

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

December 21, 2016

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: John Fisher, Stan Ishii, 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:** Vic Corkins, Agency Outreach Contractor; Dennis Haines, Tulare County Ag Commissioner's office; Darin Heard, Kern County Ag department; Judy Zaninovich, CPDPP Area-wide coordinator, Kern County. **Commissioners absent:** John Corkins, Dean Gillette.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ishii called the meeting to order at 12:32 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 Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 17, 2016 as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

C. Reports:

1. **Ag Commissioners:** Dennis Haines of the Tulare County Ag Commissioner's office reported that they are still finding scattered ACP on traps in the County, the last one in November. Numbers have dropped significantly with the colder weather. He emphasized that Tulare County finds have been urban or at truck stops and juice plants. Ms. Zaninovich and Mr. Heard discussed the situation in Kern County. Biological control agents (*Tamarixia*) have been released in urban Bakersfield, but it is too soon to evaluate efficacy. The treatment program is enjoying an estimated 98% cooperation from residents, which they attribute in part to the excellent outreach efforts of the CRB's contracted public relations firm.

2. **Pest Control District Updates:** Commissioner Moody reported that the Kern County Citrus Pest Control District Board met on December 1 to discuss a proactive pilot program for residential tree removal in ACP-impacted areas. They will meet again December 29. Other Districts had nothing to report.

3. **Agency Outreach Contractor:** Vic Corkins reported that he attended the November 9, 2016 meeting of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee in Ventura. He also attended the large CRB-sponsored grower meeting in Exeter on October 19.

4. Departmental Operations:

a. **Field Activities – October and November, 2016:** Field Operations Manager Karen Westerman reviewed the written report of field activities, including collections, removals, and mapping, for October and November. She reported that seven field crews worked about five weeks, and completed all scheduled subsampling in the Southern Tulare County Citrus Pest Control District. In addition, one crew was held over for about a week to collect samples by both Agency and CDFA protocols, for comparison of time and efficiency in anticipation of possible collections for HLB testing.

b. **Laboratory Activities – October and November, 2016:** Laboratory Operations Manager Subhas Hajeri reviewed the written report of tests completed for October and November. Ms.

Barnier explained that the samples collected during the fall are in storage until seasonal lab staff is recalled in February, a few weeks ahead of the spring collection season.

- i. Update on Risk-based Survey Model Development Project: Ms. Barnier reported that the Agency is still attempting to fill the Technician position, with no success to date. She anticipates a teleconference with Dr. Gottwald early in January to explore possible alternatives. In the meantime, established mapping staff continues to work on converting paper maps to electronic format using Google Earth, in order to keep the project progressing.
- ii. Update on Molecular Biology (PCR) Laboratory Activities: Dr. Hajeri explained the DNA extraction and PCR optimization that have been the focus of laboratory operations. He has written detailed procedures customized to the Agency's equipment, and these have been submitted to CDFA for review as part of the Plant Pest Permit application.
- c. Greenhouse/Screenhouse Activities: Dr. Hajeri reported that the Yokomi project for evaluation of severe strains of CTV in commonly planted cultivars has now been established in the screenhouse, with trees planted in-ground.
- d. Administrative Activities:
 - i. Income and Expenses: October and November, 2016: Ms. Barnier reviewed the written reports.
 - ii. Review and Ratify Warrant Lists – October and November, 2016: **It was moved by Commissioner Moody, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to ratify payment of the bills for October and November as submitted. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**
 - iii. Review and Approve Budget Revisions: Ms. Barnier reviewed the proposed changes in detail. **It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the budget revisions as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**
 - iv. Capital Expenditures – Electronic Pipette Units for DNA Extraction Step and PCR Clean Room: Referring to the background memo provided, Dr. Hajeri explained the necessity for additional pipettors in the PCR lab. **It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Moody, to approve the purchase of pipettors as proposed. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.**

F. Announcements: The next Board meeting will be held on February 15, 2017.

III. ADJOURNMENT: With Happy Holiday wishes to all, Chairman Ishii adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Stan Ishii, Chair

Jill Barnier, Assistant Secretary