have been no HLB positive trees found in the San Joaquin Valley.

CDFA Updates

Willem reported that the total HLB positive tree count had reached 80 residential trees in the Santa Paula area. Commercial citrus had not yet been affected; however, the boundaries were close.

Zaninovich added that the Glassy wing sharpshooter (GWSS) treatments in Fresno, Tulare and North Kern counties would begin around the first of October. Leslie also stated that in Fresno County, the GWSS treatments would focus on areas surrounding highway 99.

CCM Updates

None.

Departmental Operations

Field Activities

Field Manager Dr. Saurabh Gautam reviewed field activities for APCD. He reported that 15,848 trees had been tested for CTV, which ultimately resulted in 72 trees being removed. Moving forward, the CTV program will be replaced with Multi Pest Inspection (MPI) and trapping activities.

Field Supervisor Ron Carter gave a report on the expected trapping activities for the fall season of 2024. A total of 3,748 trap sites were assigned. The turnaround rate for traps is expected to be two weeks.

Dr. Hajeri stated that there were eight seasonal trapping employees and two field inspectors. Field inspectors are set to work closely with Lisa Finke and the Canine Detection Services.

Carter explained the trap screening process, and images of employees screening traps using microscopes and magnifiers were displayed. Three seasonal trap screening employees will be hired for the fall season.

Dr. Gautam gave a field analysis comparing 3G vs 6G glue traps. It was determined that the 3G traps were effective and easier to read after spending time out in the field.

Dr. Gautam stated that blind tests would be conducted on screeners to test their ability to identify ACP on traps.

Commissioner James McKinney asked how the 3G and 6G traps were going to be placed to retain accurate comparative results. Carter explained that both types of traps would be deployed in the same block, generally close to each other to ensure the results captured would be fair in comparison.

Chairman John Fisher asked how many traps would be retrieved/deployed during each two-week interval. Carter stated that approximately 470 traps would be serviced per trapper every two weeks.

Dr. Gautam discussed research proposals that had been submitted. He also stated that APCD was in the final stages of receiving their Pest Control Business License.

Lab Activities

Dr. Hajeri discussed research conducted with Dr. Yokomi at USDA concerning Citrus yellow vein clearing virus (CYVCV.)

Dr. Dhiraj Gautam gave a presentation on loss control and safety trainings.

Administrative Activities

APCD Performance to Budget for FY 2023-2024

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report.

Income and Expense Report: June and July, 2024

Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: June and July, 2024

Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to approve the June and July 2024 warrant list, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures

Administrative Manager Neunzig presented the recommendation to purchase two new vehicles and asked for permission to move forward with the private sale of two older vehicles.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to accept the recommendation set forth to purchase two new vehicles and sell the two older vehicles at the best price. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Administrative Manager Neunzig provided background, and the status of the agency's need for roof repairs. Dr. Dhiraj Gautam reviewed the quotes received for roof repairs and discussed options for different types of repairs. Neunzig clarified that the recommendation was to proceed with patchwork repairs. It was decided to postpone the discussion until the regular meeting on October 16, 2024.

The purchase of a new television for the conference room upgrade was purchased.

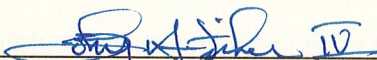
It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to approve the purchase of a new conference room TV. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

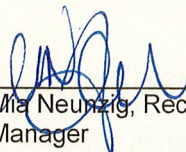
Administrative Manager Neunzig announced that she would be sending out emails containing DocuSigns for Commissioner signatures.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.



John N. Fisher IV, Chairman



Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin.
Manager