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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

MINUTES

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

Commissioners: John N. Fisher IV *(Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD)*
Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough *(Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD – STCCPCD)*
Jay Gillette and Janet Hayhurst *(Central Valley PCD – CVPCD)*
Jeff Steen *(Tulare County PCD – TCPCD)*

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: Christopher Greer, Assistant Tulare County Ag Commissioner/Sealer; Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technology;

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Commissioners: Randy Skidgel *(Tulare County PCD – TCPCD)*

Other: Jennifer Willems, CDFA; Manuel Gaiten, Coachella Valley PCD; Chris Romero, Kern County Department of Agriculture

Absent Commissioners: John Corkins *(Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD)*

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: None.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, April 16, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Gillette, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 16, 2025, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in attendance voting AYE.

Adopt Resolution 2025-02: Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig presented the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. She outlined several adjustments from the previous draft. Notably, it was reported that during TCPCD's district meeting, a decision was made to scale back the LREC vector protection program to include only fall treatments.

Additionally, Neunzig shared that at the KCCPCD district meeting, directors recommended establishing a line item in the APCD budget for a Grower Liaison position. Following this recommendation, discussions were held individually with each district board to determine their interest in retaining the services of former Grower Liaison Judy Zaninovich. Subsequently, Zaninovich submitted a proposal totaling $120,000 for herself and former Tulare County Grower Liaison Jessica Leslie to serve all JPA districts. If approved, the cost would be shared

proportionally by all four districts based on acreage, and each district's budget would be revised accordingly in the fall.

The board expressed appreciation for the potential opportunity to re-engage Judy and Jessica as contracted personnel and acknowledged the value of their past contributions. Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri emphasized that this would be a placeholder agreement and would be dissolved should CPDPC decide to reinstate the grower liaison role in its own budget.

Overall, the proposed budget reflected a reduction from $3.1 million to $2.8 million.

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to adopt Resolution 2025-02 and approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Departmental Operations:

Field and lab activities: April and May 2025

Field Manager Dr. Saurabh Gautam presented field operations updates. Year-to-date, 302 section maps had been completed with 53 maps still in progress. Chairman John Fisher IV asked Tulare County Assistant Ag Commissioner/Sealer Chris Greer if there was local coordination in sharing maps between the county ag department and APCD. Dr. Hajeri explained that the county maps were based on the pesticide use report, while APCD maps come from groundwork and field scouting. In 2024, APCD requested records from Tulare County Ag and compared map information. Dr. Hajeri stated the records indicated high consistency rates with each other.

Dr. Gautam reported on ongoing multi-pest inspection activities, which included visual inspections, as well as plant tissue and insect sampling.

Dr. Gautam also provided an update on collaborative research that was being conducted with Doug Hill. Six trees in Corona, California, had been confirmed positive for Huanglongbing (HLB). According to Hill, those trees appeared to be in the early stages of infection. While Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) adults and nymphs were collected from infected trees, none tested positive for CLas. Furthermore, both the plant tissue and the new flush from which the insects were collected tested negative for the pathogen.

Notably, the only CLas positive results were found in the roots and lower portions of the trees. These findings suggest the possibility that the bacteria may reside in the root system for an extended period before becoming detectable in other parts of the tree. Dr. Hajeri clarified that this was strictly an observational study as it was not conducted under controlled circumstances. The date of inoculation in HLB-positive trees remains unknown, but ongoing research is enhancing our understanding of the disease's movement and progression over time.

Discussion followed regarding the implications of these findings.

Field Supervisor Ron Carter gave an update on Spring 2025 trapping activities. He reviewed non-citrus trap sites located at different entry points into the Valley. Several ACP samples had been collected from those traps and tested in the lab, all producing negative CLas results. He went on to report that as of June 06, there had been 17,981 traps serviced across the districts. Dr. Hajeri noted a 20% productivity increase each season since the Fall of 2023.

Dr. Hajeri announced that a single suspect ACP had been detected on an APCD trap located in Kern County. CDFA was notified immediately and took over surveying and trapping in the area. Jennifer Willems of CDFA stated that no additional detections had been found.

Carter went on to state that the Summer 2025 trapping season would begin on June 30, 2025. The trap sites would be distributed in two separate areas: Northern and Southern territories. Two trappers would cover the areas.

Dr. Hajeri gave an update on lab activities. He stated that 11,954 traps had been screened for ACP and other pests. Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) data continued to be shared with the CDFA GWSS program.

Dr. Hajeri reported that a controlled study was currently underway utilizing “hot” psyllids sourced from the UC Davis Contained Research Facility (CRF). The objective of the study is to determine the maximum number of

"cold" psyllids that can be included in a bulk sample containing a single infected psyllid while still yielding a positive detection result.

Dr. Hajeri displayed a CDFA report presenting the number of CLas positive trees and ACP samples detected in California. Willems updated the report, stating the Ventura/Santa Paula area had 112 positive trees, and 102 of those trees had been removed. The remaining 10 trees were scheduled for removal later in the week.

Lab Manager Dr. Dhiraj Gautam gave an update on driver safety and dashcam features. A conversation ensued on this topic.

Administrative Activities

Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig presented the board with the opportunity to elect Officers for the new Fiscal Year, 2025-2026.

It was moved by Commissioner Steen, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to reappoint the current Commissioners to continue to serve on the APCD Board of Commissioners. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Review and Approve Audit Proposal for FY 2024-2025

Neunzig reviewed the audit proposal and noted the slight increase in cost from $15,000 to $16,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Hayhurst, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the Audit Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Income and Expenses: April and May 2025

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review APCD Performance to Budget for FY 24-25

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: April and May, 2025

Neunzig reviewed the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Steen, to approve the Warrant List for April and May 2025, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures: Lab Pipette Units

Dr. Hajeri explained the need for additional Pipette units in the lab. The cost would not exceed $1,300.

It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Gillette, to approve the purchase of an additional Pipette unit. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Ag Commissioner Updates

Tulare County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Chris Greer reported that the county currently employs three full-time bulk citrus inspectors and approximately 30 field inspectors conducting survey activities. As of May 30, a total of 1,450 field inspections had been completed. There were 50 Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued throughout the year. No Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) detections had been reported in Tulare County for the year 2025. Urban treatments for GWSS were ongoing in the cities of Tulare, Visalia, and Exeter.

Chris Romero, representing the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's office, provided an update on local activities. He noted that citrus exports had slowed significantly, resulting in minimal inspection activity for export purposes. Romero also stated that 85% of the ACP trapping contract funds had been expended, with no violations reported to date.

CDFA Updates

None.

UC IPM Report

None.

CCM Updates

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neunzig announced that she would need signatures from Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager