

# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING 22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

February 15, 2017

### MINUTES

**ATTENDANCE: Commissioners:** John Fisher, Stan Ishii, Dennis McFarlin (alternate), Jonathan Moody, Steve Scarbrough, Jim Zimmerman. **Staff:** Jill Barnier, Program Manager; Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Plant Pathologist/Lab Operations Manager; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager. **Others:** Vic Corkins, Agency Outreach Contractor; Jim Rudig, TAC member. **Commissioners absent:** John Corkins, Dean Gillette.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ishii called the meeting to order at 12:33 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 Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2016 as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

#### C. Reports:

1. **Ag Commissioners:** None.

2. **Pest Control District Updates:** Commissioner Moody reported that the Kern County Citrus Pest Control District (KCCPCD) Board met twice since the last Board of Commissioners' meeting, first to develop a proactive pilot program for non-commercial tree removal in ACP-impacted areas; and again to hold a public hearing to revise the District budget in support of the pilot program. Other Districts had nothing to report.

3. **Agency Outreach Contractor:** Vic Corkins reported that he attended the January 11, 2017 meeting of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee in Exeter, as well as the KCCPCD public hearing. He has a packing house meeting scheduled for next week, and continues to meet with growers to share information about Agency activities.

#### 4. Departmental Operations:

a. **Field Activities – December 2016 and January 2017:** Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report of field activities, focusing on mapping, for December and January. She reported that seasonal field crews are due back on March 6 for the spring collection period.

b. **Laboratory Activities – December 2016 and January 2017:** Laboratory Operations Manager Subhas Hajeri reviewed the written report of tests completed for December and January. He noted that seasonal laboratory staff are scheduled for return February 27.

i. **Update on Molecular Biology (PCR) Laboratory Activities:** Dr. Hajeri pointed out an increase in PCR activity, which resulted from training and optimization of procedures. He explained that *Spiroplasma citri* (Stubborn) was used as a practice pathogen, since it is a bacterial pest (as is HLB). Dr. Hajeri reported that he and PCR staff had a worthwhile visit to the CDFA laboratory on Monday. Ms. Barnier reported that CDFA's Dean Kelch, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, Permits and Regulations, visited the Agency Friday (February 10) to conduct the laboratory inspection required prior to approval of the Agency's permit. The

inspection went well, and was followed by extensive discussion of the permit conditions, particularly regarding plant tissue collection procedures.

c. Greenhouse/Screenhouse Activities: Dr. Hajeri reported that the focus of screenhouse activities has been on cold protection for the small trees planted for the Yokomi project (for evaluation of severe strains of CTV in commonly planted cultivars). So far, the efforts appear to be successful.

d. Administrative Activities:

i. Update on Risk-based Survey Model Development Project: Ms. Barnier reported that the Agency has made an offer to a candidate for the Technician position, though no commitment in response has been received yet. If accepted, the new employee would be available to start about mid-May. Established mapping staff continues to convert paper maps to electronic format using Google Earth, so the project is progressing.

ii. Income and Expenses: December 2016 and January 2017: Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports, noting that they reflect the budget revisions approved at the December meeting.

iii. Review and Ratify Warrant Lists – December 2016 and January 2017: **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner alternate McFarlin, to ratify payment of the bills for December 2016 and January 2017 as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

iv. Review / Abandon Cholinesterase Testing Policy: Referencing the memo provided, Ms. Barnier reviewed the existing policy and costs, and changes in pesticide control regulations that suggest it may no longer be worthwhile to continue the program. **It was moved by Commissioner alternate McFarlin, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to discontinue cholinesterase testing except as required or in special circumstances. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

v. Review and Discuss Options for Funding HLB Testing in Agency's PCR Lab: Referring to the background memo provided, Ms. Barnier explained that Board guidance is needed as the possibility of requests for HLB testing nears. Costs were reviewed, and the Board agreed by consensus that a provision for overhead should be factored in. For the current fiscal year, the Board agreed that a direct charge of \$25 per sample is appropriate. The Board directed that the topic be taken up with each District Board for future planning, and that the CPDPC/CDFA be approached about funding availability.

vi. Capital Expenditures: None.

**D. Announcements**: Ms. Barnier pointed out the handout regarding a research team from UC Davis, UC Riverside, CDFA and the CRB seeking grower cooperators in an effort to help refine early detection technologies. Ms. Barnier also offered information on grower meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, with San Joaquin Valley grower liaisons regarding upcoming coordinated Asian citrus psyllid treatments. The next Board meeting will be held on April 19, 2017.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**: Chairman Ishii adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.