

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Via Teleconference

April 15, 2020

MINUTES

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

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:** Melissa Cregan, Fresno County Ag Commissioner; Christopher Greer, Assistant Tulare County Ag Commissioner; Victoria Hornbaker, CDFA; Richard Lee, TAC member; Jim Rudig, TAC member; Jessica Leslie, CPDPC Grower Liaison for Tulare County; Tom Tucker, Tulare County Ag Commissioner; Judy Zaninovich, CPDPC Grower Liaison for Kern County.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman John Fisher called the meeting to order at 12:30 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 Moody, seconded by Commissioner Ishii, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 18, 2019 and Emergency Meeting of March 20, 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote, each commissioner voting AYE.

C. Consider and Adopt Preliminary Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021: Ms. Barnier reviewed in detail the preliminary proposed budget, noting that it anticipates a slight increase in Seasonal Wages, Health Insurance and IT Security Support (e.g. Dark Web). Ms. Barnier also noted that there is an increase in PCR Lab supplies, but a decrease in ELISA expenses. **It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to adopt the proposed budget as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each commissioner voting AYE.**

D. Reports:

1. Ag Commissioner(s) / CPDPC Grower Liaison(s): Fresno County Ag Commissioner Melissa Cregan reported that they are still operating all programs with limited staff and contact with public. Dog teams are still operating, but sharpshooter operations and Bulk Citrus Programs are on hold for now.

Christopher Greer (Assistant Tulare County Ag Commissioner) reported they are working on a CDFA Town ? meeting for treatment in May. But indicated May, might not be possible to start treatments. Mr. Greer also noted in March, 2020 there was 10,000 inspections done and tarping to keep regulations in order.

Judy Zaninovich (CPDPC Grower Liaison for Kern County) reported there has been no ACP trap finds detected at this time. In Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties there has been 1,881 HLB positive tree finds only in backyards. Also, citrus Insider updated citrus regulations in bulk mitigation.

2. **Pest Control District Updates:** Central Valley Pest Control District held a special meeting on March 3, 2020 with an update from Croptix on 2019 testing's.

3. **Update on Remote and Onsite Production Since March 20, 2020, and Current Season Operational Plans:** Ms. Barnier reported an update on remote and onsite productions due to the COVID-19 pandemic shelter-in-place order. Most staff is working from home, while a limited amount of staff is still coming into the office. All staff has been able to successfully complete assigned work through remote log-in. Plans for spring seasonal field activities have now been implemented and started on Monday, April 13, 2020 with field crews created by 8 regular staff employees that have had prior field experience. Crews will focus on collecting samples from prior HLB sections and also Kern County inspections.

4. **Departmental Operations:**

a. **Field Activities – December 2019 through March, 2020:** Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report. She reported that 8 regular staff employees have now started collecting HLB samples in fields beginning April 13, 2020.

b. **Laboratory Activities – December 2019 through March 2020:** Laboratory Operations Manager Subhas Hajeri reviewed the written report.

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. **CRB-funded Research Project 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.

c. **Administrative Activities:**

i. **PCD/Task Force Committees Meeting with CPDPC, January 29, 2020, Riverside:** Ms. Barnier and Dr. Hajeri attended the meeting. Ms. Barnier reported that evaluation of reliable sampling was discussed of importance. She also stated that there was discussion about looking into organizing more localized meetings.

ii. **Income and Expenses: December 2019 through March 2020:** Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports.

iii. **Review and Ratify Warrant List – December 2019 through March, 2020: It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Ishii, to ratify the warrant lists for December 2019 through March 2020. The motion carried on roll call vote, each Commissioner voting AYE.**

iv. **Capital Expenditures:** There were no capital requests.

D. **Announcements:** Ms. Barnier reminded the Board that the next meeting will be June 17, 2020.

III. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.