

California Agricultural Commissioners & Sealers Association

Weed and Vertebrate Committee

Conference Call Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2014

10:30 am

Committee Members

Ron Ross, Chair

Cathi Boze, Secretary

Chad Godoy

Patti Lesky

Pat Griffin

Nathan Reade

Les Wright

Scott Paulson

Kevin Wright

Joe Moreo

John Snyder

Wildlife Services Subcommittee

Eric Lauritzen, Chair

I. Call to order/roll Call

The Weed and Vertebrate Committee was called to order at 10:40 am by Chairman Ron Ross. Kevin Wright volunteered to take the minutes.

Committee members present: Ron Ross, Les Wright, Patti Lesky, Pat Griffin Nathan Reade, Kevin Wright, Joe Moreo and John Snyder along with Wildlife Services Subcommittee chair Eric Lauritzen.

II. Approval of Minutes-group

After clarification, the minutes of the Spring Conference were accepted.

III Old Business

Update on RFP and funding for Wildlife Services initial study-Lauritzen

Eric Lauritzen updated the committee on funding for the Wildlife Services CEQA process following his trip to Washington D.C. with Greg Clark and Tim Cansler. At a meeting with USDA, the USDA said that they are committed to helping California with the CEQA process by funding up to 80% of the costs. USDA also brought up that perhaps their program could continue under a categorical exemption.

CDFA is still onboard to move forward; however only one application was received from the RFP and it was not accepted by CDFA. A meeting with CDFA will be scheduled to discuss that the next steps should be. Eric recommended that Scott Paulsen or Tony Linegar to be the lead on the Wildlife Services CEQA matter and that Eric would be available to assist as needed.

Update on Weed Free Forage interagency group- Ron Ross

Weed Free forage MOU was renewed. California does not have a colored twine program, but relies on paper certificates certifying weed free hay from the counties of origin. The consensus of the committee is that the program is sufficient and efficient at the present time. Currently, California has no closure order on federal land. Recent fires will increase the demand for straw on Federal lands in California

The North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) has standards and requirements for using for colored twine. If federal agencies require colored twine in the future, we need to look into how to make this work in California as the distribution of twine and oversight of the twine will be problematic. Oregon has a program where the growers order twine directly from the distributor after their hay fields have passed inspection. It has been discussed that California could start a pilot program like Oregon has. Pat Griffin will look into the issue further and report back to the committee.

Wildlife Resources Committee of the Fish & Game Commission-

With the retirement of Mike Boitano, who attended and commented on the agenda items of the Wildlife Resource Committee, a process for keeping CACASA informed and participating in their discussions is needed. Mike traveled statewide to attend these meetings, and it was discussed that a more efficient system could be developed. Les Wright volunteered to monitor the activities of the Wildlife Resources Committee. He will also follow where the meetings were held and coordinate who can attend. The consensus seemed to be that a local Ag commissioner could attend the meeting and report to Les who would forward the report to the Weed & Vertebrate Committee and to CACASA. This would not exclude any commissioner from attending any meeting where he had an interest.

IV. New Business

Selection of leads for sub-committees

The following members volunteered to be lead on these issues:

- Weed free forage identification (use of twine and/or tags): Pat Griffin
- Wildlife Services CEQA: Scott Paulson
- Wolves in California: Pat Griffin
- Weed Management Area funding restoration: Kevin Wright
- Fish & Game's Wildlife Resources Committee: Les Wright

V. Other business

Spring Conference – agenda items

The following ideas were discussed but are not finalized

- Wildlife services environmental review funding and CEQA compliance
- Weed free forage
- Weed management funding-Cal IPC
- Eurasian Doves

Retirement announcement

Ron Ross, Chairman of the committee, announced his retirement at the end of the year.