

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

August 19, 2020

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE ON SITE: Commissioner Jim Zimmerman (*Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD - STCCPCD*); **Staff:** Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Program Director/Plant Pathologist; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager. **Others:** Jill Barnier.

ATTENDANCE VIA TELECONFERENCE: Commissioners Stan Ishii, James McKinney (*Central Valley PCD - CVPCD*); John Corkins, John Fisher, Jonathan Moody (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*), Steve Scarbrough (*STCCPCD*); **Others:** Jessica Leslie, CPDPC Southern Tulare County grower liaison; Tom Tucker, Tulare County Ag Commissioner; Judy Zaninovich, CPDPC Kern County grower liaison.

Commissioners absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

II. OPEN SESSION:

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 Corkins, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of June 17, 2020, and the minutes of the special meeting of July 22, 2020, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each Commissioner present voting AYE.

C. Reports:

1. Ag Commissioners / CPDPC Grower Liaisons: Summarizing activities for the last three months, Tulare County Ag Commissioner Tom Tucker provided updates on: 1) abatement efforts related to neglected/abandoned citrus plantings, where they are having positive results; 2) bulk citrus inspections, which they are treating pretty strictly. Most problems are related to tarps not reaching the bottom of truck beds; 3) increased emphasis on making sure fruit jobbers have compliance agreements and are following all rules; and 4) glassy-winged sharpshooter residential treatments in Dinuba. Mr. Tucker discussed the fairly drastic new restrictions CDFA is proposing for several materials in the Neonicotinoid category, and urged Board members to be aware of possible impacts to their operations and communicate those to CDFA. CPCPD's Grower Liaison for Kern County, Judy Zaninovich, echoed the importance of communicating concerns to CDFA, noting that the ACP control program is heavily dependent on the materials in question. Chairman Fisher asked Program Director Hajeri to draft a sample letter/comment addressing to department of pesticide regulation for use by both Boards and individual Commissioners.

Ms. Zaninovich gave an update, reporting that two single adult ACP were found on separate traps in Kern County in late June, and appropriate treatments were completed. CPDPC's Grower Liaison for Southern Tulare County, Jessica Leslie, reported that one ACP was found on a residential (backyard) trap in Strathmore. Nearby growers treated, and delimitation traps were placed. Ms. Zaninovich offered an update on statewide HLB-

positive trees, still limited to residential areas of southern California. Dr. Hajeri added that the first positive ACP in commercial citrus was found in the Riverside area, five to 10 miles from the variety collection on the UC campus, where there have also been multiple unconfirmed dog alerts.

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

3. **Departmental Operations:**

a. Field Activities – June and July, 2020: Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report of survey activities. She commended the regular staff members who stepped into unaccustomed field assignments, and performed with excellent cooperation and dedication.

b. Laboratory Activities – June and July, 2020: Dr. Hajeri reviewed the written report of testing by ELISA (contract samples for CTV) and PCR (research samples for stubborn and HLB).

i. Greenhouse/Screenhouse Activities: Dr. Hajeri reported on efforts to recover from some heat damage in the screenhouse through the current heat wave. The new screen approved at the June meeting has been installed.

ii. Research Project Update: Dr. Hajeri reviewed the written report. Topics included participants, background of ACP/HLB issues and spread, and design of the study to detect infection at the earliest possible time by identifying the best tissue to test at various times. Dr. Hajeri shared results from three season of testing, and pointed out emerging trends. There was discussion of other studies in Florida and Texas, and emphasis on the need for an indirect screen method to narrow down the focus for collections.

c. Administrative Activities:

i. Review and Approve COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan and Related Amendment to Employee Handbook: Dr. Hajeri explained that the new policy on COVID19 was written as mandated and in compliance with current requirements. It addresses risk assessment, screening and monitoring workers, managing workers with COVID-19 infection and/or exposure, return to work, engineering and administrative controls, cleaning and disinfection, and vehicle use. The Employee Handbook section on Leaves of Absence requires an update to reflect these new procedures and staff has received training on the Plan. **It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the Plan and Employee Handbook update as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each Commissioner present voting AYE.**

ii. Update on Management Position Assignments: Dr. Hajeri reported that his visa extension was approved as of August 10, and he is now back in the Program Director role. The Administrative Manager position opening has been posted, with some responses already received. Initial interviews will be scheduled near the end of the month.

iii. Income and Expenses: June and July, 2020: Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports, noting that the June figures should match up with the audit when it is completed (it is schedule for on-site field work 9/01 – 9/03).

iv. Review and Ratify Warrant List – June and July, 2020: **It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Corkins, to ratify the warrant lists for June and July, 2020. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each Commissioner present voting AYE.**

v. Capital Expenditures: Ratify Essential Electrical Upgrade in Greenhouse: Dr. Hajeri explained that because there is only one controller for both fans in the west greenhouse, there are increasingly frequent breakdowns of the fan motors. Several approaches to correction were considered, the best being installation of three-phase motors to be controlled from a variable frequency drive. Labor and materials for this recommended option are \$3,777.44 before taxes. **It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Moody, to approve the necessary electrical work as recommended, up to \$4,000. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each Commissioner present voting AYE.**

D. Announcements: Dr. Hajeri shared information on a promising study by Dr. Hailing Jin involving peptides, which may have a positive impact on HLB treatment. He announced that genetically engineered CTV has been approved for further use in HLB treatment in Florida.

III. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Chairman John Fisher

James McKinney, Secretary

Jill Barnier, Recording Secretary