

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE at 22847 Road 140, Tulare (CPDP office): **Staff:** Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Program Director; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager; Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager; **Directors:** Jim Zimmerman, (STCCPCD) **Other:** Jill Barnier, Consultant

ATTENDANCE VIA TELECONFERENCE: **Directors:** Stan Ishii, James McKinney (Central Valley PCD - CVPCD); John Corkins, John Fisher, Jonathan Moody (Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD); **Other:**, Judy Zaninovich, Kern County Grower Liaison; Victoria Hornbaker, Director of Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division, CDFA; Jessica Leslie, Southern Tulare County Grower Liaison, Chris Greer Tulare County Assistant Commissioner, Cerise Montanio, Kern County Ag Protection Deputy Director; Neil McRoberts, Professor, UC Davis.

Absent Directors: Steve Scarbrough

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman John Fisher, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. OPEN SESSION:

A. Public Comments:

None

B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, December 16, 2020 *

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Ishii, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on December 16, 2020 as presented. *The motion carried on a roll call vote, all in attendance voting AYE.*

C. Reports

1. Ag Commissioners / CPDPC Grower Liaison(s)

Ag Commissioner Greer report: Staff has received the COVID-19 vaccine, staff has been working on rotating schedules due to COVID-19 safety precautions, and all staff will be going back to work in a couple of weeks. He reported ACP trap find in Exeter at a packing facility. His department is continuing to focus on abatement efforts.

Kern County Ag Protection Deputy Director Montanio report:

All trapping staff is currently working. There were many finds in late fall. Her department is working closely with CDFA. They have taken over 2600 traps from CDFA as of February 24, 2021. No detections were found in the last month. Citrus Division (CDFA) Director Hornbaker noted that the find in Arvin was confirmed as a regulatory find.

Southern Tulare County GL Leslie report: There have been three ACP detections in Tulare County (2 residential and 1 commercial).

Kern Tulare County GL Zaninovich report: There have been over 100 ACP trap detections in Kern County in the last few months. CDFA is almost done treating all sites. The recent Arvin find was residential with one grower nearby. Kern County GL Zaninovich explained that ACP populations build up in residential areas and then move to commercial blocks. Commercial blocks must then be treated. Afterwards ACP finds quiet down, then the cycle repeats itself.

UC Davis Professor McRoberts stated that this year is a spill over from Southern California.

However, area wide treatment will keep ACP down. Citrus Division (CDFA) Director Hornbaker suggested that we continue to advocate the importance of equipment being kept clean in order to slow ACP spread in our area. Ms. Zaninovich suggested that there have been some finds that can be attributed to unclean equipment.

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

3. Departmental Operations

a. Field Activities: December 2020 and January 2021

Operations Manager Westerman reviewed the field reports. In January, cylindrical traps were deployed for the first time. Four people were hired in January for trapping and canine teams. The team working with the canines have reported that the dogs have alerted on several trees but after visual inspections, no ACP has been found. More crews will be hired for the Spring season.

b. Laboratory Activities

Program Director Hajeri went over the written report. Cylindrical traps have been deployed and we are receiving the vials from the field. The traps are catching bugs but so far no ACP have been found. The traps are being deployed near high traffic areas or near residential properties. This spring we will likely not have many HLB samples. We will continue to focus on ACP survey. Professor McRoberts talked about a trial being done in Texas that is using an alternative adhesive on the sticky traps. He will keep us updated on the research progress.

i. Greenhouse / Screenhouse Activities

Program Director Hajeri reported that Ray Yokomi has harvested fruit out of the screenhouse and has been comparing the healthy fruit to infected fruit.

ii. CRB-funded Research Project Update

There are currently two CRB projects. Project one involves HLB surveying, where bacteria titer is recorded. Project two is a CTV project, this involves determining what strain of CTV is found in various regions. There is much work to be done on this project this spring.

c. Administrative Activities

i. Review and Approve Budget Revisions for Remainder of FY 2020-2021 *

Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the budget revisions and memo. Ms. Barnier explained that the bank requires that the Agency set aside a 4.5% of the overall annual budget, these monies are placed in the contingency fund. Discussion ensued regarding the decrease in district contributions. Ms. Barnier explained that the districts have two options with regards to the refunds they will be receiving. One option would be to receive the money back to each district for future use. The second option would be to decline the refund and give the excess money to the Agency. If the districts choose to pay the full amount as projected at the beginning of the fiscal year, the extra money would be placed in the Agency reserves. Commissioner Corkins asked that the money be given back to the districts.

It was approved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Moody, to accept the budget revisions as presented. *The motion carried on a roll call vote, all in attendance voting AYE.*

ii. Hiring Temporary Researcher Through CASS for CRB Funded CTV Project

Program Director Hajeri explained that Ray Yokomi recently reached out to him with a

proposal regarding his research employee named Rachel Rattner. She has worked with Dr. Yokomi for the last few years. In the past, Dr. Rattner was paid through two funding sources. However, recently CRB notified Dr. Yokomi that they are unwilling to continue to employ Dr. Rattner through CASS. Since Program Director Hajeri is already the co-PI on the CRB project, the proposal is for CRB to redirect funds to the Agency. The Agency would then pay CASS, CASS would in turn pay Dr. Rattner. The proposed contract will last for seven months ending around November 2021. The Commissioners had no objection to this proposal.

- iii. Review and Approve Resolutions for Revolving Funds *
Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the two new Resolutions.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner McKinney to approve Resolution 2021-01 as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, all in attendance voting AYE.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve Resolution 2021-02 as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, all in attendance voting AYE.

- iv. Income and Expenses: December 2020 and January 2021
Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the written reports. There was no objection to the reports as presented.
- v. Review and Ratify Warrant List- December 2020 and January 2021 *
It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the December 2020 and January 2021 Warrant lists as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, all in attendance voting AYE.

D. Announcements-

Administrative Manager Neunzig reminded the Commissioners that Sexual Harassment Prevention and Ethics training are due. She also noted that we will need the Commissioners signatures on a few documents and will be reaching out to plan to have the documents signed. She also reminded the Commissioners that 700 forms are due and to please contact the Agency if help is needed. Program Director Hajeri asked if any Commissioners had any experience in moving to solar. Commissioner Corkins said that we can call and speak with him.

Next board meeting will be on April 21, 2021 at 10am.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

John Fisher, Chairman

James, McKinney, Secretary

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager