

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023**

**MINUTES**

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

**Commissioners:** John N. Fisher IV and John Corkins (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*)  
Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough (*Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD-STCCPCD*)

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

**Staff:** Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Managing Director; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager; Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager; Tony Patino, Lab Supervisor; and Michelle Gomez, Field Ops Coordinator

**Other:** Dr. Saurabh Gautam, Entomologist; Sam Conant, Deputy Ag. Commissioner/Sealer in charge of Pest Detection; Jessica Leslie, Northern and Southern Tulare County Grower Liaison; Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technology.

**ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:**

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

**Guest Board Member:** James Marshall, Chairman, West Fresno Red Scale Protective District

**Other:** Cerise Montanio, Assistant Ag. Comm. Kern County; Judy Zaninovich, Kern ACP/HLB Grower Liaison; Lauren Murphy, Environmental Scientist Supervisor CDFA; Jennifer Willems, CDFA Program Supervisor

**Absent Commissioners:** James McKinney (*Central Valley PCD -CVPCD*)

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**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 to Field Operations Coordinator: Michelle Gomez**

Dr. Hajeri, the managing director, introduced Michelle Gomez to the board. He indicated that the Agency needed to make plans for a seamless transition within the Field Department since Karen Westerman, the Field Manager, was moving to Tennessee. All of Karen's administrative duties will now be handled by Michelle. The board welcomed Michelle and appreciated Karen's many years of service to the Agency.

Dr. Saurabh Gautam was then introduced by Dr. Hajeri as a prospective applicant for the newly created Entomologist position. He explained that once the Agency shifts the focus from CTV and ACP/HLB to a multi-pest surveillance and detection approach, having an entomologist on the team would be valuable. Dr. Gautam spoke to the board about his experience, as well as the abilities and expertise he would bring to the Agency.

**Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, June 21, 2023 and Special Meeting, July 24, 2023**

**It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, on June 21, 2023, and Special Meeting, on July 24, 2023, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.**

## **Reports:**

### **Ag Commissioners**

As per Sam Conant of the Tulare County Ag Commissioner office, 53 infractions were found due to 2900 bulk citrus inspections in 2023. Then, he reported that 679 urban GWSS traps had been placed around the city of Tulare.

Cerise Montanio from Kern Co. Ag. Commissioners' office reported that no ACP finds have been made recently in Kern County. There have been 4 ACP findings in total for 2023.

### **CPDPC Grower Liaisons**

Jessica Leslie informed the board that Logan Henderson was appointed the new Grower Liaison for Fresno and Madera Counties.

Grower Liaison Judy Zaninovich reviewed the report provided to the board.

### **CDFA Updates**

Jennifer Willems of CDFA reported that there has not been much ACP activity in the Valley thus far. She noted that there are a total of 6,082 HLB-positive trees in California to date. There have been 722 ACPs found to be positive for HLB bacteria, CLAs.

### **CCM Updates**

None

### **Canine Detection Service**

None

## **Departmental Operations:**

### **Field Activities: June and July, 2023**

Field Manager Westerman reported that all tree removals have been finalized, with the exception of one tree in Tulare County. Next, she reported that they are in the process of preparing for the fall trapping season to begin.

### **Laboratory Activities: June and July, 2023**

Dr. Hajeri reviewed the lab report presented to the board.

### **Administrative Activities:**

#### **Review and Approve New APCD Logo**

Administrative Manager Neunzig and Dr. Hajeri led the discussion. Various opinions were given, and ultimately, the board delegated the final decision to the Agency staff.

#### **Income and Expenses: June and July, 2023**

The June 2023 report gives a summary of the funds in each budgeted category for the entire fiscal year. Administrative Manager, Neunzig, reviewed the report and noted the categories with significant cash surpluses and deficits. She also reviewed the report from July 2023.

#### **Review and Ratify Warrant List: June and July, 2023**

**It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Gillette, to ratify the warrants for June and July 2023. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.**

#### **Capital Expenditures: Upgrade to Internet and Phone System**

Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the memo, which explains that for \$773 per month, the Agency is able

to upgrade the internet speed as well as purchase a new VoIP phone system.

**It was moved by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Corkins, to upgrade the phone system and move forward with the new contract for higher internet speed. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.**

**Announcements**

During the meeting, Administrative Manager Neunzig distributed a calendar that includes all the meeting dates for the fiscal year 2023-2024. She also announced that Dr. Hajeri had received his green card. Lastly, she asked the board if they believed looking for a new bank that allows DocuSign signatures would be beneficial. The board agreed that having the ability to use DocuSign signatures is crucial.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

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John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

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Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin.  
Manager