

CITRUS PEST DETECTION PROGRAM
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY
22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

December 18, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Stan Ishii, Dennis McFarlin (alternate) (*Central Valley PCD - CVPCD*); John Corkins, John Fisher, Jonathan Moody (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*); Steve Scarbrough, Jim Zimmerman (*Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD - STCCPCD*). **Staff:** Jill Barnier, Program Manager; Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Plant Pathologist/Lab Operations Manager; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager. **Others:** Melissa Cregan, Fresno County Ag Commissioner; Jim Rudig, TAC member; Teri Blaser, CPDPC Grower Liaison. **Commissioners absent:** James McKinney (*CVPCD*).

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman John Fisher called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. He extended his thanks, and those of the Board, to previous Chair Stan Ishii for his years of dedicated service in the leadership position.

II. CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Section 54957, the Board entered closed session for Public Employee Appointment (Program Manager/Plant Pathologist).

III. OPEN SESSION: The Board returned to Open Session at 12:30 p.m. Chairman Fisher reported that **on a motion by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner (alternate) McFarlin, and a unanimously positive roll call vote, Dr. Subhas Hajeri was appointed to the position of Program Manager/Plant Pathologist, effective July 1, 2020.** He will replace Program Manager Jill Barnier upon her retirement on June 30, 2020.

A. Public Comments: Chairman Fisher 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 (alternate) McFarlin, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of October 23, 2019 as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

C. Reports:

1. Ag Commissioner(s) / CPDPC Grower Liaison(s): Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner Melissa Cregan reported that she is now the public member of the Citrus Research Board, replacing Marilyn Wright. She offered information on her background and experience.

Teri Blaser (northern Tulare CPDPC grower liaison) reported that there was a late fall find of one ACP on a trap near Coalinga. As there is no citrus in the vicinity, no action was taken.

2. Pest Control District Updates: No meetings were held in any Districts.

3. Departmental Operations:

a. Field Activities – October and November, 2019: Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report. She stated that all planned inspection/collection work was completed, and seasonal staff has been laid off. Field activities are now focused on mapping.

b. Laboratory Activities – October and November, 2019: Laboratory Operations Manager Subhas Hajeri reviewed the written report, noting that lab processing of seasonal collections is also complete. He reported on contract work in process for a TCPD-located grower.

i. Greenhouse/Screenhouse Activities: Dr. Hajeri reported that greenhouse activity is focused on general maintenance of the isolate collection. He provided an update on Ray Yokomi's screenhouse-based CTV study.

ii. Research Proposal Update: Dr. Hajeri reported on the progress of his CRB-funded research project, investigating the best tissue for PCR testing in various seasons, in order to identify the best samples for earliest possible HLB detection. The first round of local testing, utilizing a grove with Stubborn-infected trees, is complete. Samples from southern California for HLB testing are coming via CDFA. Contact has been initiated to keep USDA informed of this work since it could lead to a request for regulatory changes on completion of the project.

c. Administrative Activities:

i. Approve Revision of Organizational Structure, including Creation of New Position: Administrative Manager: **It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Ishii, to adopt the organizational structure and create the position of Administrative Manager as proposed. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

ii. Income and Expenses: October and November, 2019: Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports.

iii. Review and Ratify Warrant List – October and November, 2019: **It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner (alternate) McFarlin, to ratify the warrant lists for October and November, 2019. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

iv. Capital Expenditures: Ratify Replacement of Climate Control Unit Serving Administrative Offices: Ms. Barnier reported on the failure on December 10 of the old unit, and her decision (in light of the predicted cold front, and after consultation with Chairman Fisher) to proceed with replacement immediately rather than waiting until after the Board meeting. The usual vendor, Canby's, replaced the 3-ton dual-pack unit on December 12 at a cost of \$5,544, and waived charges for two service calls leading up to the replacement. **It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Corkins, to ratify the replacement. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

D. Announcements: There were no announcements.

III. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Chairman John Fisher

Jill Barnier, Assistant Secretary