

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2019

The Science and Technology Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm on September 5, 2019.

Science Subcommittee Members Present:

Ed Civerolo*	Melinda Klein*	Kevin Olsen*
Aaron Dillon*	Jason Leathers*	Etienne Rabe*
Beth Grafton-Cardwell*		

Science Subcommittee Members Absent:

None.

Interested Parties:

Price Adams*	Sara Garcia-Figuera*	Jessica Leslie*
Craig Armstrong*	Jim Gorden*	Tracy Moehnke*
Bob Atkins*	Subhas Hajeri*	Neil McRoberts*
Kevin Ball*	Craig Hanes	Curtis Pate*
Jill Barnier*	Jimmy Hook*	Sylvie Robillard*
Jonathan Bixler*	Victoria Hornbaker	Cressida Silvers*
Teri Blaser*	Sara Khalid	Judy Zaninovich*
Holly Deniston-Sheets*	John Krist*	Pat Zolan*
Rick Dunn*	Phil Lam*	Sandra Zwaal*
Colin Flippen*	Leslie Leavens*	

*** Participated via Webinar**

Opening Comments

Dr. Etienne Rabe welcomed the Subcommittee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. It was noted that there was a quorum for the meeting.

Strategy 1-Find and Eradicate HLB

Dog Teams in Ventura

Etienne Rabe mentioned that a letter from Neil McRoberts to John Krist was emailed out and highlighted the preliminary report of the detector dog efforts that was done in late July/early August. Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell stated that she was able to speak with the Ventura County Task Force after the visit and look at the numbers of dog alert trees. The general trend of the project was looking at areas along traffic corridors that were heavily utilized by bulk citrus paths, and in these areas, there were dog alerts. The growers that agreed to pay for the dog visit also agreed to remove the dog alert trees. Beth also mentioned the letter that Neil wrote was to support Dr. Tim Gottwald's work in Florida with the detector dogs. She also said that it is still up for debate whether the *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) detected by the dogs in the trees will develop into

Huanglongbing (HLB). Etienne commented that he disagrees with the validity of the dog detecting the bacteria in the trees. He also stated that if the dogs were correct in detecting infected trees, then Ventura County should be in a quarantine. Additionally, there was no Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing done on the dog alert trees. He mentioned that the removal of the trees strips away the ability for the committee to run further tests on the trees or the opportunity to cage them. Neil stated that follow up work needed to be done for growers who did not want to act on dog alerts alone. He also said that PCR is not the best screening test for HLB if growers want to get ahead of the disease, noting that if growers only rely on PCR testing, they are taking away the value of the dog alerts. Neil and Etienne agreed that there are messaging issues that need to be discussed regarding the detector dogs. Aaron Dillon asked what the status was of previously alerted trees in Riverside that have been caged. Melinda stated that those trees have been testing negative for the disease. Neil also commented that if the growers were to submit a PCR sample to a lab, it would not be considered a regulatory sample and a quarantine would not be implemented if that sample was found to be positive. He also stated that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) could take samples from adjacent trees if the “infected” tree had already been removed. However, it would be at the growers’ discretion if they would allow samples to be taken from their property. Bob Atkins commented that the growers must also treat for the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) that may be on the trees prior to removal, to hinder the spread of the disease. Kevin Olsen asked if any of the growers had discussed caging their trees. Neil answered that there is probably less than a 50-50 shot of detecting HLB by caging the trees. Jim Gorden also mentioned that it would be useful to acquire PCR samples from the trees that the dogs alerted on before they are removed.

Discuss HLB+ Tree Removal in Residential Areas in Southern California

Etienne Rabe commented that he wanted to find out the cost of continuing to survey and conducting tree removals in residential areas in Southern California. He requested that the Finance Subcommittee verify the number that was reported out at the last meeting, which was \$10,000,000-\$15,000,000.

Strategy 3-Suppress Asian Citrus Psyllid Population

Ethyl Formate Update: Bulk Fruit Movement Mitigations

Etienne stated that he spoke to Jim Cranney, and the toxicological studies for Ethyl Formate have been completed. Spencer Walse has also completed his environmental exposure studies. The hope is to submit the registration package to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) between October and December. The registration package can also be submitted concurrently with the Department of Pesticide Regulation. EPA has nine months to respond to the submission.

Bactericides in Citrus

It was noted that when the media inquiries about bactericides in citrus, Jim Cranney will respond by saying that it is currently not being used in California, but there will be no media outreach regarding bactericides in citrus. In the meantime, work will be done to look at bactericide efficacy.

Strategic Priority 4-Improve Data Technology, Analysis, and Sharing

DATOC Update: Denver Meeting

Holly Deniston-Sheets commented that she has been working on the logistics of setting up the meeting in Denver. Neil, Holly, and Brianna McGuire are also working on an analysis on the density of infections in heavily infected hot spots, and if there are grounds to declare exposure at a property level. If so, this would allow CDFA to take out all the trees after the first tree is detected. Neil anticipates that he would be able to report back on this quickly, as they are only waiting for an up-to-date data set to update their analysis. It was asked how the disposal of the green waste would be managed. Beth answered that once the tree has been cut down there is no way to transmit the disease, and there is also the option of chipping or burning the tree. It was also asked what the time or parameters will be for tree removal in residential areas as the disease continues to advance, and when the committee will stop spending money on tree removal, as well as basing tree removals on risk-based surveys. Neil answered that his educated guess would be when there are enough detections close to commercial citrus. This will outweigh the risk of infected material in residential locations, although Neil is not sure what the threshold will be. He will begin to work on a model for this.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 pm. The next Science and Technology Subcommittee meeting will be held on November 6, 2019.