

CPDPC Executive Committee Webinar Meeting

May 8, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Jim Gorden at 3:04 p.m. on May 8, 2020. There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance via webinar:

Executive Committee Members Present:

Bob Felts, Jr.
Jim Gorden

Mark McBroom
Dr. Etienne Rabe

Keith Watkins

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum
Ryan Fong
Alisha Garcia
David Gutierrez

Amelia Hicks
Victoria Hornbaker
Anmol Joshi
Sara Khalid

Zachary McCormack
Keith Okasaki
Claudia Vasquez
Jennifer Willems

Other Attendees:

Jonny Martinez

Opening Comments

Jim Gorden welcomed the Executive Committee, guests and staff participating in person and via webinar.

Public Comment

Victoria Hornbaker stated that Sara Khalid, Environmental Scientist with the Citrus Division for the last three years has accepted a promotion with another state agency. Victoria, Citrus Division staff and the Executive Committee members wished Sara well in her new job.

Program Impacts due to Coronavirus

Victoria Hornbaker provided an update on the impacts to the Program due to Coronavirus. She noted that work continues but is moving at a slower pace due to changes in activities to protect staff and residents. For HLB response, public meetings are being conducted via webinar and seem to be going well. Staff are leaving flyers on doorsteps that direct residents to make an appointment for survey and treatment. Staff doing risk survey are only surveying accessible trees. We are using targeted Facebook adds to notify residents that staff will be in the area. Staff are staggering start and end time to reduce the number of staff in the office at any one time and where work is available staff are being allowed to telework. We are working with NST to look at changing the treatment mailers to postcards. We are trying to find ways to be more efficient and cost conscious. We did receive a Budget Letter from the Department of Finance directing us to cut spending where we can and we are being directed to seek Executive Office approval for any contracts, purchases, travel or hiring. Jim asked about the ability for staff to get the work done with the changes that are being implemented.

Victoria noted that initial interactions have been good with response from 30 to 50 percent, but staff are preparing a second flier with more robust language to try and get more participation. Bob Felts asked about the likelihood of current fiscal year general funds being taken or next years general funds being taken. Victoria stated that it is likely that both may occur, because there is reported to be a \$54 billion deficit.

Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Update

Carl Baum gave an update on the progress in standing up the new Division. He presented an updated Organizational Chart (Org Chart). Carl noted that the Division is now 100 percent separate from Pest Detection Emergency Projects. He discussed the Org Chart, noting the Supervisors are in the process of filling the vacant positions. Dr. Etienne Rabe asked why the Org Chart states 241 positions when the motion made at the Last Committee meeting was to hold the positions at 168. Victoria noted that the permanent position authority is held at 168, but that PDEP transferred 74 seasonal staff to the Division. She noted that seasonal staff cannot work the same number of days as a permanent staff person, so they would not count as a one for one. She also stated that there is hope that many of the seasonal staff will fill the permanent vacancies. He asked about the three to one reporting structure and wanted to have each position described and what they will be doing in for the Division. Keith Watkins asked if there is an urgency to get the positions filled. Victoria responded that the Org Chart represents a subset of what the Division needs. Noting that there is work not getting done because we do not have the staff. Etienne asked that the discussions with the Pest Control Districts resume to see if they can take on some of the workload. Victoria offered to hold an Executive meeting in mid-May to have the Senior Environmental Scientists, Supervisors give an accounting of the duties and staff needs in each office. Carl presented a map of the regional districts and office locations, noting that we have received space in San Jose and Coachella. There was concern raised about the location of the Coachella office. Victoria noted that most of the offices are being shared with other CDFA programs. Keith asked why Ventura is aligned with the Central District and not the Southern District and Victoria responded that that was done to align workload. Carl presented a spreadsheet noting details on offices and the rent for offices where the information is available. He also shared a list of vehicles that will be provided in the Divisions fleet acquisition plan. Etienne asked that Carl provide the costs for the vehicles at the next meeting.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Bob Felts Jr. provided a summary of the information discussed at the May 5, 2020 Finance Subcommittee meeting. Bob reviewed the 2018/2019 budget expenditures, he noted that September 2019 has closed, bringing the total expenditures for 2018/2019 to \$29,864,223. He noted that there may be redirected charges coming from PDEP. The Federal and General funds from 2018/2019 have been fully expended. Bob shared the 2019/2020 expenditure budget. He stated that to date the program has expended \$17,434,079 and at the same time last year we were showing \$9,000,000 in expenditures, which indicates that the manual tracking is working well. Victoria noted that November and December may have had a doubling of salaries and that staff are double checking. Bob directed the Committee to look at the Southern Survey line item,

noting that it is an artificial overage. Staff are going through the expenditures to reallocate the expenditures. Bob reviewed the 2019/2020 revenue report stating that there was an increase in April of \$2,185,753 for a total of \$9,963,281 in revenues to date. Bob noted that the Division received an additional \$2,000,000 in CHRP funds. Victoria presented a draft Fund Condition Statement to the Committee, noting that the carry in for the 2019/2020 fiscal year was \$25,546,775. She also showed a draft balance sheet.

Operations Subcommittee Report

Keith Watkins provided an update on the joint Operations and Science Subcommittee. He noted that there were several operations items that will be moved to the full board for consideration, including the plan to move nursery stock into CDFA approved insect resistant structures in the HLB quarantine area and the plan to allow nurseries with outdoor grown nursery stock to plant that nursery stock to create a commercial grove on their own property. He also noted that there is a working group that has been developed to look alignment of the ACP quarantine boundaries. Mark McBroom noted that there are unintended consequences of the movement of unmitigated fruit. Keith noted that there was a good presentation from Holly Denniston on the efficacy of tree removal.

Science Subcommittee Report

Dr. Etienne Rabe noted that Ethyl Formate should be submitted to EPA in a week and there is a 19-month review period. He noted that there was a presentation to move the HLB delimitation and treatment from 400-meters to 250-meters, which is based on a study that noted that 86 percent of all HLB positive trees would be detected in the 250-meter area. Etienne noted that he will be asking DATOC to quantify the are treated as a result of the HLB treatments. He also noted that the Pest Control District discussion have been stalled due to COVID-19, but he hopes that the discussion will resume soon. Etienne also noted his desire to revise the Science Subcommittee members, due to a retirement and a member that no longer is associated with citrus activities.

Outreach Subcommittee Update

Mark noted that Price Adams will provide an update on May 13 at the Committee meeting. He did note that there is an issue with the Grower Liaisons contracts under Assembly Bill 5. CDFA legal decided that the Grower Liaisons do not meet the exemptions and should be considered employees and as such Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance must be paid to the stat on their behalf. There was a brief discussion about options to make this Grower Liaisons whole, or how to devolve the activities to County or Division staff. Jim Gorden noted the Grower Liaisons have been doing a great job in getting growers to participate.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.