

CALIFORNIA CITRUS NURSERY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 12, 2008

Riverside, California

Chairman Bob Zuckerman called a meeting of the California Citrus Nursery Board to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the Marriott Courtyard Suites in Riverside, California. Roll was taken, showing a quorum was present with the following in attendance:

Members

Robert LoBue
Steve Maddock
Gary Moles
Tom Mulholland
Roger Smith
Bob Zuckerman

Guests

Thomas Chao, Thermal Plaza Nursery
Leonard Massey, B&Z Nursery
Mike Roose, UCR
Craig Sheward, UCR
Toni Siebert, UCR/CVC
Georgios Vidalakis, UCR/CCCP
Tim Williams, UCR

C DFA

Megally Luque-Williams
Glenn Yost

Staff

JD Allen, MMS
Jim Melban, MMS
Nathan Sano, MMS

Alternates

*Lane Miller
*Larry Rose

** Alternate acting in lieu of member*

Minutes of Previous Meeting

On a motion by Rose and a second by Moles, the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2007 were approved as mailed.

Committee Reports

Education Committee – Education Committee Chairman Moles reported that the Committee is getting very close to finishing the update of the “Info Book” and that once completed, will upload it to the Board’s website as well as make hard copies available to all nurserymen. Zuckerman suggested that after the Committee completes the “Info Book” project, they work on providing a newsletter to the industry. Moles suggested several topics that could be developed in newsletters such as greening, international requirements, and the trend toward growing indoors.

Toni Siebert of the CVC reported that the Board’s effort to streamline the distribution of information regarding new and existing citrus varieties is close to completion. She said all of the information is in and ready to go, and the only thing left is to link the various website/databases together from all the participating entities, (UC, USDA, CCP and CVC).

Industry Committee – Committee Chairman Mulholland stated that the purpose of the Industry Committee is to follow the evolution of the industry and to foster ways to sustain the nursery industry and be prepared for future problems that may surface. Rose noted that there are many groups focusing on these very ideas including the HLB Committee, and the Nursery Roundtable, which is made up of representatives of many industry groups. It was suggested that rather than just improving communications with these and other groups so we know what has transpired, that we need to be supplying input into these groups so we have some say in any decisions made regarding regulations, protocols, etc. There was a lengthy discussion regarding how best to foster better communications between, most notably, the Board and the CRB, so that we can help drive industry issues. There were many suggestions, and the Board decided to let Zuckerman work directly with Batkin to find a mutually acceptable way to structure a better “formal” relationship between the two Boards.

Zuckerman then led a discussion on the need to meet jointly with CDFA, the Testing Agency, UCR and this Board to create a better registration process. He said CDFA does their testing in the fall because it is convenient, which is the worst time to do the testing. The science would dictate that the testing be done in the springtime and Zuckerman suggested the creation of a task force to meet with these groups and make this change from fall to spring testing happen.

Megally Luque-Williams of CDFA then gave a presentation to the Board, reviewing the current status of the huanglongbean (HLB) action plan for California. She said the action plan is currently in the finishing stages of the third draft, and that one more draft will be likely after the three committees (scientific, regulatory and education) review this third draft. Luque-Williams listed the main components of the action plan as follows:

1. Identification of possible pathways of entry of the disease and/or the vector
2. Potential survival in California
3. Detection
4. Survey
5. Quarantine
6. Control/Eradication

She said the main recommendations of the plan to date are dooryard, nursery and commercial surveys, chemical treatments, restriction of movement, research funding and closer ties with the CCNB, and a 3-5 year plan for nursery stock to be maintained in insect-excluding enclosures.

Zuckerman asked that the Industry Committee be established as the “strategic hotpoint” venue for interaction with the HLB group. Industry Committee Chairman Mulholland expressed the view that he would need to review the current Florida HLB protocols before he would feel comfortable with that charge.

Research Committee – In the absence of Research Committee Chairman Dillon, Melban gave a brief summary of the Committee’s activities, noting the need for a revision of the current contracts for Georgios Vidalakis and Mary Lou Polek. He said the original contracts for disease testing were based on 2,500 trees, when in actuality there are 3,500 trees involved, and thus funds were expended over and above the original budgets.

Melban also distributed a handout, (exhibit “A”, attached), showing the “request for proposal” (RFP) schedule on one side and the list of researchers the RFP went to last year on the other. He said there was a discussion at the Committee meeting as to whether the RFP list should be expanded and sent out to as many researchers as possible, or keep the list on the smaller side to target specific researchers. At this point the Board went through the same discussion on the pros and cons of both methods, but decided to keep the list that the Research Committee developed and add State Universities like Cal Poly and Fresno State who provide agricultural research.

Financial Report and Revision of Budget

Melban led the Board through the financial report (exhibit “B”, attached), stating the Board came into the current year with a \$477,293 carryover from the previous year, and are expecting to collect \$165,000 during the current year. Melban also noted that the current year’s assessment income, the \$165,000, will be collected in February of 2009. When asked about how Monfort Management Services, Inc. (MMS) processes contracts, Melban explained that MMS pays 50% of the contract upon completion of the signing of the contract, another 40% approximately 6 months into the year, and the final 10% upon

receipt of the final report from the researcher. At this point, Melban asked that the Board consider revising the budget, as outlined earlier in the meeting.

Board Action #08-01 – Moles moved, seconded by Maddock, that the Board accept the proposed revised budget as presented by Melban, encompassing the additional \$8,000 to pay for the extra work performed by Vidalakis and Polek because of the extra 1,000 trees under the disease testing programs.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Melban then explained that the Board had received a bill from the “Tango Testing” program for \$6,550 and had subsequently sent bills to all the individual growers involved to pay for the program. To date, the Board has received all but \$350 back from the growers.

Office of Technical Transfer

Craig Sheward, Vice Chancellor of Technology Commercialization at the University of California, Riverside, was introduced and explained his role in licensing intellectual property to the industry. He said most people think that the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) is still run through and centralized at the UC Berkeley office, but explained that each of the ten Universities in the system handle their own technology transfer programs now. He stated that he is committed to learn from the mistakes of the “Tango” situation to make sure the same mistakes are not made again. The Board offered several opinions on mistakes made during the “Tango” distribution focusing on the fact that the University became the propagator of the trees, resulting in a “bottleneck” and fundamentally changing the whole distribution process. When asked, Sheward said he would not sell “Tango” or other varieties to any one buyer, although, when pressed on the subject, did say the Chancellor could possibly intervene if the price was high enough.

Marketing Order Amendments

Zuckerman said the Board has a Committee that has been looking at amendments to the Marketing Order and stated they will be meeting soon to discuss the best way to proceed with the process and make a formal recommendation to the Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

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Certification of Minutes

I, JD Allen, Assistant Manager of the California Citrus Nursery Board, do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a meeting of the California Citrus Nursery Board held in Riverside, California on June 12, 2008.

JD Allen, Assistant Manager