

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, February 23, 2023

MINUTES

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

Commissioners: John Fisher (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*)

Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough (*Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD-STCCPCD*)

Jay Gillette (*Central Valley PCD -CVPCD*)

Staff: Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Program Director; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager; and Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager

Other: Jessica Leslie, Southern Tulare County Grower Liaison; Lisa Finke, Canine Detection Program; Kelley Aubushon, CDFA Visalia Office

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Commissioners: James McKinney, (Central Valley PCD -CVPCD) {joined the meeting at 1:00pm}

Other: Judy Zaninovich, Kern ACP/HLB Grower Liaison; Teri Blaser, Northern Tulare County Grower Liaison; Tom Tucker, Tulare County Ag Commissioner, Victoria Hornbaker, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Director, Roberto Farias, Central Valley PCD Director, G Para, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Absent Commissioners: John Corkins

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

All in attendance identified themselves.

OPEN SESSION:

Public Comments:

Minutes: Regular Meeting, December 21, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Gillette, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2022, as presented. The motion carried, all in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Pest Control District Updates

None

Ag Commissioners

Tom Tucker- Tulare County reported that Lisa Finke and her dog teams were invited to participate at the County booth during the Farm Show. He also mentioned that there have been no new finds recently.

CPDPC Grower Liaisons

Teri Blaser- Fresno County and Northern Tulare County GL reported that there has been one new find in Madera. There was no commercial citrus nearby.

Jessica Leslie- Southern Tulare County GL reported no new finds in 2023.

Judy Zaninovich- Kern County GL reported one new residential find in Bakersfield. She reviewed her handouts and the reports included.

CDFA Updates

Victoria Hornbaker, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Director reported that a total of 4,560 positive HLB trees have been detected throughout California so far. She also reported there are 580 positive CYCVV trees in Tulare County. There was discussion about trees infected with Citrus Yellow Clearing Vein Virus (CYCVV) and how they are handled. She also explained that CDFA has done some CYCVV surveying in commercial groves, which entailed following the USDA protocol of only looking for symptoms. Which is different from the residential protocol of collecting and testing samples from every host.

CCM Updates

NONE

Canine Detection Service

Lisa Finke, Canine Detection Program reported on the work that her Fresno dog team had performed in the San Joaquin Valley and in Ventura County. She also reported that she and her dog team had an enjoyable time at the Ag Show and looks forward to being there again in the future.

Departmental Operations

Field Activities: December 2022

Field Operations Manager Westerman reported that the staff is preparing for the 2023 Spring season, getting the supplies together and preparing for staff training. They are also calling seasonal staff to find out who plans to return for the season. The season is estimated to start at the end of March.

Laboratory Activities: December 2022

Program Director Dr. Hajeri reported that there had not been much lab activity in December and January.

Administrative Activities

Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations

Program Director Dr. Hajeri reported there were two Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, one for the Tulare County Pest Control District and one for the Agency. He explained that the Tulare County PCD had spent significant money over the years protecting the Lindcove Research Station through an aphid control program and a CTV MCA13 survey and removal program. During the TAC Meeting for TPCD, the committee reviewed and discussed the data presented and discussed the pros and cons of continuing the CTV program. After a three-hour meeting, the committee ultimately recommended that the TPCD develop a multi-pest program. The multi-pest program may take a year or two to build, and in the meantime, it was recommended for TPCD to continue with the CTV program for at least one additional fiscal year.

Regarding the TAC meeting for the Agency, he reported that ACP traps were discussed. The committee discussed and reviewed many different types of traps and ultimately did not recommend which trap should be used. The TAC recommended the Agency wait to see the outcome of the trial that CDFA is doing with the non-messy trap. The other reason for waiting is due to a potential grove trapping contract the Agency may begin with CDFA. It was suggested that doing a trial with the sticky traps might be beneficial so that the Agency staff will be familiar with the procedures used if and when the Agency might receive the CDFA trapping contract. It was also suggested that depending on the risk factors, some traps should stay in the same location for extended periods of time there by increasing the chances of catching ACP. Program Director Dr. Hajeri requested board approval to use the panel traps for the 2023 spring season. Discussion ensued regarding the price difference between the 3D cylindrical traps vs. the panel traps and details about the new procedures that would need to be in place for the staff to use the new traps this season.

An additional topic discussed at the TAC meeting was the option for the Agency to adopt a multi-pest program. It was suggested that because Agency staff are already out in commercial fields, looking for multiple pests and collect and test for multiple pests in the lab should not add significant additional cost. This would expand the Agency's services to the growers and provide more return on investment (ROI). If the board were to approve the multi-pest program, the next step would be to decide which pests are most critical for the Agency to focus on. Before this multi-pest program can begin, new protocols would need to be written for both the field and the lab. There would also need to be communication with CDFA to ensure the Agency is not duplicating its efforts. CDFA Director Hornbaker added that the CDFA program began a multi-pest program at the direction of USDA and has developed a standard operating procedure (SOP). She stated that she would be willing to share this SOP with CTEA along with the commodity survey procedures to see if those may be helpful to CTEA. Program Director Dr. Hajeri requested board approval to move forward with the multi-pest program.

The last topic discussed at the TAC meeting was related to whether the Agency lab should explore participating and applying for special certifications. Based on the discussion, the committee did not favor the Agency applying for the USDA certification. They felt that the USDA certification would inhibit the Agency's ability to remain flexible and able to work with fewer regulatory barriers. However, the committee suggested that the Agency apply for the National Plant Diagnostic Network as a full member or as a partner lab.

It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to move forward with the TAC recommendations as stated. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each Commissioner present voting AYE.

Update on CDFA and Pest Control Districts Meeting

One day before the board meeting, there was a meeting between CDFA and the Pest Control Districts (PCDs) throughout the State. Chairman Fisher shared that the meeting was meant to clarify overlapping work being done by the State and the PCDs. CDFA Director Hornbaker shared that the CCTEA agency is a great example of an agency that could be a helpful partner with CDFA because it is well-established and has staff already doing similar work. The goal would be to use the Agency's expertise and other PCDs in the State to work more efficiently, fine-tune the workload's regulatory aspects, and be efficient with funding. She said that she felt CCTEA might be a good test case since CDFA has already contracted with them in the past, and there are already good working relations in place. She said it would boil down to what workload CCTEA can take on and CDFA's ability to fit that into their regulatory framework.

Review Performance to Budget Q1 and Q2

Administrative Manager Neunzig shared the Performance to Budget for quarters 1 and 2 of fiscal year 2022-2023. The purpose of this report is to keep the board up to date on the overall budget. No questions were asked.

Income and Expenses: December 2022 and January 2023

Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the report included in the board packet.

Review and Ratify Warrant List – December 2022 and January 2023

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Gillette, to ratify the warrant lists for December 2022 and January 2023. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each Commissioner present voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures

None

Announcements

Program Director Dr. Hajeri announced that the budget revisions for fiscal year 2022-2023 will be presented at the April board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

John Fisher, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin.
Manager