

CITRUS PEST DETECTION PROGRAM
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY

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

April 18, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Central Valley PCD (CVPCD) – Stan Ishii, James McKinney; Kern County Citrus PCD (KCCPCD) – John Fisher, Jonathan Moody; Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD (STCCPCD) – Steve Scarbrough, Jim Zimmerman. **Staff:** Jill Barnier, Program Manager; Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Plant Pathologist/Lab Operations Manager; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager. **Others:** Tom Tucker, Tulare County Ag Commissioner's office; Judy Zaninovich, CVPCD Grower Liaison for Kern County; Sharon Lamago and Kim Davis, Tulare County Grand Jury. **Commissioner absent:** John Corkins (KCCPCD).

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ishii called the meeting to order at 12:31 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. Jill Barnier introduced all attendees to the Grand Jury representatives.

B. Minutes: It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Moody, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2018 as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

C. Reports:

1. Ag Commissioners: Tom Tucker reported on abating abandoned citrus groves, explaining that department inspectors report locations to him as they encounter them, and Tom follows up with a further inspection. Contact with the owner follows, with explanation of the importance of good management and pest control practices. If the property is truly abandoned, the focus shifts to removal. Mr. Tucker described the steps in the abatement process, and indicated that overall response has been good.

Judy Zaninovich gave an ACP update, reporting that there have been few finds in the San Joaquin Valley in the last two months, with 11 in Kern County, 6 in Tulare County, 2 in Fresno County, none in Madera County for 2018 to date. Based on past populations, the Bakersfield area currently has a coordinated treatment in progress. She reported that the total count of HLB positive trees is up to 557, all still in southern California residential settings. She described in detail the various types of ACP trapping, and the time factors creating bottlenecks in the program.

2. Pest Control District Updates: No meetings were held in the KCCPCD or the STCCPCD. The Central Valley PCD Board met on February 16, 2018 and had a presentation and request for support from Croptix, a company developing an optical scanning/spectrophotometry device for early detection of HLB. The Board met again on March 23, 2018 to consider operational and financial impacts, and approved a proposal to commit \$100,000 of District resources to utilize the Croptix technology to support further validation and to pursue and evaluate data. They also approved a budget revision to reflect a reduction of \$50,000 in contribution to the Program and use of reserves to make up the total \$100,000.

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a. Report on April 13 Meeting with CCM/CPDPC Representatives: Ms. Barnier referenced the written notes prepared by Casey Creamer of California Citrus Mutual. She noted that this was a brainstorming session intended to explore possible ways that the pest control districts can become more involved in the ACP/HLB effort, with a goal of increasing efficiencies without increasing costs to growers. Another meeting will be held after additional information has been gathered.

3. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting held March 29, 2018: Referencing the draft minutes provided, Ms. Barnier reported on the meeting. She noted that the TAC expressed serious concerns about Program involvement in research such as the Croptix project (where Program staff will be trained to utilize the company's scanning device), and any potentially negative impact on the Effective Plan and the credibility of the Citrus Pest Detection Program. It was the consensus of the Committee that in future, all research efforts involving the Program should be referred to and evaluated by the TAC prior to commitment. This led to one of several changes to the draft Effective Plan.

a. Invite Additional Members to the Committee: The TAC recommended that Dr. Greg Douhan (UC Extension/Tulare County Citrus Advisory) and Dr. Neil McRoberts (UC Davis), scientists with recognized ACP/HLB knowledge and experience, be invited to join the committee. **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to extend these invitations as recommended. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

4. Adopt Preliminary Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019: Ms. Barnier reviewed the preliminary proposed budget totaling \$2,305,445. She explained the explained the operational assumptions used to develop the budget, but noted that with many changes currently under way, she anticipates the possibility of more changes during the course of the year than has been usual. **It was moved by Commissioner Moody, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve the preliminary proposed budget for 2018-2019. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

5. Departmental Operations:

a. Field Activities – February and March 2018: Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report of field activities. She reported that crews returned on March 26 and began with CTV survey. On April 9, all seasonal staff went to Ventura county for first-hand exposure to ACP; and as recommended by the TAC, on April 10 they visited a grove with known *Spiroplasm citri* (Stubborn), which displays symptoms very similar to those of HLB. Currently, two crews are continuing CTV survey in the LREC area, and four crews are assigned to HLB survey in Kern County. Ms. Westerman described the HLB survey process, including close visual inspection followed by collection of 12 leaves per tree from those trees on the perimeter of the grove.

b. Laboratory Activities – February and March 2018: Laboratory Operations Manager Subhas Hajeri reviewed the written report of activities. He reported that two additional biosafety hoods have been received and installed, giving the Agency now a total of four. Seasonal lab staff will begin training in tissue preparation for PCR testing on April 19.

i. Greenhouse/Screenhouse Activities: Ms. Barnier reported that the renovation work on the greenhouse cooling system is complete. Savings in water usage are expected, along with reduced power usage resulting from the improved efficiency of the new system.

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c. Administrative Activities:

i. Adopt New Effective Plan as Recommended by TAC: Ms. Barnier noted that the document provided in the meeting packet reflects all of the recommended changes that the TAC recommended. **It was recommended by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Moody, to adopt the Effective Plan as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

ii. Review and Approve Budget Revisions for Remainder of FY 2017-2018: Ms. Barnier explained the need for additional budget revisions to reflect the changes resulting from the Central Valley PCD's diversion of funding, additional contract services for the Tulare County PCD, and adjustment for the anticipated over-budget "*Professional-Consulting*." **It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to approve the budget revisions resulting in a new total budget of \$2,126,080. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

iii. Update on Risk-based Survey Model Development Project: Dr. Hajeri reported that information has been flowing between the Program and the risk modeling team in Florida. Dr. Gottwald's group provided a commercial grove risk list, and the Program provided the results of the fall trial conducted in STCCPCD groves. This information will be incorporated in the next list update. A visit from Dr. Weiqi Luo and the Program's Florida employee, Dr. Wei Laio (Joy) is anticipated. This will afford an opportunity for further training in use of the ARC-GIS software.

iv. Income and Expenses: February and March 2018: Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports.

v. Review and Ratify Warrant Lists – February and March 2018: **It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to ratify payment of the bills as listed on the warrant lists for February and March, 2018. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

vi. Capital Expenditure(s): Consider and Approve Sale of 2004 F250 Diesel Pickup and Purchase of New Vehicle: Ms. Barnier referenced the memo provided, explaining management's recommendation to sell the 2004 Ford F250 diesel pickup and acquire one new pickup to update the vehicle fleet. **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve the recommendation, utilizing a sealed-bid process with a minimum bid of \$8,000 for the sale; and purchase not to exceed \$28,000 net after the sale of the Ford. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

D. Announcements: Ms. Barnier notified the Board that she will be on vacation for the week of April 30 through May 4.

III. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Ishii adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.