



COAST



Alameda – Contra Costa
San Benito – San Francisco – Sonoma

Marin - Monterey - Napa
San Mateo – Santa Clara – Santa Cruz

MINUTES

Thursday, March 12, 2015
Willow Park Golf Course, Alameda County

Members Present

Stacy Carlson, Marin
Eric Lauritzen, Monterey
Chad Godoy, Contra Costa
Scott Paulsen, Alameda

Joe Deviney, Santa Clara
Miguel Monroy, San Francisco
Tony Linegar, Sonoma
Marylou Nicoletti, Santa Cruz

Guests Present

Joey Marade, CDPR
Gary Leslie, CDFA
Humberto Izquierdo, Napa

Koren Widdel, San Mateo
Ronnie Eaton, Alameda

- I. The meeting was called to order by Marylou Nicoletti, followed by introductions.
- II. The January meeting minutes were approved by MSP.
- III. Correspondence – None received
- IV. Reports
 - A. Chair Report – Nicoletti – Marylou reviewed with the group our CACASA officer candidates; Jim Allen – President, Cathy Fisher- President elect, Marty Settevendemie - Vice President Ag, John Young – Vice President W&M, Tim Niswander – Secretary.
 - B. Treasurer Report – Joe reported success in becoming “signatory” for the checking account. Joe also provided the most recent back statement for the union Bank account. To recount, 5 counties paid dues of \$100 each and one check was drafted for \$500 for the DC delegation trip.
 - C. CDPR Update - Joey Marade (see attachment for details).

In addition to topics covered in the printed report, the following items were discussed:

 1. Joey wanted to clarify that two distinct fumigation meetings were to take place in the future. One being specifically for school notification and the other being a “fumigation notification workshop” presentation of different perspectives and public comment.
 2. Joey alerted the group to upcoming Hearing Officer training opportunities. He commented on there being a short notice for some of the trainings but encouraged our group to sign up.
 3. He also mentioned that EEIP contracts would be coming out shortly and that we should be receiving information soon on this from headquarters.
 - D. CDFA Report - Gary Leslie- (see attachment for details).

In addition to the topics covered in the printed report, the following items were discussed:

1. Avian Influenza H5N has been detected in Merced County. This is a new strain. It was found in turkeys.
 2. State Organic Program – Gary mentioned that audits were taking place and if you were not audited last year, you would probably be this year.
- E. CDFA special LBAM report - Duane Schnabel
1. Duane led a discussion regarding the recent changes in nursery protocol and updated the group on several important issues that were pending in this program. Five separate LBAM detections were found in new nurseries in new areas. New sites are being infested by shipments from infested nurseries. USDA wanted to shut down shipping nurseries. CDFA thought this was too strong of an approach and decided that strengthening protocols was a better tact. It was discussed that repeat finds at nurseries was requiring more and more inspections and treatments but was not effective in stopping the spread of LBAM. The incidence of finding larvae in nurseries, although few larvae overall, landed nurseries the “repeat” nursery protocol. When triggered, this “repeat” category causes CDFA and USDA project staff to step in and, if needed, revoke the nurseries federal shield. Duane reported that several conference calls, working group meetings and two draft outreach events took place regarding the new proposed regulations. He also reported a mailing error with the roll out. Duane stated that CDFA really tried to engage everyone but did not have any comments turned in. One key change that has occurred is that San Diego nurseries appear to keep getting infested stock delivered from infested areas. He also mentioned approximately half a million has been spent in San Diego on eradication efforts. He mentioned that CDFA may try one more time to keep San Diego clean but it seems to be a losing battle. He mentioned efforts to try to determine where material is coming in, trace backs and San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties potentially sharing LBAM with sister nurseries. Duane also mentioned struggles with treatments. UC has now come out with treatment plan recommendations. CDFA has suggested that the program should possibly go to a “treat and ship” plan instead of the current “freedom from” or “area free” program. The National Plant Board is still taking a “detection and destroy” stance however. It was overall discussed within the group that it is impossible to meet the “freedom from” regulations. Duane commented that “export” is also still an issue. Areas with LBAM have seen great increases in larvae found in the field. Tony described a specific situation in Sonoma where \$60,000 was spent in one quarter on just a couple of nurseries. Duane mentioned the need for this program to move forward and that CDFA needs more involvement from nursery groups and commissioners. The need for a ‘high level’ exit strategy was discussed. All agreed that LBAM is moving in the nursery trade and will continue. It was discussed that

in 2012 USDA had a chance to disengage but did not. Crafting a specific letter to USDA to address this dilemma and the need for the Secretary's involvement was suggested. USDA does not seem to be thinking of an exit strategy. San Diego is the nursery universe of the U.S. They are re-engaged now and is good time to get traction. Kevin Shae and key USDA players are coming out in April to do an EGVM and LBAM visit to get informed of the current situation. Many commented that we need to either set a sustainable program or vacate the field and deal with players. Fred Crowder, Pest Prevention Chair, was suggested to reach out to the USDA administrative group leadership. Fred should contact Duane to get a clear message and direction on how to approach this upcoming visit. It was also mentioned to include Ha Dang on this conversation and effort.

V. Old Business:

- A. EGVM Update – Napa – Humberto gave a brief update to the group on trapping in Napa and quality control measures they have put in place to increase the chance of catching what they anticipate to be low level populations.
- B. LBAM – Group – Wine grape letter was completed and sent to USDA and State. Hopes are that wine grapes are soon exempted and that this will prevent unnecessary trapping of vineyards.
- C. PDCP/GWSS – Group – Plant Source inspections were discussed at length. They attained plants again from an infested nursery and shipped. This is a reoccurrence of what happened with them recently and it is felt that they knowingly committed the same violation. 19 egg masses were found on a recent shipment and San Luis Obispo is going forward with a NOPA. The plants were rejected on the basis of cleanliness. A comment was made that GWSS is not being controlled to a reasonable level in these shipping nurseries. The need to revoke their nursery license was discussed. CDFA has the authority to do this but it has never been done. It was decided to make this an agenda item at the spring conference.
- D. Legislative report – Eric – The legislative committee recently created a list of bills of interest to CACASA and a meeting is scheduled to discuss them. Eric reported on the DC delegation's activities. One of which was the possibility for us to capture a portion of AQI funding at some level. This could possibly be a large sum of money and efforts were made in DC to remind our members of what we do and to be included in future discussions of on how AQI funding should be spent. Eric reported that the new DC EPA contact was very knowledgeable and will be a good contact going forward. Other topics discussed in DC were fumigants, pesticides and schools, and Medical Marijuana. Tony commented on how much hard work Eric puts into our annual DC trip. He also commented on how effective Eric is in DC and that his leadership and relationship building skills are of huge value to the association.
- E. Cal PEATS-Eric Lauritzen –This project is moving forward and technical issues are being resolved. How counties will approach businesses that have violations in different counties, whether to treat as a first or repeat violation, was discussed. CalPEATS will

capture this cross county information. Joey told the group he would check on DPR's view of this.

- F. Wildlife Services- Group – Mendocino County has responded to plaintiffs. Currently they are under a gag order. Tony informed the group that during discussions in DC with USDA, there was talk about hiring a CEQA and NEPA specialist to work with California agencies to put the needed supporting scientific documents together. Other topics discussed were cost share, legal fees and modernizing the program with non-lethal methods.
- G. Pesticides and Schools – Lauritzen – USEPA region 9 has taken some samples from school sites. Bills and labor groups continue to carry the topic of pesticide use around schools forward. CAC/DPR working group still creating a pre-empted draft of a “school model” package of regulations for applications around schools. The package is envisioned to contain buffers, notifications, aerial and restricted material components and is hoped to bring a uniform standard to the state. There was a MSP to send support communications for this effort to the Board of Directors.
- H. “Square” Point of Sale system update -Miguel– This “square” system does not meet the regulations for customer display. Square hired a lobbyist to try to pause violations until they work out a fix. Miguel did not pause violations as there is an easy fix. Miguel thought that we all may be seeing letters to pause violations and wanted to inform the group of this situation.

VI. New Business

- A. Nominations – The Coast Group nominated Jim Allen for President, Cathy Fisher as President elect, Marty Settevendemie Vice President AG, and Josh Huntsinger for Vice President W&M. Also for the minutes, it should be noted that the Coast region is also accepting of John Young taking the role of Vice President for W&M.
- B. Executive Director Position – Eric gave a brief report of the subcommittee's efforts in creating this potential new position. Louie Mendoza is leading this subcommittee and funding is still not ironed out. There is a commitment of interest from CDFA and DPR. Please think of potential candidates who you feel would make a great ED for CACASA as we may start recruitment process with direct letters to individuals. Many identified functions of this position will involve being in Sacramento. Any brick and mortar office will likely be in Sacramento.
- C. CDFA Laboratory procedures Discussion – Group – Gary Leslie brought to the group that he had discussed this with Nick Condos and the laboratory directors. He shared that he would not be able to attend the April meeting in Napa but offered to have Nick stand in for him and to also have two lab directors prepare a presentation of the current lab procedures at this April meeting. It was agreed that this was a good route to approach this topic.
- D. Joint Meeting proposed with Sac Valley Group – Deviney – It was MSP to have this joint meeting in Monterey on December 10 and 11. More information to come as we get closer.

VII. Additional Agenda Items

- A. Storm Water Inspections – Deviney – Joe asked the group if any counties were performing Storm Water Inspections interwoven into their pesticide or other inspections. No counties in the coast region are performing such inspections.
- B. Medical Marijuana – Deviney – Joe brought to the group an update of what is taking place in Santa Clara. Weights and Measures information is being sent to all dispensaries in efforts to educate the industry on the laws and regulations that pertain to them. Following this educational effort, the plan is to contact and begin the registration process with them as well as any required inspections to get them into compliance. A separate Ag letter is planned to go out shortly.
- C. Urban Ag Incentive Zones (UAIZ) – Deviney – Joe reported to the group that Santa Clara was following in the footsteps of San Francisco and proceeding to adopt a similar ordinance.
- D. Water Submeters Bill AB2451 – Miguel lead the group in a discussion of this bill regarding the ability for owners to take their meters to an outside county for testing and then install the meters in another county. This may create difficulties in tracking where installs occur.
- E. NOR-PIEM – San Mateo – Karen Widdel, on behalf of Fred, shared with the group the ongoing issue of seeing “fatal error” messages when entering new rejections. CDFA reported awareness of the problem and is working on a solution. Fred, and others, felt that it was very important for counties to have input in correcting these problems. Gary mentioned that he would forward this to Nick, Amber and Alex.
- F. Deputy Group communications – group – It was discussed that we have three coast deputy groups (W&M, pesticide, and quarantine) and now there is a potential direct marketing (F&V, eggs, CFM, etc.) that may be warranted to become a more formal entity with quarterly meetings. The question emerged of if we are communicating with these groups effectively. Additionally it was discussed if there needs to be a more formal composition for this new group, similar to the other existing groups. It was agreed that the coast commissioners support this new group whether it is formal or otherwise.

The next meeting will be by conference call on May 4th.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Deviney,

Secretary, Joe Deviney
