

CITRUS PEST DETECTION PROGRAM
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY
22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

MINUTES

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

Directors: Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough (*Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD-STCCPCD*);
John Corkins (*Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD*);

Staff: Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Program Director;
Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager;
Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager;

Other: Jeff Steen and Milo Gorden, Tulare County PCD-TCPCD);
Judy Zaninovich, Grower Liaison; Teri Blaser, Grower Liaison, Lisa Finke and David Finke, Canine
Detection Program; Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technologies

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Directors: James McKinney (*Central Valley PCD -CVPCD*)

Other: Jessica Leslie, Grower Liaison; Tom Tucker, Tulare County Ag Commissioner; Victoria Hornbaker,
Director of Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division/CDFA

Absent Directors: John Fisher and Jay Gillette

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Scarbrough called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

All in attendance identified themselves.

III. OPEN SESSION:

A. Public Comments: None

B. Minutes: Regular Meeting, April 20, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2022, as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote, each commissioner voting AYE.

C. Adopt Resolution 2022-01: Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 *

Program Director Dr. Hajeri gave an overview of the revisions for this updated budget. He pointed out an increase in contract services due to Tulare County Pest Control District approving ACP trapping in their district. Starting in the fall of 2022, there will be one trapping crew working in the Tulare County PCD. This new contract creates a need for additional seasonal hours and benefits.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to adopt the proposed budget as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, each commissioner voting AYE.

D. Reports

1. Ag Commissioners / CPDPC Grower Liaison(s)/Canine Detection Service

Grower Liaison Zaninovich reported that there had been four residential finds in Kern County. These finds were not near commercial citrus. Reporting for Grower Liaison Leslie, she noted only one find in Southern Tulare County, which was in the city of Tulare.

Grower Liaison Blaser reported that there had been finds in Fresno and Madera Counties. One find was at a citrus packing house near Orange Cove. At this find, an ACP was found on a trap; this prompted the need for surveying in the area. Once surveying began, live psyllids were found. All residential properties within 400 meters of the packing house find will be treated. This find was close to commercial citrus. Growers in the area have been notified and most of them have treated their properties or are in the process of treating their groves. Next, she reported that in Tulare County, there have been several detections. One detection was at a juice plant, one was north of Visalia, and one was at a packing house in Lemon Cove/Woodlake area. The detection in Lemon Cove consisted of many ACP being found on a trap at a packing house. The next step was to survey around the packing house, additional live psyllids were found on trees south of the packing house. There are commercial groves surrounding both the packing house and the residential property. The growers in this area have treated their groves. Also, all residential properties have been treated within the 400-meter perimeter, except for one property. They are working with the owner to have this property treated as soon as possible.

Lisa Finke of the Canine Detection Program reported that she is fully funded and can work anywhere a government agency or grower invites her to work. She reported that her dog teams went to work at both packing house finds mentioned earlier. A grower in Lemon Cove invited her and her dog teams to go back out and recheck their grove after the last spray. She noted that her dogs did detect psyllids south of the property. Ultimately due to locked properties, she and Milo Gorden walked without the dogs and found live psyllids through visual inspection. She also reported that while working in Fresno County, the Fresno County Ag Commissioner assigned a county employee to work alongside of her team in the event that any ACP were found; those finds could be considered regulatory.

Ag Commissioner Tucker gave an update on the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter program. He also talked about the county's tarping program and the importance of that program. The county's other important program is to keep an eye on abandoned groves. The board members asked many questions about the Lemon Cove finds. Mr. Tucker shared that he has communicated closely with Ventura County regarding this event.

CDFA Citrus Division Director Victoria Hornbaker reported that she would be reaching out to all the PCD's in the state to start discussing opportunities for collaboration. She was asked to include the County Ag Commissioners, and she said she would.

2. Pest Control District Updates

Commissioner McKinney reported that the Central Valley PCD met and adopted the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget; they appointed new officers for the 2022-23 fiscal year and discussed the option of increasing the assessment rates. The board was not necessarily in favor of the increase. However, they want to wait to hear what the other boards have decided.

Commissioner Zimmerman reported that the Southern Tulare County Citrus Pest Control District met twice. During those meetings, the budget was reviewed and approved, the board approved to elect the same officers as the last fiscal year, and they approved the M. Green audit proposal. The board also discussed the option of raising the special district assessment rates by having a 218 vote.

Commissioner Corkins reported that the Kern County Citrus Pest Control District met in May and adopted the 2022-23 fiscal year budget and re-elected officers. They also discussed the option of having a prop 218 vote to increase the assessment rates. He reported his board is generally in favor of the increase. However, they want to see what happens at the state level. There has been a change in leadership, and there may be a chance that funding from the state level can be reallocated to the local level. The board thinks that the funding would be better spent at the local level. There will be a push to have the money reallocated in August or September. If that is unsuccessful, then at that point, the board would be willing to put a 218 prop vote together.

Director Steen was invited to give an update on the Tulare County Pest Control District. He reported that the TCPD also approved the 2022-23 budget and appointed new officers. He said that there was an important discussion around the roles and responsibilities related to HLB and ACP; where CDFA's roles begin and end, where the Pest Control District's roles and responsibilities begin and end, and where Tulare County Ag Commissioner's roles and responsibilities begin and end. And most importantly, how can we find ways to mutually reinforce each other to find solutions and effectiveness related to HLB and ACP. The Tulare County Pest Control District would like to start having more of these conversations to determine where do we fit in. They asked Victoria Hornbaker of CDFA to coordinate getting all the right people together to continue the conversation. All the holes and cracks need to be identified in order to efficiently and proactively combat ACP.

3. Regional ACP/HLB Efforts by SJV Pest Control Districts

Program Director Dr. Hajeri discussed the need for regional HLB and ACP efforts. He stressed the importance of further conversations and discussions that will better define roles between Pest Control Districts, CDFA, and County Ag Commissioners. He noted that West Fresno Red Scale District was invited to this meeting, and he will continue to reach out to them.

4. Departmental Operations

a. Field Activities: April and May, 2022

Field Operations Manager Westerman reported in the month of April they collected 12,742 and in May they collected 12,711 samples. She also reported that there have been 3 CTV positive trees found in the Central Valley Pest Control District, one in Kern County Citrus Pest Control District, and 65 trees in the LREC area.

Program Director Dr. Hajeri gave an overview of the maps included in the packet. He noted that recently packing houses were added to the maps. Juice plants will also be added to the maps.

b. Laboratory Activities: April and May, 2022

Program Director Dr. Hajeri reported that in April 4,397 samples were tested and in May 4,788 samples were tested. He also noted that per a grower's request, three ACP nymphs were brought back to the lab and were tested, all three tested negative for CLAs.

c. Administrative Activities

i. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to continue the current slate of officers. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

- ii. Review and Approve Audit Proposal for FY 2021-2022
Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the proposal report. She noted that the Agency did not see a significant price increase while the smaller districts all received a price increase. She also pointed out that all of the districts did approve the audit proposals; however, they asked that a price comparison be made to ensure the current price is still reasonable compared to others in the area. It was agreed that a price comparison would be done this fiscal year.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to accept the M. Green and Company proposal as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

- iii. Income and Expenses: April and May, 2022
Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the written reports.

- iv. Review and Ratify Warrant List – April and May, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Corkins, to approve the April 2022 and May 2022 Warrant lists as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, all in attendance voting AYE.

- v. Capital Expenditures- Review and Approve Proposal for Server System Upgrade*

Administrative Manager Neunzig reviewed the memo included in the packet. Sam Lok assured the board that the transition would be seamless.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve Capital Expenditures- Server System Upgrade as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, all in attendance voting AYE.

- vi. Update on Immigration Status of Subhas Hajeri

Program Director Dr. Hajeri reported that his immigration status has advanced, and he can now apply for a green card and permanent residency. He noted that this process may still take 15 months to two years due to backlogs.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting will be August 17, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Scarbrough adjourned the meeting at 1:49pm.

Steve Scarbrough, Vice-Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager