ALLIANCE OF PEST CONTROL DISTRICTS
22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

MINUTES

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

Commissioners: John N. Fisher IV and John Corkins *(Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD)*
Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough *(Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD-STCCPCD)*
James McKinney and Jay Gillette *(Central Valley PCD -CVPCD)*

Staff: Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Managing Director; Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager; Dr. Saurabh Gautam, Field Manager; Dr. Dhiraj Gautam, Lab Manager; Ron Carter, Field Supervisor; and Hailey Jones, Administrative Assistant

Other: Judy Zaninovich, Kern ACP/HLB Grower Liaison; Lisa Finke, Canine Detection Services CEO; and Marla Borges, M. Green & Co.

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Commissioners: Jeff Slover [Tulare County PCD – TCPCD (sitting in for Milo Gorden, TCPCD)]

Other: Tom Tucker, Tulare County Ag Commissioner/Sealer; Jessica Leslie, Tulare County Grower Liaison; Manuel Gaitan, District Manager Riverside PCD; Sandipa Gautam, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, Citrus IPM; Libby Ouellette, Fresno County Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer; Jennifer Willems, CDFA; Janet Hayhurst, Central Valley Grower; Edgar Torres, CDFA Environmental Scientist, Camarillo

Absent Commissioners: Jeff Steen and Milo Gorden (*Tulare County PCD – TCPCD)*

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher IV called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All in attendance identified themselves.

OPEN SESSION:

Public Comments:

Lisa Finke of Canine Detection Services announced that the federal funding for the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) Detection program would conclude in June of 2025. Her services would still be available for those who chose to contract with her individually.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, December 18, 2024

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 18, 2024, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Presentation of 2023-2024 Annual Audit

Marla Borges of M. Green & Co. presented the 2023-2024 annual audit report.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to approve the 2023-2024 Audit report as presented. The motion carried, on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Review and Approve "MOU between CPDPC and APCD"

Managing Director, Dr. Subhas Hajeri presented the proposed MOU between the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) and APCD. Hajeri explained that the key differences in the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) include: the name change of the agency from CCTEA to APCD, the addition of Tulare County to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA,) and the activity of Multi Pest Inspection (MPI) as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC.)

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve the MOU between CPDPC and APCD, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Ag Commissioner Updates

Fresno County Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer Libby Ouellette reported that the Bulk Citrus Program had been officially moved over into the Quarantine department under the supervision of Kristina Kovakovich. She stated it was likely that the program would become year-round.

Tulare County Ag Commissioner/Sealer Tom Tucker reported that Bulk Citrus and records inspections were in full swing. He stated that he had received permission from the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to move forward with an abandoned 150+ acre citrus ranch he had been investigating. He mentioned that there was a prospective buyer for the property and would give an update once decisions were made. Tucker stated that the area-wide Glassy Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) trapping program would undergo changes and become focused on areas near grape vineyards. Urban residential treatments were set to continue. Tucker stated that the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) had been advocating for pest detection, management, and eradication at the state legislature.

CPDPC Grower Liaison Updates

Tulare County Grower Liaison Jesica Lesslie appeared via Zoom. She stated that there was nothing to report for the ACP program in Tulare County for 2024.

Kern County Grower Liaison Judy Zaninovich reported that there had been no new ACP detections. Zaninovich reviewed graphs and charts depicting data on ACP and HLB. She discussed three trees that CDFA staff determined were brought into Kern County from an HLB quarantine area. CDFA had removed two trees with the homeowners' consent, and the last tree was in the removal process. All three trees were tested for HLB and produced negative results. Zaninovich reported that the total number of HLB-positive trees found in California had reached 9,589 as of February 18, 2025. These were all residential trees in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, San Diego, and Ventura counties. The total number of CLas-positive ACP samples had reached 885. Zaninovich confirmed that changes to the GWSS trapping program included limiting traps in citrus to groves located within a ½ mile of grapes, and the program would only be running from May to October. Zaninovich announced that a CPDPC meeting would be held at the Visalia Convention Center next week.

CDFA Updates

None.

UC IPM Report

UC Cooperative Extension Advisor Dr. Sandipa Gautam reported via Zoom. She stated that UC IPM remained in a constant cycle of updating pest management guidelines. Sandipa welcomed suggestions and noted that the next piece IPM would be focused on was citrus mealybugs. Gautam gave an update on outreach efforts, stating that she gave several presentations at grower meetings in recent months. LREC had a booth at the 2025 World Ag Expo, distributing information about ACP and HLB. She announced two field days coming in the Spring of 2025, one about thrips on April 24 and the other about citrus mealybugs on May 7.

CCM Updates

None.

Departmental Operations

Field and Lab Activities for Fall 2024

Field Manager and Entomologist Dr. Saurabh Gautam reported on-field activities for the fall and winter. In total, 2,476 traps had been serviced during the "off-season" winter trapping, which began in December 2024. Several non-citrus sites had been discussed in previous meetings that were also serviced with traps. These included weighing stations, truck stops, and transportation corridors along Highway 126, Kettleman City, Fort Tejon, and Highway 58. Traps along Highway 126 had captured ACP because of the high insect population in the area. All ACP found on traps were tested negative for CLas (HLB).

Dr. Gautam reported the agency had received calls from two separate growers: one from Visalia and the other in Bakersfield. Both growers described declining trees and asked that APCD come out to inspect and collect samples. PCR testing confirmed that the trees were negative for HLB but positive for CTV.

Lab Manager Dr. Dhiraj Gautam reported on lab activities. He mentioned that a significant number of GWSS and whiteflies had been identified on traps and the agency was sharing data with CDFA and USDA, respectively. Discussion ensued on the topic of grape growers, funding, and coordinated fall treatments.

Dr. Dhiraj Gautam gave an update on the experiment conducted over the fall, comparing traps staked on bamboo to those hung directly on a citrus tree. No significant difference was found between the two methods. Dr. Saurabh Gautam commented that field staff found bamboo stakes not sturdy enough. Often, traps would be found on the ground or otherwise altered. Moving forward, bamboo stakes will be replaced with metal poles to determine if they perform better.

Dr. Dhiraj Gautam then gave an update on outreach activities. This included preparing for the 2025 CCM Spring Citrus Showcase, where APCD would have a booth.

Administrative Activities

Review APCD Performance to Budget for FY 24-25

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review Income and Expenses: December 2024 and January 2025

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: December 2024 and January 2025

Neunzig reviewed the reports.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough to approve the Warrant list for December 2024 and January 2025, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures

Roof Repair

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gillette to approve the final cost of Capital Expenditure for roof repair, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Heater Repair and Additional Truck

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Corkins to approve both the request for heater repair and the purchase of an additional truck, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager