



PEST PREVENTION COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes
Directors / Secretaries Conference
Sacramento CA
October 21, 2014

I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 2:30 by Chair

- Changes to the agenda – Robin Wall's presentation will be on CBP Pest Interceptions, Asian Gypsy Moth, Trends and Public Education.
- Additional Agenda Items – Roger Spencer will provide an overview of the proposed changes to the Glassy-winged Sharp Shooter Approved Treatment Program.

II. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved via email in Sept 2014. Thanks for Kevin Wright for taking notes and preparing.

III. Chair's Report:

1. *Pest Prevention expenditures – Surveyed CAC's for NCC on federal pest prevention programs - \$10.6M with 49 counties reporting. Will continue effort to get data from the remaining counties. Though a significant priority for most counties, the survey did not include weeds. CAC NCC pest expenditures for all pest programs (not just federal) would be important should there be pest management related legislation, grant application, or efforts to fund pest management programs so CACASA Pest Prevention may be surveying counties for weeds program expenditures.*
2. *Weeds and WMA – Meeting with Sec. Ross to discuss approaches to funding of WMA's and weed projects. This was attended by Bob Atkins representing CISAC, Doug Johnson of Cal IPC, with Pest Prevention Chair Fred Crowder, representing CACASA. Doug Johnson discussed this meeting at the Weed and Vertebrate Committee earlier today. See minutes for Weed and Vertebrate for additional detail.*
3. *Chair Fred Crowder, was appointed by CACASA President Kurt Floren to represent CACASA on the CISAC. Bob Atkins, as Chair for CISAC will provide an update later in this session.*

IV. Communications:

1. *As per directed at the Spring Conference, a letter was drafted and sent by CACASA to USDA and CDFA regarding Cucumber Green Mosaic Mottle Virus. The content expressed concern with lack of seed born disease requirements on imported seed, the potential impacts of contaminated seed on California's agricultural industry, the increase in county agricultural commissioner workload, and the desire to tighten up import requirements. Doug Compton, Assistant Commissioner for Tehama County will provide and update on this issue later in this session.*
2. *A letter was drafted and sent by CACASA to USDA supporting USDA's proposal to release of Diaphoencyrtus aligarhensis a bio-control organism for Asian Citrus Psyllid in California citrus producing regions where ACP is present.*

V. Subcommittee Reports:

1. **Programmatic Environmental Impact Report**, Fred Crowder – *Fred reviewed the document and drafted and distributed comments to Pest Prevention committee and CACASA leadership for review and feedback. Primary items commented on in the*

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draft PEIR were 1) the rejection of any aerial applications over residential / urban areas for Program Projects, and 2) the draft PEIR does not address weeds. Many CAC's have weed programs and CDFA continues an aquatic weed program. The interest in a weed EIR document has been noted as a topic requiring further investigation. Additional comments received from CAC's were: what is CACASA's position on the PEIR; do we need to develop consistent talking points should the media call; the public in some communities are opting out for ACP treatments (neonicotinoids and pollinators), so does the PEIR include and consider a "Plan B" to address such situations? Comments are due October 31, 2014 and as indicated, some comments have been received but if there any additional, get them in ASAP.

2. **Plant Pest Regulation Working Group**, Fred Crowder – *Member of the working group provided qualified staff (Plant Pathologists, Entomologists, etc.) to review pests still needing to be evaluated and rated. Stephen Brown of CDFA distributed the pest lists to be evaluated – they should be returned not to Stephen, but to the CDFA Specialist responsible for the review and rating of the pest (Dean Kelch for weeds, Jason Leathers for insects, etc.). Though the rating process is ongoing, the regulation goes into effect January 1, 2015 so CDFA would appreciate responses before the effective date.*
3. **Farm Bill Section 10007**, Fred Crowder - *proposals are due October 25, 2014. Requests for pest prevention members to solicit their area groups was emailed to committee in September, however, no suggestions for projects have been provided. Proposals suggested in previous years were; identification of abandoned groves as strategy to suppress ACP populations; supplemental funding for high risk pest pathways; work with federal pest prevention agencies to utilize CBP's "PEST ID" data base information to discern origin of larval finds, and, printing informational post cards in appropriate languages for outreach to key communities. This year's continued joint 10007 efforts are: continuation of the dog teams at a higher funding level as well as additional funding for an associated educational outreach project, and: the "Don't Pack a Pest Program", with funding provided by other USDA resources. CDFA is preparing both proposals for submittal.*
4. **CISAC**, Bob Atkins, California Invasive Species Advisory Council Chair – *Bob provided an introduction to, and a brief overview of the CISAC committee. CISAC is made up of 24 individuals with an interest and expertise in invasive species, pest prevention and control. Committee members participate in the 21st Century Symposium and are advisory to the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) which advises the Secretary on invasive species, pest prevention strategies and response. The CISAC is seeking candidates to fill ten vacancies presently on the committee. The Committee needs a chairperson and candidates to fill other leadership roles.*
5. **Neglected Abandoned Orchard Working Group**, Bob Atkins – *the working group was formed at CACASA's 2014 Spring Conference to develop a definition of abandoned orchards, as well facilitate uniform abatement actions by drafting guidelines to help with identifying abandoned orchards and the appropriate FAC section for abatement. Bob provided a PowerPoint presentation on identifying abandoned orchards and discussed abatement using FAC Sections 5401 and 5551(c). The working group solicited and received from counties several examples of abatement actions addressing various Ag commodities. These abatement actions*

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were reviewed with the predominant FAC Section cited being FAC 5551(c), as it focused on the host plant having the potential to harbor the pest. Given the circumstances of ACP, this section - FAC 5551(c) - appears to be the most appropriate for abatement of citrus orchards. The working group reviewed and made edits and recommendations to a guideline on identifying abandoned orchards developed by Bob. The guideline needs one more round of review, but once finalized, the guideline as well as templates for abatement actions will be posted to the CACASA website and made available to CAC's. It was MSP that CACASA adopt the Abandoned/Neglected orchard guidelines, in concept, as a resource for CAC's considering abatement actions.

VI. New Business

Pest Prevention Subcommittee Review, Fred Crowder - There are many Pest Prevention subcommittees with some more active than others. Current listing by CACASA of Pest Prevention subcommittees and their respective subcommittee Chairs are:

- Pest Detection Working Group - Eric Lauritzen
- E-Fund – CACASA Representative - Eric Lauritzen
- High Risk Pest Exclusion Working Group - Kurt Floren
- Citrus Tristeza Interior Quarantine Task Force - Marilyn Kinoshita
- Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Advisory Group - Eric, Kurt, Richard
- Pest Ratings Subcommittee - Richard Price
- Programmatic Environmental Impact Report - Jim Allan

Pest Prevention Chair will be contacting subcommittee chairs to discuss if there is a benefit to continuing the subcommittee and will bring issue back to the Pest Prevention committee in Spring Conference for report and possible action.

VII. Old Business

CGMMV Update and Bio-Security, Doug Compton – Doug provided an update as to the status of Cucumber Green Mosaic Mottle Virus - a serious seed borne disease found in a crop in Yolo County in the summer of 2013- and what has been done since then concerning import requirements on seed to address biosecurity concerns. The finding of GCMMV in Yolo was discussed at the Spring Conference and a letter of concern was sent to USDA and CDFA (see "Communications" above, item 1). In July, Sutter and Yolo CAC staff attended the Seed Health Summit in Riverdale, Maryland which was also attended by USDA, State Ag Departments, industry, and academia. A summit outcome was the forming of a working group to address CGMMV through a self-certification process. Nick Condos of CDFA also attended and will be talking about the Summit and the self-certification concept later in the program (see Nick's report "Non-Regulatory Seed Certification" below). Since the find in Yolo County, CGGMV has also been found in fields in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and may now be generally distributed in California. This may diminish the need for the GCMMV working group, however, the concepts developed and implemented might be applied to preventing the introduction of other seed borne diseases.

VIII. Reports and Updates

CDFA:

Non- regulatory Seed Certification, Nick Condos - *Watermelon production fields in San Joaquin, were found to be positive for CGMMV (Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus) that demonstrated deteriorated flesh at the time of harvest. Trace forward and trace back efforts indicated that the seed sources for the positive fields were grown by a transplant nursery. Watermelon production fields in Fresno and Kern were subsequently found positive. The county agricultural commissioners have contained the disease to the infested fields and have implemented abatement requirements. Industry and USDA are looking for non-regulatory solution. Seed companies want to develop new varieties as quickly as possible, however seed testing will slow the process. Post entry phytosanitary field inspections may be problematic as the disease manifested itself late in the growing season. A biosecurity framework developed by the seed industry in conjunction with the USDA needs grassroots support for seed companies to go through the extra expense of becoming accredited. The introduction of CGMMV this summer has brought to the attention of growers the risks of importing dirty seed and the need for mitigations to stem the spread of the virus – seed companies are realizing they should have seed tested before selling or planting. In the end it will be up to the trading partners to decide if these efforts by industry are adequate. Helene Wright, USDA's Plant Health Director for California, also commented that APHIS is similarly looking at non regulatory approaches as it is not possible to oversee and regulate the millions of pounds of seed that are imported every year. Jim Allan and John Young (Solano and Yolo CAC's) expressed concerns that most risk is born by the property owner since most of the land is leased to the grower. The seed company and grower can walk away and leave the property under quarantine. The question raised is whether there are ways to protect property owners from such circumstances?*

Interior Exclusion Updates:

Dog Teams, Nick Condos - *CA Agricultural Detector Dog Teams received \$3.0 million for FY 14/15, this supports 10 teams and is the same allocation as previous years. CDFA is submitting an increased Farm Bill request in the amount of \$4,153,649 to support work at the USPS and add four additional teams. The Dog Team Working Group recommended placing the new teams near USPS Processing and Distribution Centers where we have had the highest interception rate of significant pests. CDFA will also be requesting Farm Bill funding under a separate goal to publish educational material in targeted languages for rejected parcels in this program. Having limited resources, there have been Dog Team Working Group meetings to evaluate the program to ensure efficiencies, review program efficacy, and that it addresses the highest risk pathways.*

Warrant Update, Nick Condos - *In July 2014 Santa Clara County began the pilot warrant program for parcels where consent could not be gained. If APHIS deems this pilot successful they may consider broadening the warrant program so other counties can execute search warrants. Thanks were expressed to Santa Clara County and APHIS for their efforts in making this pilot program a reality.*

High Risk, Nick Condos - *Funding remains at \$3,061,714 for FY 14/15. Allocations per pathway are: \$600,000 for parcel; \$1,592,543 for Air Freight/AF Forwarding; and \$869,171 for Nursery Stock. The CDFA-CACASA Joint Improvement Project had CDFA's audit office assess the County High Risk Pest Exclusion Program in June*

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2014. CDFA will be meeting with the High Risk Working Group on December 1, 2014 to discuss necessary actions per the assessment recommendations and to begin strategy discussions for FY 15/16.

Phytophthora ramorum, Nick Condos - *effective March 31, 2014 the SOD program regulation was overhauled through the issuance of a Federal Order. The order provided that nurseries in counties where the disease has not been found in the environment (regulated counties) are no longer federally regulated and do not need to be inspected annually and are no longer required to ship with a federal shield. Counties where the disease has been found in the environment (quarantined counties) will remain unchanged. Also incorporated into the regulatory change were new actions at nurseries that were positive March 31, 2011- and dates forward. These nurseries are now required to undergo enhanced inspection protocols (previously 40 minimum samples to a required 200 minimum samples) twice a year. During the first enhanced inspections over the spring, only one nursery was found positive. SOD funding in FY 14/15 is anticipated at \$1,330,995. This represents a reduction of 35% from FY 13/14 (\$2,055,244).*

LBAM Export, Nick Condos - *TASC grant funding ended September 30, 2014 and is no longer available for export trapping beginning October 1, 2014. There has been no movement on the request to Mexico to remove the requirement for trapping within infested areas. In Canada, CFIA is currently reviewing their Directive for LBAM with the interest of removing the trapping requirement within infested areas. USDA has requested that edits to certification requirements parallel the Federal Order. No draft of revisions has been received to date.*

10007 projects, Nick Condos - *CDFA will be submitting proposals for continuation of Dog Teams and fruit fly detection trapping, as well as other proposals – some continuing some new. Regarding dog teams, CDFA is requesting additional funding to get additional teams working, as well as requesting funding for an associated dog team outreach project (see Dog Teams report above).*

Asian Citrus Psyllid/HLB, Victoria Hornbaker - *ACP was just found in San Jose, Manteca and Lodi in GWSS traps in areas without commercial production. The ACP/HLB project has outreach and education efforts ongoing for grower communities, abandoned groves, packing sheds, Farm Labor Contractors (FLC) and field crews. Best Management Practices have been developed for FLC and field crews to minimize the potential for spreading ACP and HLB (though undetected). There has been some resistance to ACP treatments in one residential community but overall there has been a 95-96% acceptance rate. There have been no more HLB finds since the initial detection in Hacienda Heights. Monitoring and surveying is continuing and industry is working on new technologies to more quickly and accurately identify HLB affected trees.*

Sweet Orange Scab (SOS), Victoria Hornbaker - *In 2013, extensive surveys were conducted for SOS and fruit testing positive for the SOS causal agent were detected in Imperial, Riverside and Los Angeles counties. The disease blemishes exterior of the fruit, but doesn't affect edibility. CDFA has been working with USDA and industry to prevent artificial movement of SOS on bulk citrus and nursery stock. CDFA has implemented restrictions on all host movement within 5 miles of each find. Bulk citrus and nursery stock may move with mitigations - bulk citrus must be either inspected and found free from SOS or moved in an enclosed or fully tarped conveyance to pack*

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outside of the 5-mile area. Additional fungicide treatments are required for all citrus originating from Riverside, LA, and Imperial Counties for shipment to Australia. Production nursery stock can move outside of the 5-mile area provided that it originated in a USDA approved insect exclusionary structure and has undergone regular inspection. Retail nursery stock in those areas will be inspected and tagged; it will not be allowed to move outside of the 5-mile area.

USDA and Customs and Boarder Protection, Reports and Presentations:

CBP - Pest Interceptions, Public Education and Trends, Robin Wall – *Robin provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing CBP pest interceptions and their circumstances. Populations of Asian Gypsy Moth in Japan and Asia are up, resulting in significant increases in AGM interceptions throughout US ports including California. Robin's PowerPoint also included - CPB is increasing signage at points of entry and exit to educate and remind travelers about not transporting pests. Robin reviewed "first time" pest interceptions as well as prohibited commodities smuggled in common everyday items (birds in hair curlers), intercepted prohibited commodities (Giant African Snails), and using lawfully entering Ag products to conceal prohibited items (banana's stuffed with cocaine).*

USDA Update, Helene Wright – *Helene provided updates on the following topics.*

Budget - *the federal government is presently operating under a continuing resolution through Dec 11 – current funding levels remain about the same.*

Farm bill – *10007 project suggestions are due. In FY14 CDFA received over \$13M in project funding with many of those projects being implemented thru CAC's.*

Search warrants – *Currently operating in Santa Clara on a trial basis but USDA is working to include the rest of California counties with dog teams on the search warrant program. There appears to be support by the U.S. Attorney's office for expansion. Would like to see CAC's use the Plant Protection Act as the citation on their paperwork (Title 7 U.S.C. §§ 7701-7772) rather than the Terminal Protection Act. This would provide broader authority and is in line with what is presently in place.*

LBAM – *USDA has noted the increase in finds and new locations and is working with CDFA to look at alternative ways to regulate as funding is anticipated to remain at current level. USDA is evaluating the trapping program in nurseries and continuing to identify and consider commodities to add to the exempt list. Have made progress with Canada regarding trapping requirement in LBAM infested areas and are still working with Mexico.*

FRSMP (Federally Recognized, State Managed Phytosanitary Program) – *The notice was published in Federal Register as to Oct 1 implementation. The burden is on states to request recognition of pests that are not federally regulated, and the state must provide information concerning the particular pest so USDA can make a decision as to whether the pest and circumstances meets FRSMP criteria and then enter into a cooperative agreement with APHIS.*

X. Additional Agenda Items

GWSS-Proposed Changes to Approved Treatment Plan (ATP), Roger Spencer – *changes proposed by the nursery subcommittee allow growers to avoid the two week holding period required in the ATP if they treat plants with an approved material within five days of shipping. Data would be kept to evaluate procedure for one year and assure that treatments are efficacious. The suggested language in the ATP reads:*

“In order to expedite the release of plant material, the shipping nursery may opt to treat the hold area within five days of notification by the CAC or CDFA of any trap(s) exceeding 10 GWSS. If the hold treatment is conducted within this five day period, the hold may be lifted immediately, with the approval of the shipping CAC or CDFA. Shipping nurseries that use this option must coordinate the hold treatments with the CAC or CDFA so that appropriate staff can monitor the treatment and document the hold/treatment information accordingly. Treatments shall be conducted in the presence of a licensed shipping CAC inspector.

If the hold area is not treated within the five day period then the plant material must remain on hold for at least one trap cycle (minimum two week period). If after one trap cycle the pest pressure is below the threshold level and with the approval of the shipping CAC or CDFA, then the suspension can be lifted and shipping can resume.”

This proposal and language still needs to be reviewed by the GWSS Advisory Board and GWSS Program anticipates receiving comment by the Board and CAC’s before finalizing.

IX. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM

Notes respectively submitted by Kevin Wright and Fred Crowder