

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY

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

April 19, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: **Commissioners:** John Fisher, Stan Ishii, Dennis McFarlin (alternate), Jonathan Moody, Steve Scarbrough, Jim Zimmerman. **Staff:** Jill Barnier, Program Manager; Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Plant Pathologist/Lab Operations Manager; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager. **Others:** Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner. **Commissioners absent:** John Corkins, Dean Gillette.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ishii called the meeting to order at 12:30 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.

B. **Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2017 as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

C. Reports:

1. **Ag Commissioners:** Tulare County Ag Commissioner reported that although the roll-out on the new tarping regulation has had some difficulties (relating to grower compliance agreements and County contracts to provide for enforcement funding), they are still finding that tarping is occurring in most cases.

2. **Pest Control District Updates:** Commissioner Zimmerman reported that he had received a notice of proactive psyllid spray in the Terra Bella area, and has heard that similar notices are out for other cooperative treatment areas in the Southern Tulare County Citrus Pest Control District. Other Districts had nothing to report.

3. **Adopt Preliminary Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018:** Program Manager Jill Barnier thanked Commissioners Ishii and Fisher for meeting to provide feedback on the initial draft. She reviewed the details of the preliminary proposed budget totaling \$1,831,647, including the strategies used for wage adjustments as well as the impact of a significant reduction in total District contributions on the amount of survey that can be accomplished. **It was moved by Commissioner Moody, seconded by Commissioner Alternate McFarlin, to adopt the preliminary proposed budget as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.** Ms. Barnier explained that all Districts must now hold meetings to adopt proposed budgets, then public budget hearings for final adoption, before the Agency's next meeting in June.

4. Departmental Operations:

a. **Field Activities – February and March, 2017:** Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report of field activities for February and March. She reported that seasonal field crews returned on March 6 for the spring collection period. They are currently completing contract work around the Lindcove Research and Extension Center, and then will be focused on Kern County.

b. **Laboratory Activities – February and March, 2017:** Laboratory Operations Manager Subhas Hajeri reviewed the written report of tests completed for February and March. He noted that the seasonal laboratory staff returned in late February and began processing the

fall HS samples. They are now completing composite survey tests, and running current season HS samples.

i. Update on Molecular Biology (PCR) Laboratory Activities: With the spring CTV survey season underway, laboratory staff has been focused on ELISA testing, so there was no PCR testing in February or March. The CDFA issued the Agency's State Citrus Diagnostics Laboratory Permit #3323-L on March 13, 2017, which will now allow the Agency to do HLB testing.

c. Greenhouse/Screenhouse Activities: The Yokomi project trees are growing well.

d. Administrative Activities:

i. Proposed Amendments to JPA in Preparation for Upcoming Renewal of MOU with Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee: Ms. Barnier explained that discussion with Victoria Hornbaker of CDFA suggested that updating the Joint Powers Agreement to generalize references to citrus pests and diseases, rather than just *Citrus tristeza virus*, would be advisable as the Agency's testing capabilities expand. In addition, this will provide a broader foundation for the Memorandum of Understanding with the CPDPC, which is due for renewal by June 30. With the Board's consensus, she will submit the proposed changes to the Agency's legal counsel for review, and with their approval, include approval of the updated JPA on the agendas for upcoming District meetings.

ii. Proposal to Establish an Agency Website: Referring to the supplemental memo provided, Ms. Barnier discussed the need to find alternatives to fill the grower outreach function lost with the passing of Vic Corkins. A website is one alternative, and may become a requirement in the foreseeable future. **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to adopt management's recommendation to work with *Streamline*, a special district website engine, to set up and maintain an Agency website, at a cost of \$200 monthly. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

iii. Update CCTEA Mission Statement to Reflect New Testing Capabilities: Ms. Barnier presented the current Mission Statement and proposed update, intended to reflect the Agency's expanded pest detection capabilities. This will also be important in developing the website. **It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Alternate McFarlin, to update the Mission Statement to read:**

The mission of the Citrus Pest Detection Program operated by the Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency is to benefit the citrus industry by:

- **Leading and/or participating in efforts to protect against, detect, control, and/or eradicate any citrus pest or disease of concern;**
- **Encouraging and supporting appropriate research programs to assist in the elimination of the threat of citrus pests and/or diseases.**

The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

iv. Update on Risk-based Survey Model Development Project: Ms. Barnier reported that the candidate for the Technician position declined the Agency's offer, so the recruitment process has begun again. The position has been posted on an internet job service, as well as on the job boards of the Statistics departments at UC Riverside and the University of Florida. In the meantime, progress continues as the Agency's established mapping staff is still converting paper maps to electronic format using Google Earth.

v. Income and Expenses: February and March, 2017: Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports.

vi. Review and Ratify Warrant Lists – February and March, 2017: **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Moody, to ratify payment of the**

bills for February and March 2017 as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

vii. Capital Expenditures: Greenhouse Screen Enclosure for Cooling Equipment; Replacement Freezer: Referring to the memos provided, Ms. Barnier discussed the capital expenditures proposals. She explained the need to distance the insect screening from the cell deck. **It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve management's recommendation to expend up to \$13,000 for the insect screening project within the current fiscal year. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.** Ms. Barnier went on to explain that a storage freezer has failed, and that repair has been estimated at nearly the cost of replacement. **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Alternate McFarlin, to approve purchase of a replacement chest-model freezer, at a cost not to exceed \$800. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

D. Announcements: The next Board meeting will be held on June 21, 2017.

III. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Ishii adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Stan Ishii, Chair

Jill Barnier, Assistant Secretary