

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

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*)
Jay Gillette and James McKinney (*Central Valley PCD -CVPCD*)

Guest Board Member: Milo Gorden (*Chairman, Tulare County PCD- TCPCD*)

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

Other: Judy Zaninovich, Kern ACP/HLB Grower Liaison; Libby Ouellette, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer for Fresno County; Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technology; Casey Creamer, President/CEO California Citrus Mutual

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Commissioners: John Corkins (*Kern County Citrus PCD- KCCPCD*)

Other: Jessica Leslie, Northern and Southern Tulare County Grower Liaison; Rissa Stuart, APCD Legal Counsel; Tom Tucker, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer for Tulare County

Absent Commissioners: None.

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 presented.

Review and Approve the APCD Agreement for New Member (TCPCD)

Dr. Subhas Hajeri and Legal Counsel Rissa Stuart reviewed Resolution 2024-02. **It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve Resolution 2024-2, as presented. The motion was approved with a roll call, and everyone present voted AYE.**

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, February 22, 2024

It was moved by Commissioner McKinney, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 22, 2024, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Review and Approve the Budget Proposal for FY 2024-2025

Mia Neunzig reviewed the proposed budget in depth. The new line item "LREC Protection" was discussed in depth. **It was moved by Commissioner McKinney, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to approve the proposed budget for FY 2024-2025, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.**

Reports:

Ag Commissioners Updates

Libby Ouellette from the Fresno Agricultural Department reported that on February 22, 2024, a canine team intercepted a package from a UPS facility in Fresno containing kumquat trees and plant material. The packages were destroyed immediately due to being in violation of federal regulations. After tests were run on the plants, it was confirmed that they were HLB positive. Attempts were made to track down the original shipper, however they were unable to do so. It appeared to have come from Florida as an "internet sale." The package was not believed to come from a commercial nursery.

Ouellette moved on by saying that the work plan for the Bulk Citrus Transporter Inspection Program has been resubmitted due to a budget cut. Year-to-date numbers show a 50% decrease in violations. The overall violation rate is about 8.5%, most of them being paperwork violations.

Tom Tucker, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner appeared via Zoom. He reported that the ACP Bulk Citrus Reports have not changed. Even though the season has begun to slow down, inspectors are still diligently checking citrus loads regularly. Significant attention was being paid to loads coming in from southern California regarding records and following protocol. Tucker mentioned that in addition to ACP and HLB, inspectors are also concerned about the Fruit Fly.

Tucker reported that they have completed pulling all the trees from the abandoned orchard that he was working on. The orchard had been abandoned due to the loss of its well.

Tucker then reported that a public meeting is being arranged for the Urban Residential Treatment program regarding the Glassy Wing Sharpshooter.

Tucker also reported that Citrus Bloom District 1 has been called for Sunday the 21st of April, 2024. This allowed growers to use different types of applications and materials. Growers/Applicators are still responsible for following specific directions in relation to the product they are using.

Commissioner John Corkins (KCPCD) who attended via Zoom announced that he needed to dismiss himself to another meeting at 1:11 p.m.

CPDPC Grower Liaisons Updates

Jessica Leslie, Southern Tulare County Grower Liaison appeared via Zoom. She reported that there have been zero ACP finds in Tulare County in 2024.

Judy Zaninovich, Kern County Grower Liaison began her report by stating that there has only been one ACP find at a residential home in Shafter. Zaninovich presented a few graphs to illustrate ACP detection patterns over the last decade.

It is reported that no HLB-Positive trees have been found in the San Joaquin Valley to date. There is a cumulative total of 7,701 HLB-Positive trees that have been found in CA since 2012. There is a significant increase in the amount of confirmed infected trees in comparison to this time last year when the numbers were at 4,873. These trees have only been found in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, San Diego, and Ventura counties. HLB-Positive trees are treated by removing the trees and destroying the plant material.

CDFA Updates

None presented.

CCM Updates

Casey Creamer, President/CEO of California Citrus Mutual, appeared in person, he reported that the Fruit Fly outbreaks across California are potentially one of the bigger issues that need to be addressed within the Citrus industry. Creamer stated that there are 7-9 different active quarantines across the state, 5 of those being in direct proximity of citrus producing areas.

Discussion ensued regarding Crop insurance and Quarantine protocols.

Departmental Operations

Field Activities

APCD Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri gave a summary of the International Research Conference on HLB that took place in Riverside, CA during the last week of March.

Dr. Saurabh Gautam and Dr. Hajeri went into detail about the research proposals submitted to the Citrus Research Board. The proposals submitted include: Surveying for flat mites and Citrus Leprosis symptoms in commercial citrus and ornamental host plants, and finding the hosts of Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus, and developing a scent generation device for ACP attraction and control.

Dr. Saurabh Gautam then moved on to discuss trapping and CTV activities. APCD Field Supervisor Ron Carter noted that out of 919 trap sites visited, 865 traps were deployed. The reasons for the skipped trap locations were due to trees being netted or inaccessible.

He then went on to discuss the new role of multi-pest inspectors, outlining their important function in the Multi-Pest Program for the Agency. The inspectors will walk through selected orchards and will bring in suspect samples from the field to be tested. A field guide has been given to the inspectors for reference.

Lab Activities

Dr. Hajeri discussed a field survey conducted with a South African researcher in the San Emidio area on March 22, 2024. The survey included pictures of trees and fruit that seemed to show symptoms of HLB, but in reality, the trees were affected by Stubborn Disease.

Dr. Hajeri then discussed research that was conducted with Dr. Ray Yokomi out of Parlier, CA pertaining to Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus. He explained that the virus was found to be co-infected with multiple other pathogens or viroid's such as Citrus exocortis viroid and Hop stunt viroid. The spread of these viroid's does not happen through insect vectors, but rather by mechanical tools such as pruning tools.

Dr. Dhiraj Gautam gave an update on lab equipment repairs and maintenance. One of the Kleco pounding machines was repaired and 10 pipettes were sent to the Eppendorf Calibration Center for calibration maintenance. Two out of 10 pipettes are being recommended for replacement by Eppendorf.

Administrative Activities

Review APCD Performance to Budget for FY 2023-2024
Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review Income and Expenses: February 2024 and March 2024
Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: February 2024 and March 2024

It was moved by Commissioner Gillette, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to ratify the warrants for February 2024 and March 2024. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures: Approval of Replacement Lab Pipettors

Funds in the total amount of \$1,801.48 for two new replacement pipettors were requested for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner McKinney, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the capital expenditure for the purchase of two replacement lab pipettors. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Announcements

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig announced that the agency's new domain name will change to APCD.CA.GOV in the following weeks as well as employee emails.

Adjournment

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin.
Manager