

ALLIANCE OF PEST CONTROL DISTRICTS
22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE at 22847 Road 140, Tulare (APCD office):

Commissioners: John N. Fisher IV (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*)

Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough (*Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD-STCCPCD*)

Roberto Farias Moeller and Jay Gillette (*Central Valley PCD -CVPCD*)

Staff: Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Managing Director; Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager; Ron Carter, Field Supervisor

Other: Sam Conant, Deputy Ag. Commissioner/Sealer in charge of Pest Detection; Judy Zaninovich, Kern ACP/HLB Grower Liaison; Jessica Leslie, Northern and Southern Tulare County Grower Liaison; Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technology; Chris Greer, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; Alex Mendenhall, Tulare County Agricultural Pest Management Specialist

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Other: Dr. Dhiraj Gautam, APCD Lab Manager; Cerise Montanio, Assistant Ag. Comm. Kern County; Libby Ouellette, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Fresno County; Jennifer Willems, CDFA Program Supervisor; Logan Henderson, Fresno/Madera Grower Liaison

Absent Commissioners: James McKinney (*Central Valley PCD -CVPCD*) and John Corkins (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher IV called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All in attendance identified themselves.

OPEN SESSION:

Public Comments:

None

Introduction of New Staff Members

Managing Director Dr. Hajeri introduced Ron Carter, the Agency's new Field Supervisor/Mapper. He also introduced Dr. Dhirj Gautam, the Agency's new Lab Manager/Safety Officer. The board welcomed both new employees to the Agency.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, August 17, 2023

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 17, 2023, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Ag Commissioners

Libby Ouellette from the Fresno Agricultural Department has reported a new Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) found in a residential area of Fresno County. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is conducting a survey and will start treatment soon.

Ouellette further mentioned that Fresno County received additional funding to carry out bulk inspections, and she

explained which departments would be responsible for taking on this extra work. Additionally, she intends to conduct more inspections of packing houses to ensure compliance and inspect incoming trucks.

During the meeting, Chris Greer, the Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, shared an update with the board members. He informed them that several southern counties had requested field clean alternative mitigations from Ventura County. However, the Tulare County Ag department is very strict with these requests, and with the recent discovery of new HLB finds in Ventura County, they plan to become even stricter.

Sam Conant from Tulare County Ag Department reported that in 2023 there had been 3,085 bulk citrus inspections, and 58 had violations. He also mentioned that delimitation ACP traps have been removed from Visalia, Woodlake, Lindsay, and Porterville. Additionally, there have been GWSS residential treatments in Tulare, Exeter, and Dinuba.

Agricultural Pest Management Specialist Alex Mendenhall introduced himself as the new hire, taking over for Dennis Haines.

Cerise Montanio, from the Kern County Ag Department, reported that for 2023, there have only been four ACP finds in Kern County. She also noted that they are fully staffed within their ACP trapping staff. She said that her department plans to have a renewed emphasis on inspections considering the Ventura HLB finds. She is working with CDFA to identify any packing houses and growers that ship fruit from Ventura County into Kern County so their compliance agreements can be updated.

CPDPC Grower Liaisons

Logan Henderson, Fresno/Madera County GL, reported that only one ACP was found in Fresno County. This is the first find of the year. There have been no finds in Madera County for over a year.

Jessica Leslie, Tulare County GL, reported no finds since June. She also reviewed the report presented to the board.

Judy Zaninovich, Kern County GL, reported four finds in Kern County this year. She also reviewed the report presented to the board.

CDFA Updates

Jennifer Willems from CDFA reported 22 HLB-positive trees in Ventura County. So far, 13 of those trees have been removed, and the rest will be removed in time. The homeowners have been cooperative so far.

CCM Updates

None

Departmental Operations:

Field Activities

During his report, Managing Director Dr. Hajeri presented a map to explain how trap locations are chosen. He also discussed the ACP trapping and mapping numbers included in the field report. Furthermore, he informed the board that the trapping and lab staff underwent eye calibration in Ventura at the start of the season. Dr. Hajeri also showed pictures of the ACP found during the trip.

Laboratory Activities

Managing Director Dr. Hajeri reviewed the Lab Activities Report for the board.

Administrative Activities:

Review and Approve Resolution 2023-04: New Bank

It was moved by Commissioner Farias Moeller, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to adopt Resolution 2023-04, Approval to change to a new bank. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Income and Expenses: August and September, 2023

Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: August and September, 2023

It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to ratify the warrants for August and September 2023. The motion was carried, and all in attendance voted AYE.

Capital Expenditures: Review and Approve: Ice Maker and Pounding Machine Parts

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough seconded by Commissioner Gillette, to approve the purchase of a new Ice Maker. It was moved by Commissioner Farias Moeller and seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman to purchase new Pounding Machine parts. Both motions were carried on roll call votes, and all in attendance voted AYE.

Announcements

Administrative Manager Neunzig announced that she included a calendar of all meeting dates through 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin.
Manager