

**CALIFORNIA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CISAC)  
MEETING  
CDFA AUDITORIUM**

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 24, 2012

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on May 24, 2012 in Sacramento, by Committee Chair Andrea Fox.

**CISAC Members Present:**

Atkins, Bob	Brandon, Victoria	Buhr, Karen
Cranney, Jim	DeLeon, Ricardo	Forster, Richard
Fox, Andrea	Godfrey, Larry	Guise, Vince
Johnson, Doug	McDowell, Karen	Merrill, Jeanne
Pattison, David	Peterson, Betsy	Schierenbeck, Kristina
Wall, Robin	Wright, Helene	

**CISAC Members Absent:**

Conser, Christiana	Cummings, Lou Anne	DiTomaso, Joseph
Forster, Richard	Goldsmith, Jay	Lydick, Julie
Martin, Marcy	Randall, John	

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff Present:**

Condos, Nick	Espinoza, Alexandra	Leavitt, Robert
Lugo, Matt	Morris, Amber	

**Opening Comments:**

Chair Andrea Fox welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**(a) Dr. Annette Whiteford, CDFa - BSE**

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is neither a virus nor a bacteria, it is an abnormal protein that can spread and propagate. This fatal disease affects cattle by causing neurological damage to the brain and spinal cord. BSE is primarily spread when byproducts from animals are used as a protein source for animal feed. This is the typical protein form of BSE that has been found in the UK and in Canada. In the US, feed containing animal byproducts has been banned since 1989 and it is a very effective and highly enforced feed band in this country. There is another form of BSE referred to as atypical, it is a similar protein that causes a similar type of disease as the typical form but it is slightly different in structure. The etiology of how it forms and spreads is not as well understood as the typical form. The cow that was found in April of this year to be BSE positive in California was confirmed as having the atypical form of this disease.

The United States Department of Agriculture along with each state department of agriculture did extensive surveillance about 5 years ago where they looked at a large number of the population and determined that the populations of cattle in this country are not infected with BSE. However, there is an expectation to find four atypical positive cattle in every 31 million. There is an ongoing surveillance program that monitors the level of disease found to determine whether it is increasing or decreasing. This surveillance is important for determining whether the methods being used to prevent the spread or introduction of the disease are effective. The surveillance is random and targets animals that are showing some sign of disease. The BSE positive cow in California was found at a dairy in the Central Valley. Because of surveillance, the Department had an intuition that there was going to be a positive cow due to an inconclusive test on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. This allowed CDFA to initiate tracing to make sure there were good records of things such as where the animal came from and if it was properly identified. Once the cow was confirmed BSE positive on April 24<sup>th</sup> the Department was able to work in cooperation with the State Health Office and others on messaging to inform the public of what this find meant. The Department then used genetics to confirm where the cow came from and then used the birth cohort and feed cohort to identify any other cows that could have been exposed. There were no other positive cows found and the investigation was wrapped up fairly quickly.

**(b) Amber Morris, CDFA- High Risk Pest Exclusion Program & Dog Teams**

The Pest Exclusion Branch at CDFA aims at preventing pests from being introduced into California, slowing the spread of invasive species already in the state and preventing invasive species from leaving and entering into other states. The Department has several programs set up to achieve these goals. The two being discussed today are the High Risk Program and the Dog Team Program. The High Risk Program specifically funds inspections at the pathways that are most likely to have high risk introductions. The Department, along with the County Agricultural Commissioners, looks at data to determine what pathways have the highest volume of pests coming in and what the pests are to determine where the High Risk Program should focus its efforts. For Fiscal Year (F/Y) 2013 it was agreed that funding would be directed toward inspections at three different pathways; nursery stock, air freight, and parcels. Due to reduced funding, nursery stock is only being inspected if it is coming from Florida, Hawaii or Southern States. This decision was based on what pests were intercepted from those states. Nursery stock shows the least amount of pest interceptions of the three pathways that are being funded. However, it is considerably more high risk than the other pathways because pests are being introduced on their hosts which give them a greater potential to take hold and become established in California. The air freight pathway was chosen as a high risk pathway because it has the highest volume of invasive species finds. There have been 792 pest interceptions from air freight since 2009. Lastly parcels was chosen, specifically FedEx and UPS, because they have a high volume of packages being sent and received and people aren't always aware that packages containing plant material must be marked. This leads to the California Dog Team Program that was established in 2006 for the purpose of having dogs inspect parcel terminals for agricultural materials. The dog teams also inspect trucks at parcel terminals containing shipments. Currently, there are 13 dog teams in 9 counties within California. The dogs and the handlers have all completed a 10 week training course at the USDA National Detector Dog Training Center in Georgia. The dogs are initially taught to alert on five different scents, apple,

citrus, stone fruit, guava and mango however, the handlers have taught the dogs to alert on several other fruits and even animal scents. Since 2009 the dog teams have intercepted 209 pests. Although funding is limited the Department hopes to increase the amount of dog teams in the future.

A live demonstration in the auditorium of a sniffer dog in action followed the presentation.

**(c) Nick Condos, CDFA- ACP & HLB**

The Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), an aphid-like insect, is a serious pest of all citrus and closely-related plants because it can transmit the disease huanglongbing (HLB). HLB causes fruit to be lopsided with a bitter flavor, making it inedible. Florida, Texas and Mexico have all had HLB detections. ACP was first found in California in 2008, in San Diego County. Subsequently ACP has since been detected in several other counties such as Imperial and Los Angeles. This has caused a large portion of Southern California to be placed under quarantine. CDFA works collaboratively with the USDA, County Agricultural Commissioners, citrus growers, nurseries, and other state and national departments of agriculture on the Department's approach to suppress the ACP population. CDFA receives funding from the USDA and industry assessments to support a statewide survey effort. Urban areas and commercial citrus production areas are both surveyed for ACP populations. When a population is found a state and federal quarantine is implemented around the area as well as a treatment program to either eradicate or suppress the ACP population. CDFA has also been working closely with the University of California to explore biocontrol options. Recently, a promising biocontrol agent was developed called *tamarixia radiata*, a small parasitic wasp from Pakistan that will hopefully be able to establish here in California and assist with suppressing the ACP population. With ACP in the state now for almost 5 years the Department has been preparing for the day that HLB was detected. In March of this year through our cooperative psyllid and plant sample testing agreement with Industry, HLB was found in the Hacienda Heights area in Los Angeles County. That sample was confirmed positive by the USDA which initiated a state and federal HLB quarantine. In addition to implementing quarantine, as there are no treatment options available for HLB, the infected tree was removed and an intensive survey effort began. The public has been very cooperative and understanding when it comes to treatments and if needed tree removal on their properties. The citrus industry in other states has suffered from severe economic losses due to this disease. To date, there have been no additional HLB finds in California; however, in order to safeguard our citrus industry, psyllids and plant material will continue to be tested for the next two years.

**(d) Dr. David Ting, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and Invasive Species**

OEHHA is one of six departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). They are tasked with evaluating the risk to human health from chemical exposures. OEHHA reviews animal and human toxicity data, evaluates chemical levels measured in air, water, food and consumer products and estimates human health risks. The Invasive Species Program within OEHHA performs independent scientific reviews of toxicology and exposure information, they develop human health risk assessments, provide health related information and consultations to

CDFA, and work with all other state departments that deal with health and pesticide issues. OEHHA also works with the Poison Control Center Hotline to provide them with health related information and to review illness reports. In addition OEHHA works with state agencies such as CDFA, to provide education and outreach to the public.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS:**

**(a) Approval of minutes**

Motion: Approve the minutes of the March 22, 2012 CISAC meeting with approved grammatical edits.

First: Bob Atkins

Second: Vince Guise

All in Favor

**(b) Report from Invasive Mollusk Sub-Committee/ Recommendations to the ISCC**

The Lake County Board of Supervisors gave a presentation to the Committee at a previous meeting and to the State Board of Ag, requesting that the state take various actions on invasive mussels. Secretary Karen Ross formally requested that CISAC advise the ISCC on how to respond to the Board of Supervisors on their request for action. CISAC formed a Sub-Committee to work on this issue. The Sub-Committee determined what work is already being done and what still needs to be implemented, and discussed Lake County's recommendations one by one. The state is already working cooperatively with different agencies to ensure effective statewide and national coordination. The funding issue has shifted emphasis to providing local managers with the tools needed to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive mussels rather than state agencies doing it directly. A lot of early detection monitoring efforts are currently being coordinated by the state. Recreational boats are begin screened and in some cases are even quarantined when they enter California. There are two aquatic invasive species bills under consideration by the legislature that would benefit counties working to prevent the introduction and spread of quagga and zebra mussels. AB 2443 (Williams) would impose fees on registered boats to help support local mussel prevention programs, and SB 1251 (Evans) would establish an aquatic invasive species working group that would report directly to the legislature. The overall consensus of the Sub-Committee was that none of the recommendations were feasible. The full CISAC Committee agreed with the sub-committee analysis but asked that they also prepare a letter offering recommendations for action to the ISCC.

Motion: Send Secretary Ross the analysis that has been prepared by the Sub-Committee while they work on completing a formal letter of recommendations.

First: Bob Atkins

Second: Kristina Schierenbeck

All in Favor

**(c) Sheri Smith, US Forest Service - Consider supporting Biodiversity Meeting on Invasive Species**

Julie Lydick is proposing that the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) hold a meeting on invasive species, with the intent of raising awareness. CBC last time last discussed the subject in 2005. With a decrease in funding and an increase of invasive species

introductions it would be beneficial to get the Council involved with these issues. The US Forest Service would like CISAC to review, edit, and adjust the draft proposal as needed with the hopes that the Committee will then put forward this proposal to the CBCAs a recommended agenda item.

Motion: Support a Biodiversity Council Meeting on Invasive Species

First: Doug Johnson

Second: Bob Atkins

All in Favor

## **DISCUSSION**

### **(a) Invasive Species Council of California to Convene Summer 2012: Next Steps**

The ISCC will be meeting within the next few months to discuss several topics. They would like an update from CISAC on the Strategic Framework, the invasive species list and a general overview on the work the Committee has done and still plans to do. They have also asked CDFA staff to give updates on the Program Environmental Impact Report and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium series.

### **(b) Strategic Framework- Next Steps**

The Committee has already begun to implement some of the Strategic Framework recommendations. In order to remain pro-active, CISAC members agreed to prepare a list of priorities from the Strategic Framework that they can start working on. David Pegos let the Committee know that he has been working with the Department of Public Health, OEHHA and the Department of Pesticide Regulations to discuss creating a Public Health Working Group. In order to capture what work is already being done and what the Committees priorities are for future work, they decided to look at each group of action items in the Strategic Framework. The Committee created two lists, one list of items that the CISAC members can implement and a list of items that they would like the ISCC and other entities to assist with.

## **UPDATES**

### **(a) Website- Victoria Brandon**

Since the last meeting the website has not had any drastic changes but there is now a link on the web page where people can subscribe to the CISAC listserv and receive updates on future meetings and other Committee business. A majority of the member bios are on the website but there are still a few that need to be completed and posted. The Farmers Market Brochure is going to have a link to the CISAC webpage on it which will allow people to access other web pages such as the “buy it where you burn it” campaign and others directly from the CISAC site.

### **(b) Strategic Framework and Distribution Plan- David Pegos**

There are still a few addresses needed to complete the distribution plan. It will be finalized and the Strategic Frameworks will be mailed out by the next CISAC meeting.

### **(c) 21st Century Pest Management Symposium- (David Pegos)**

The next 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium will take place on May 30 at the Sacramento Convention Center. This is the second symposium in a series of six and the topic will be Trade, Exports and Quarantines. There will be a luncheon across the street from the convention center at the Capitol Park where Julie Lydick and Don Owen will be recognized for their hard work and time spent on the Firewood Taskforce and CDFA's Border Station Program will also be recognized for their efforts and support on collecting firewood data at California's borders.

**(d) "Buy it Where you Burn It" firewood campaign (David Pegos)**

The Buy it Where you Burn It billboards will be up within the next few weeks and the posters are already being displayed at rest stops. The website continues to grow, with new videos and information recently added. The frisbees and deck of cards with education and outreach messaging on them are still being given away at camp grounds to help prevent the movement of firewood.

**(e) Fish and Wildlife Vision Process (Doug Johnson)**

The Fish and Wildlife Vision Process is complete. There are two or three pieces of legislation that have come out of this process.

**(f) Invasive Species Legislation (Andrea Fox)**

SB 1251 which would allow for an aquatic invasive species taskforce is unfortunately deceased. AB 2443 is moving along and has had no opposition. AB 1540 which has to do with the South American sponge plant has been passed by the Assembly, 73-0 and is now going to the Senate.

**(g) Ag in the Classroom Fact Sheet & Farmers Market Brochure (Andrea Fox)**

The Ag in the Classroom Fact Sheet is partially complete, the Education and Outreach Sub-Committee still needs to work on finishing the messaging and decide on what graphics should be used. The Farmers Market Brochure is in progress; the Executive Committee will present the latest revised version to the full Committee at the next meeting.

**(h) Current Specialty Crop Block Grant (Doug Johnson)**

There is still funding available from the current Specialty Crop Block Grant for the Farmers Market Brochure/ Outreach Campaign.

**(i) New Specialty Crop Block Grant Proposal (Andrea Fox)**

The Committee will find out in June or July whether they received funding from the FY12/13 Specialty Crop Block Grant. If funding is secured the Committee will be able to help the ISCC implement a health working group and conduct a health risk assessment. The grant would also fund a part-time CISAC Coordinator to organize outreach and other work.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Tom Kelly- Wanted to know whether the CBC meeting on Invasive Species would be open to the public. He would like the Committee to consider adding a discussion on the impacts to human health and the environment from invasive species treatments.

Nan Wishner- a group of UC Davis scientists held their initial meeting on re-conceiving policies for invasive species pests last week. Dr. Jim Carey with UC Davis gave a presentation to CISAC on this project in January. She asked that the agenda to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium be made available on the ISCC webpage and that the notes from the last symposium be made available as well. Lastly she requested that CISAC allow the public to comment before each action item on the agenda.

**Next meeting:** The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on July 19, 2012 in Sacramento.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM

Minutes submitted by:            Alexandra Espinoza, CDFA

Approved by:                        Christiana Conser, CISAC Secretary