



Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
BOB CRAWFORD, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

Please Respond to:

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May 2, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Florida Citrus Canker
Technical Advisory Task Force (FCCTATF)

FROM: **Richard Gaskalla**, Director
Division of Plant Industry
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

SUBJECT: Summary Minutes of the FCCTATF - April 11, 2000

Please find enclosed the above subject meeting minutes for your information and review. Please note the location, along with the date and time of the next FCCTATF:

Thursday, May 25, 2000, 9:30 AM, in Room #2, at the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Citrus Research and Education Center, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred.

Should you find any errors or omissions in the minutes or have any questions or comments, please contact my office. Thank you for your assistance.

RG/bsm

xc: Richard Gunnels
Sandy Roberts
Alternate Members
Interested Parties

Enclosure: FCCTATF Minutes



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
\$53 Billion for Florida's Economy

Summary

CITRUS CANKER TECHNICAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE (CCTATF) MEETING

April 11, 2000 - 9:30 AM

Citrus Research and Education Center

Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall

Lake Alfred, Florida

Members Present

Mr. John Barben, HCCGA
Mr. Gregory Carlton, FCM
Mr. Richard Gaskalla, FDACS/DPI
Dr. Tim Gottwald, USDA/ARS
Dr. Jim Graham (representing
Dr. Browning)
Mr. George Hamner, Jr., Indian River
Exchange Packers
Mr. Phil Herndon, FCPA

Mr. Ellis Hunt, Jr., FCP
Mr. Tom Jerkins, Dole Citrus
Mr. Calvin Lloyd, GCCGA
Mr. Craig Meyer, FDACS - Executive
Committee
Mr. Mike Shannon, USDA/APHIS -
Executive Committee
Mr. Norman Todd - Florida Citrus
Production Managers Association

Others Present

Mr. Ken Allen, FDACS
Mr. John A. Attaway
Mr. Cliff Beasley, Beasley Enterprises
Mr. Wendell Bowman, FDACS/DPI
Mr. Dennis P. Broadaway, HCCGA
Mr. Carl Carpenter, FDACS
Mr. Peter Chaires, FGFS-A
Ms. Liz Compton, FDACS
Dr. Wayne Dixon, FDACS/DPI
Ms. Lisa Dunson, Highlands County Citrus
Growers
Mr. Raphord Farrington, BHG, Incorporated
Mr. Danny Finch, Pokey's Citrus Nursery
Mr. David Froehlich, AIA Citrus Nursery
Dr. Jim Graham, UF/IFAS/CREC
Mr. Pat Hamilton, Lykes Brothers,
Incorporated
Mr. Leon H. Hebb, FDACS/DPI

Mr. Michael Hornyak, USDA/APHIS/PPQ
Mr. Mike Hunt, Brooks Tropicals
Mr. Ken Keck, FCM
Mr. James E. Keithly, Tropicano Products,
Incorporated
Mr. Sam Mahon, Pokey's Citrus Nursery
Mr. Ron Muraro, UF/IFAS/CREC
Ms. Barbara Oxford, PRVCGA
Mr. Bill Peebles, FDACS
Mrs. Florence Roberts, FDACS/DPI
Mr. Steve Rizer, Tropicana
Ms. Valerie Ross, FDACS
Dr. Tim Schubert, FDACS/DPI
Mr. Mike Stuart, FFVA
Dr. Xiooan Sun, FDACS/DPI
Mr. Larry Tiner, FCPA
Mr. Harry Whittaker, FDACS
Ms. Debbie Williams, Flo-Tec

OPENING REMARKS

Mike Shannon mentioned that it has been a month since the last meeting and the budget request for the Federal share of the funds has gone forward but they are not sure what that is going to be. The regulation change in order to begin disbursement of the \$9 million compensation for growers who had trees destroyed prior to December 31, 1999, before they could purchase the crop insurance, has been published for comment in the Federal Register and a rule will be forthcoming. He assumes the \$40 million is still in the budget coming for the large-scale

program and there is still no movement on funds for the canopy replacement program except for the \$7 million to begin that program or until the funds run out. Plans are being made for the various sentinel programs to be implemented with people; they have supervisory people coming in. They are still working on developing the overall top management structure, Federal and State side, and they will be closing up on that pretty soon, and, of course, the Statewide decontamination has gone forward so there are a lot of things going on since the last meeting.

Craig Meyer reported that basically, the plan that we have adopted for the Dade and Broward eradication effort has been executed on. As discussed last time, it calls for us to have approximately 1,200 new employees, hired and trained, over the amount we had in February by the end of May. We continue to run about 100 employees above the hiring plan schedule that we made out to achieve that goal. We were 100 ahead the last time we met and we continue to stay about 100 people ahead so that has surprised and pleased us because we thought we might have some problems in filling those slots. We are up to about 1,100 total employees this week and well on our way to 2,000. Asplundh Tree Expert Company crews are arriving based on their schedule that they developed for the work plan in Dade and Broward Counties. Of course, the bulk of those people have not arrived. That will happen about the last part of April and throughout May which will be the heavy duty cutting crews; a portion of that is because the execution of the plan requires us to map which we are doing in Broward, north Dade, and south Dade, and once we map, we have to send out the appropriate paper work to the homeowners before we can actually execute the removal of the trees, so there is a lag time involved. It is progressing and within about 30 days from now, we should have a large number of trees coming down each week. So far, in terms of reaction of the citizens that we generally experience is that most people tolerate that we have to do this, but of course there are some very angry citizens also. We settled on our management positions for the Dade and Broward operations which is kind of internal for the Department in terms of the eradication effort and we will be coordinating that very closely with Mike Hornyak and his people, but on the survey and control mapping, that structure is set and the key people are in place and on the ground in Broward and they are there today making the transition from the Forestry people who geared us up and helped us on with the plan. We are on schedule to get where we plan to be on June 1.

CITRUS CANKER ERADICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

South Dade Survey Activities

Richard Gaskalla reported that we have been trying to work closely with lime industry in south Dade to maximize that part of the program. We designated Ed Burns who is one of our key supervisors to go down there and help us get things done there that we need to get done and work with the industry to develop a plan that will protect the remainder of the lime groves and we are making progress since our last meeting, but Richard said he thinks we still have a ways to go as far as improving overall communication and getting all the things we need to get done. There were things done there over the last 30 days. We tripled our staff up to about 100 inspectors and hope to be at 150 inspectors over the next two weeks which will be about where we need to be to get the work done that we can identify. We have completed about 85 percent through the second survey of the negative lime groves with no new positives found which is encouraging because we may be able to salvage some of the industry there. We want to continue to do that. The plan

which was developed in conjunction with some of the key growers down there, including Mike Hunt, is we want to be able to start around the negative groves and radiate the survey out from there and if there are any infected dooryard properties in those areas, find them, and remove them before we get into the summer tropical weather season in order to provide maximum protection for those groves and we will radiate out from those areas on both our commercial and residential surveys. We also are looking at office space there which has been a real challenge for us because there is just not a lot in the Homestead area that meets our needs. Richard mentioned one location off of Caribbean Boulevard that might meet our needs, and is probably 15 minutes north of the Homestead area which might allow us to combine our Kendall office and our south Dade activities. This location might need some minor renovation and should be usable in about two weeks from now.

South Dade Survey Activities

We are moving right along with the control activities with the infected and exposed grove trees removed. We are having trouble with getting permission to burn the trees down there and we are dealing with the local fire marshal on that issue. Ed Burns is on site there and one of his key missions is to see that we get that finished up, hopefully, before the rainy season is upon us.

South Dade Regulatory Activities

Key forces are in south Dade getting people signed up under compliance agreements and issuing harvesting permits. Additionally a public relations program needs to be situated in the south Dade area to help improve overall public relations and communications with industry, et al.

Program Activities in Control Work in Palmetto, Sun City Center

Richard Gaskalla reported that in Palmetto, the program is going very well. We completed the Sun City Center control work with the exception of some cleanup that we are doing as far as public relations with the residents behind the cutting and chipping. We completed one survey of the remaining area of Sun City Center with negative results which is encouraging. Concerning the Tribritton Grove property in Manatee County, all the positive trees have been removed from that grove; it has been mapped; risk assessment is complete, and we will be making a decision regarding the remaining control work there. Moving on to Immokalee, again things are going well there. We did have an additional positive find in Montura Estates and will exercise the 1,900 foot ruling there around 22 trees on a ranch type property. We have identified the homeowners, and issued the immediate final orders this week. On the commercial properties in the Immokalee program, Silver Strand, Summerlin, and Siboney, all positive trees, with the cooperation of the grove owners, have been removed. In Summerlin (exposed trees), that destruction has been completed. In Siboney, destruction of exposed trees is in progress with most of the trees on the ground. Burn permits are in place as far as getting permission to burn in that area. In Silver Strand, risk assessment will be done and the Department will be making a decision regarding the exposed trees in that area.

We are staffing up in all offices to help conduct the Statewide surveys, both commercial and residential, and we will be working with the USDA on the residential Statewide plan.

Comment on Harvesting Permits: You have dedicated people working on this, but they lack experience here and one of the things you have to do is to make sure they understand that we are harvesting fruit 12 months a year. It is pretty important that they understand that.

Richard Gaskalla advised that Ken Bailey and Ed Burns will be at the Florida Avocado Administrative Committee meeting. That issue can be discussed at that meeting and if we need to be creative on that, we can do that because there is a way to get that done.

Comment to Craig Meyer: You gave us a number of trees targeted in the Dade and Broward areas. Could you talk about that?

Craig Meyer said that the initial estimate was about one million and a half trees. Craig explained the complexity of the geographical information system (GIS) data base input scanning process and talked about the procedures the surveyors use to map the properties and the problems they have encountered in converting to a larger server. Craig said that ultimately we will have an exact count, but it has been very perplexing to try to get hold of this because there is a lot of data to process by the GIS system. It is a challenge but they continue to hammer on it.

Status Report - Citrus Canker Budget

There was a long discussion on the budget and Craig reiterated what he had reported at the previous meeting of the task force on March 17. Craig reported on monies spent to date. Between now (beginning July 1, 1999) and June 30, 2000, Craig said he thinks we will have spent about \$50 million. Craig also gave a status report on the canopy replacement program.

NOTE: A spreadsheet depicting an overview of the citrus canker budget and monies spent to date will be provided and attached to the minutes of this meeting (Attachment One.)

Sentinel Survey Plan

Mike Hornyak explained that the Sentinel Survey Plan, or Barrier Project as it is being referred to by the USDA, in Palm Beach County is going to take them a couple of months to hire the Federal people that will be staffing it, but they did not want to wait that long to implement the program so they brought in 33 people on temporary duty that they have in the field now since last Monday. They have started to map the properties in that 20-mile swath of Palm Beach County. In the mapping process, they found a positive yesterday about six miles north of the quarantine boundary. It is one single tree on a residential property and the infection is very low, but they do believe it was an isolated regulatory incident and the infection was limited to the bottom of the tree so they think it was brought in by lawn care equipment and they are now looking into where else that lawn care person worked. It illustrates the USDA people are on the ground and they are looking. They are in the process of mapping out all those properties in that 20-mile swath of Palm Beach County and designating the sentinel tree that they will then start surveying on a 30-day survey cycle. As they hire on their survey people, they will be relieving the temporary personnel and they will be returning to their headquarters. Mike said that the USDA has brought back in John Thomas, who was the former Federal director of the previous citrus canker

program. He is brought back in as a contract worker to help them design the Statewide residential survey. He has been working on that for a little over a week now and he already has a very good survey plan developed and is using some recommendations of Dr. Tim Gottwald on how to proceed around the State which will involve a sentinel tree survey in most residential areas around the State, but they are going to go one step further and do 100 percent survey in certain high risk neighborhoods. As soon as that plan is fully developed, they will put people in place for it as well so they can start to survey the residential areas all around the State.

Craig Meyer reported that Jim Griffiths, in discussing the residential survey last week, said he is betting we are going to find more citrus canker out there in the residences up along the East Coast. Craig said he doesn't know how Jim Griffiths knows that, but when Craig asked him how he knew, Jim said it was just his suspicions.

Richard Gaskalla mentioned that we are running about 43,000 fruit fly traps around the State and about half of those traps are in grapefruit. The inspectors have been asked to key in on those grapefruit trees relative to looking for citrus canker and to use the sentinel tree concept in the fruit fly program so we have a lot of eyes looking over and above citrus canker resources.

Craig Meyer said we think the fruit fly trapping program has been a good sentinel type program since the Sun City find was picked up due to the fruit fly trapping program and the original find south of the airport in Miami was also picked up by a fruit fly trapper and at that time we only had 18,000 fruit fly traps in place and there are 43,000 now, so we have much more distribution and the traps are moved four times a year. We have quality control to make sure that happens so we are getting about 160,000 leads a year in primary residential citrus out there and if we had widespread citrus canker, these trappers would be picking it up so this does give us some degree of confidence.

Craig Meyer advised that regarding the two southernmost finds in Palm Beach County, one is the Dade County DNA; the other is one that we have not seen before and we are not sure what it is; however, we are waiting for confirmation on that.

Tim Schubert said they are still working on that. It gives us a very slow pathogenicity test. It takes about 30 days and then they see tiny raised lesions. It doesn't have the fatty acid profile (another test they use) of the Manatee or Miami strains. It is a *Xanthomonas* species and it seems to be in the same genus. It is a little different from any of the bacterial spot organisms that they have ever seen in that it does cause the raised lesions, but it seems to be a slower, less virulent type. We are going to carry this forward. It does seem to be very different and new and we have a lot to learn about this strain.

Status of East Coast Office

Question: How do we stand with the East Coast office and how long before we get going there?

Richard Gaskalla reported that we have an office and some renovations had to be made. We have hired an office supervisor there with citrus experience. We have a secretary and we are taking applications for the technicians and hope to get people started by the middle of next week to do the actual work there.

Leon Hebb mentioned that five or six people's applications for other personal services positions have been sent to the Gainesville office for approval. The secretary came to work yesterday. There is a single telephone there and, hopefully at the end of the week, there will be ten more telephones. We have already received about 45 applications.

George Hamner asked if there was any area that we could draw temporary State workers from that we are not tapping, that we should really tap?

Craig Meyer answered that on May 15, the Division of Fruit and Vegetables inspection people will be transferring into the program since they would normally go into a layoff status for the summer. They will all be kept on and moved into the program as the packing houses shut down to help us fill in supervisory spots until we actually hire so we do have that ability.

More discussion ensued relative to the importance of survey activities on the East Coast.

Public Information/Education

Liz Compton mentioned the Public Information Record handout and reported that this is just a birds-eye view of what they are doing since the last meeting. She received input from Mark Fagan, but did not get a chance to get input from some of the other public information officers' input so it is not a complete list, but she wanted everyone to have a general idea of the ongoing media contact. They are also going into the communities and talking with multiple public officials. They are getting extensive television coverage. Channel 12 does something every day. **Craig Meyer** and **Liz** went to several communities, Margate, Coral Springs, and North Lauderdale, all in one day about a week and a half ago and they updated them. They have been receiving some Statewide coverage on the Florida News Channel, Cable News Network, and Statewide radio. The week of March 27, their press releases focused on reminding residents on what it means to be in a quarantine zone; the Statewide decontamination of industry; and another one on the expansion of the quarantine zones. The last page of the hand-out shows an advertisement that they put in the Miami Herald and the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel that is a required publishing of the expansion of the quarantine area, but they also added the regulations which will be a reminder to the general public of what it means to be in a quarantine area. **Liz** said she has contacted the public information people in Gainesville about doing a video for lawn maintenance services. She is going to ask local communities to run the video on their local public access channels and basically it is much like the industry video and will explain to them in their own terms how they need to decontaminate and how important it is not to go from property to property without decontaminating, etc. The video will be very educational and will probably be ready this week. They set up a booth at the Dade County Youth Fair and they had several hundred thousand people come through that picked up information. **Liz** said she is trying to do a better job of informing the industry and she tries to get all the press releases out. She can't fax

them to every single person in the industry, but she is trying to get them to the different representatives of the different industry organizations. She hopes industry people are hearing more about what they are doing, and if not, and anyone hears about an organization that needs information, please let her know. She is writing ongoing articles now for the Florida Farm Bureau Federation Newsletter. It is weekly and she tries to get an article in there every other week to update their membership of industry people. If anyone has a newsletter that she could send updates to, please also let her know. Vivian Rudd who has done a tremendous job for them in the project in south Florida has resigned and is going to pursue her career goal of being in a private relations firm and Liz said she is working on replacing her and is trying to add more public relations (PR) people also. It is very difficult to hire quality people in these positions because of the low unemployment rate. See Public Information Record handout for detailed information of PR activities (Attachment Two.)

Statewide Decontamination Update

Richard Gaskalla mentioned the handout that **Connie Riherd** prepared (Attachment Three.) **Richard** reported that at the last meeting, we talked about the compliance agreements and had a general consensus that this was the way we needed to go and **George Hamner** and the regulatory group were part of getting that done. After it went through the committee, it was sent to the Commissioner and was approved on March 20. It was set in motion to get these compliance agreements out to the stakeholders who needed to sign compliance agreements. They were distributed by a mass mail-out and they have also been posted on a web site and there is a toll-free number they can call if they have questions. Right now, we are in the process of getting those signed and returned to us. The contact point is the Winter Haven office. **Leon Hebb** is in the process of getting this information into a data base form so we can see what we have; the 15th of April is the deadline as far as implementation. That is a pretty short turnaround and we are going to do our best to work with the industry if there are problems or questions. We are going to work with everybody to make sure that we have compliance and after the 15th, we will start going around and seeing who has signed and who hasn't, and we set up program sections specifically for monitoring these activities.

George Hamner mentioned that there is a huge confusion, or different discrepancies, among areas of the State, and people in the State, about what decontamination is necessary and what is not necessary so he is not sure about how to handle that. We need to get everyone on the same footing. Right now, the biggest single confusion is in the harvesting area it states "prior to entering or exiting the grove." **Bill West** is saying you have to do it going and coming. That is not what the compliance agreement says, just one or the other. We have to get everyone on the same wave length right now because we are not there.

Richard Gaskalla said that we have received that question, too, and he thinks we have already done it, but if not, he will make sure that we do, and that is, when you exit a grove, our people are decontaminating and that is what we expect everyone to do. If that grove owner wants our people or anyone else to decontaminate on the way in, we are going to do it.

George Hamner said there is a big difference in your people exiting and entering a grove than it is dealing with harvesting crews because from a regulatory standpoint, the basic issue was that you decontaminate prior to entering a grove. There was a discussion about when exiting but only when you leave debris behind on equipment. There was no discussion of pickers being decontaminated as they left a grove. Now, you hit them twice and that is the way that regulation is written and that is the way it was intended to be and for some reason, it is not coming out that way in the translation among people. There is a disagreement between your people and the regulatory committee relative to the interpretation that we will all sit down and talk about again, but right now we have a big difference of opinion about maybe some of the little issues that he took for granted when **Connie Riherd** said common sense would be used and made that assumption about stuff and if that is not the case, then we need to make sure that we are all on the same pace.

Leon Hebb said the biggest misinterpretation that he has seen so far, from a lot of phone calls received and questions asked, is when it says decontamination leaving or entering, people don't associate that with the same piece of equipment. They think they can set up operations and just decontaminate everything coming into it. The intention really is every piece of equipment that moves between one property to another should be decontaminated. It doesn't matter whether it is decontaminated upon leaving the first property or entering the second. We prefer it be decontaminated leaving the property. That is a safety thing.

George Hamner answered that we better decide what we need to do, because right now, if you can interpret it that way, it is going to be a problem. From the practical standpoint, the idea was to get it done before entering the next grove. The one and single concern to that was that if you had a piece of equipment or anything leave the grove that potentially had debris on it, it should be taken off prior to leaving that grove so that it cannot be spread anywhere else. That is pure common sense. The fact that anyone wants to leave a grove and they don't decontaminate is to him not a problem, when you enter that next grove is when the problem starts; it is that cut and dry. If DPI people want to decontaminate in both directions for safety and feel good, **George** thinks this is a good idea because there is a lot of concern for the potential of them spreading canker. It is an internal policy and not a decontamination issue that we should be dealing with. There was a lot of discussion about that at the committee level and we need to get it ironed out. If there are questions or problems, then we just need to get the group back or some of us back together and we will talk about it.

Comment: We have another situation, particularly in our grove, where everyone that works for me got one of these compliance agreements. We got about 15 of these compliance agreements for our operation. Do you want to go back and check out all those? I have personal groves and I have not got compliance agreements, so I think you also need to go to the local Property Appraiser's office who have every grower in the county, so that is a complete list. The Florida Grower and Rancher's list is not a complete list.

Richard Gaskalla remarked that one other issue is there was some concern about getting the compliance agreements into the hands of the people out there to everyone and through Florida Citrus Mutual, they are translating the requirements into Spanish, and possibly other languages, so that we can hand out to the people in the field.

Comment: One step further, that might help us in that, is that all of the crew leaders are required to keep a poster board in every grove and if we had those rules that require compliance on harvesting on some type of board, it might be helpful to the growers to post that and we are going to do the same thing on the grove workers and the nursery workers so that it is posted on their bulletin boards in the facilities that they work out of in Spanish and when we met with all our harvesters that is the first thing that came up - to give them something in Spanish so that they are sure that everybody down the line is able to read it.

Richard Gaskalla said we are also translating our decontamination video into Spanish and it is almost ready to go.

SCIENCE ISSUES WORKING GROUP Planned Citrus Canker Research Workshop

Tom Jerkins mentioned that the Science Issues Working Group was charged with trying to get a mechanism for allocating the \$9 million that was dedicated to research. To that end, there was a conference call and it involved a lot of people on the committees, the USDA, and UF/IFAS. Basically, the thrust of the phone call was to develop a mechanism and a time table to make that allocation so there were questions of venue, timing, who was involved and maybe what the purpose would be. The result of the call was that it likely involved trying to collect the scientists from around the world and it would be international in scope and they would try to gather the best pure and applied science related to canker that existed for purposes of reviewing it together in a common form and the result being after the review of that then to pick a direction with no kind of predetermined sense of what that direction might be. So, being international it appeared that it would push the scope of the date back to sometime in June. Tom thinks the venue will be the USDA, Fort Pierce Laboratory. There was a steering committee that was charged with putting the details together. Tim Gottwald, Wayne Dixon, and Laurene Levy are going to take the lead.

Tim Gottwald said that Jim Graham and he have developed tentative agendas and they are being discussed with Wayne and Laurene. They have been working on that and it is being hammered out as to what the actual agenda of the meetings will be and it comes up over and over again that it is to be purely a scientific workshop without outside influences on that so that we can actually have frank discussions. Right now, the tentative agenda which may change is one day of "What We Know" which will include scientists nationally and internationally make their presentations of what we know about citrus canker in various areas; the second day will be little discussion groups symposia basically about one hour to one and a half hours each on where we think we should go and then sort of a wrap-up of "Okay, now that we have that hammered out, prioritize on a couple of levels - first being the impact, and second, possibility of success and to categorize all the concepts and ideas on where we might go research wise with this. At that point, then open

it up for a more public forum after the scientists have met. The concept that keeps coming up is we want to make sure the people who are there are not influenced by alternative agendas from people outside of the scientific community and pressured. From past experience, when everyone has sat in on meeting like this, the problem they have run into is the prioritization of research ideas before and they have received a lot of pressures from the regulatory community, grower community, etc. They want to take a wholehearted look at just the facts first. They are looking at three different weeks in June for the meeting, but it depends on the availability of key people. Tentatively, they are planning to hold it at the USDA laboratory location in Fort Pierce and that facility has a maximum capacity of 125 people so, once they determine who the scientists are who will be there then, that is somehow going to limit the attendance because they will probably not be able to have more than 110 who are actually in attendance considering that we need other individuals to run slide projectors, etc. The size of the facility itself is going to limit the attendance so Tim thinks there will be some sort of discussion that will go on regarding who will represent industry and each of the regulatory agencies.

Richard Gaskalla said we will get proceedings of the meeting somehow and somehow and we may want to take the results of the meeting and have a Readers Digest version available to the CCTATF to let the industry see what came out of that symposium.

Tim Gottwald advised that they have been talking about a court stenographer recording the entire meeting and publish it on the web site for canker, along with all of the abstracts.

Craig Meyer said this is an issue that is constantly brought up at their citrus meetings. They are consistently asking why we haven't gotten the scientists around the world meet and perhaps we could find some sort of solution.

Comment: Every time the growers meet and in citizens meetings, they want to know what we are doing with pharmaceutical companies to find something to spray with. The people want to hear something out of this meeting in Readers Digest form along these lines. Maybe before you have the meeting and finalize the agenda, you might want to brainstorm with this group here or some others about some issues or areas that they want to be sure are addressed.

Tim Gottwald said that another concept that they are thinking about is the possibility of additional venue sometime after the meeting where the results of the meeting would actually be presented for public view or public forum.

Richard Gaskalla advised that we have the steering committee with the key people and the chairs of that committee include representation from Florida Citrus Mutual, Doug Bournique from the Indian River Citrus League, Mike Hunt from the lime industry, Tom Jerkins from Dole Citrus, so we have some grower input into the agenda to make sure that we capture the things that inquiring minds want to know.

More discussion about the upcoming research symposium ensued.

Protocol for Routing Requests to Test Potential Control Products

There was a discussion about what to do about people who advise that they have purported controls, preventions, etc.

Jim Graham commented that the protocol that they are trying to adhere to is that if some material comes in without any credentials whatsoever, in other words, it has never been tested against any plant bacterial disease, then it goes to Tim Schubert. There is a lot of confusion in peoples minds as to what decontaminates something and what controls it. Jim gets questions every day from people that have products that are used for decontaminates or industrial type cleaners that may kill diseases but they have no evidence that these decontaminates can be used on plants so they try to conduit those things over to the Department of Citrus and they now have a program underway to look at decontamination of citrus canker bacteria under quarantine and then if there is material with a legitimate track record for controlling bacterial disease, and presently there are a number of things under evaluation and you can only evaluate so many things in a season that is three or four tests. We have those prioritized and those are underway and are under the second generation of testing and will go through two more generations this year.

More discussion on bacterial disease control materials followed.

Grower Comment: I have been to a number of meetings since we got out our first draft on the compliance agreement form and I am alarmed at the lack of enthusiasm and the lack of knowledge of some of the people in the industry who have not heard or denied any knowledge of all of the discussions that have gone on in this forum on compliance. Articles are being written and you are holding meetings and at one meeting the other day, if George Hamner had been there, they would have lynched him because he is on the regulatory committee. I just think we are going to need to be a little thorough here about April 15 when we get out here and start checking around. A lot of it is denial; a lot of it is the attitude that "it is somewhere else, it's not in my county and when it get here, I'll start doing that." He is not sure we are "there" yet in getting the attention of the growers and making them realize how serious this matter is and what their responsibility is.

Richard Gaskalla said on that issue, it is going to take a lot of work to make this program all that it needs to be and someone needs to have that sole responsibility and we are looking for that right person and have a few candidates and we need to get them into the position and turn them loose to make sure that the word is getting out and people are under compliance and then we are going to have to do some monitoring and spot checking and we are just going to have to take it a step at a time.

Leon Hebb said he thinks the word is getting out because we are getting numerous calls from industry people. There have been about 1,700 compliance agreements returned so far.

More discussion on compliance agreements followed.

Next meeting is set for Thursday, May 25, 2000, at 9:30 AM, at the Ben Hill Griffin Auditorium, in Lake Alfred.

Meeting adjourned.

- Attachments:
- 1) Spreadsheet of an overview of the citrus canker budget and monies spent to date.
 - 2) Public Relations Information Record.
 - 3) Statewide Decontamination Update - April 6, 2000.

Submitted by Florence Roberts.

Preliminary Citrus Canker Program Components	Original Proposal (Million Dollars)						
I. Statewide Residential Survey	\$10.3						
II. Enhanced State Detection & Control (Dade/Broward) <table data-bbox="321 810 932 910" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>a. Personnel Costs /1</td> <td>32.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Residential Tree Removal /2</td> <td>69.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. Commercial Grove Tree Removal /3</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> </table>	a. Personnel Costs /1	32.8	b. Residential Tree Removal /2	69.3	c. Commercial Grove Tree Removal /3	0.0	\$102.1
a. Personnel Costs /1	32.8						
b. Residential Tree Removal /2	69.3						
c. Commercial Grove Tree Removal /3	0.0						
III. Canker Barriers & Rapid Response <table data-bbox="321 987 932 1089" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>a. Rapid Response to Isolate Outbreaks</td> <td>29.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Palm Beach Canker Barrier (Federal Program)</td> <td>2.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. South Dade Canker Barrier (Federal Program)</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> </table>	a. Rapid Response to Isolate Outbreaks	29.0	b. Palm Beach Canker Barrier (Federal Program)	2.5	c. South Dade Canker Barrier (Federal Program)	1.0	\$32.5
a. Rapid Response to Isolate Outbreaks	29.0						
b. Palm Beach Canker Barrier (Federal Program)	2.5						
c. South Dade Canker Barrier (Federal Program)	1.0						
IV. Expanded Federal Management of Citrus Canker Program (Federal Program)	\$4.4						
V. Expanded Federal Public Outreach (Federal Program)	\$8.6						
VI. Information Technology Enhancements (GIS & Data Processing)	\$8.2						
VII. Citrus Canker Research	\$8.9						
Total Estimated Program Costs (7-01-00 through 6-30-01)	\$175.0						



ATTACHMENT TWO
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
BOB CRAWFORD, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

Please Respond to:

Public Information Record

Plantation Office

C.C.E.P

WEEK OF MARCH 13TH

- Conducted two Town Hall meetings, Boca Raton and North Lauderdale (Ken Bailey, Vivian Rudd and Mark Fagan)
- Interviews with Palm Beach county media. local ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX television affiliates. Palm Beach Post, Boca Raton News, West Boca Times. (Mark Fagan)
- Phone interview with Okeechobee Recorder. (Mark Fagan)
- Live half hour radio interview in Okeechobee. (Liz Compton)
- Met with Fairway Estates Homeowners Association, South Miami-Dade County (Liz Compton, Nolan Lemon)
- Regular weekly canker update on "The Garden Show" WIOD, Miami. (Mark Fagan)

WEEK OF MARCH 20TH

- Canker update for Palm Beach County for the Palm Beach Post. (Liz Compton, Vivian Rudd)
- Canker update Miami-Dade and Broward county. Metro Radio Network, local and national distribution.
- Regular weekly canker update on "The Garden Show" WIOD, Miami. (Mark Fagan)
- Television interview, canker update. Florida News Channel, statewide distribution. (Mark Fagan)



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WEEK OF MARCH 27TH

- Released press release on residents being urged to follow quarantine rules
- Interviews with Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel and Palm Beach Post on quarantine rules (Liz Compton)
- Met with Oakland Park city officials. Re: 1900-foot cut and general information. (Mark Fagan)
- Town Hall meeting: Margate (Vivian Rudd)
- Addressed North Lauderdale city commission. (Craig Meyer, Liz Compton, Vivian Rudd)
- Live radio interview WRMB, Boynton Beach (reaches majority of South Florida coast to coast).
- Luncheon address. Leading Broward county civic and community leaders. (Mark Fagan)
- Released press release on statewide decontamination plan
- Interviews with various newspapers on decontamination plan
- Met with Coral Springs Community Development officials (Craig Meyer, Liz Compton, Vivian Rudd)
- Met with Margate City Manager and City Commissioner (Craig Meyer, Liz Compton, Vivian Rudd)
- Interviews with Miami Herald, Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel, Palm Beach Post on quarantine expansion (Liz Compton, Mark Fagan).

WEEK OF APRIL 3RD

- Released press release on quarantine expansion
- Interviews with Palm Beach Post, Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald on quarantine expansion (Liz Compton, Vivian Rudd, Mark Fagan)
- Addressed Tamarac Homeowners Association Presidents Association. (Mark Fagan)
- Met with County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman District I (CCEP Division F, Branch II)
- Met with Dania Beach city officials (Mark Fagan)
- Telephone interview Palm Beach Post, Re: update. (Liz Compton, Vivian Rudd, Mark Fagan)

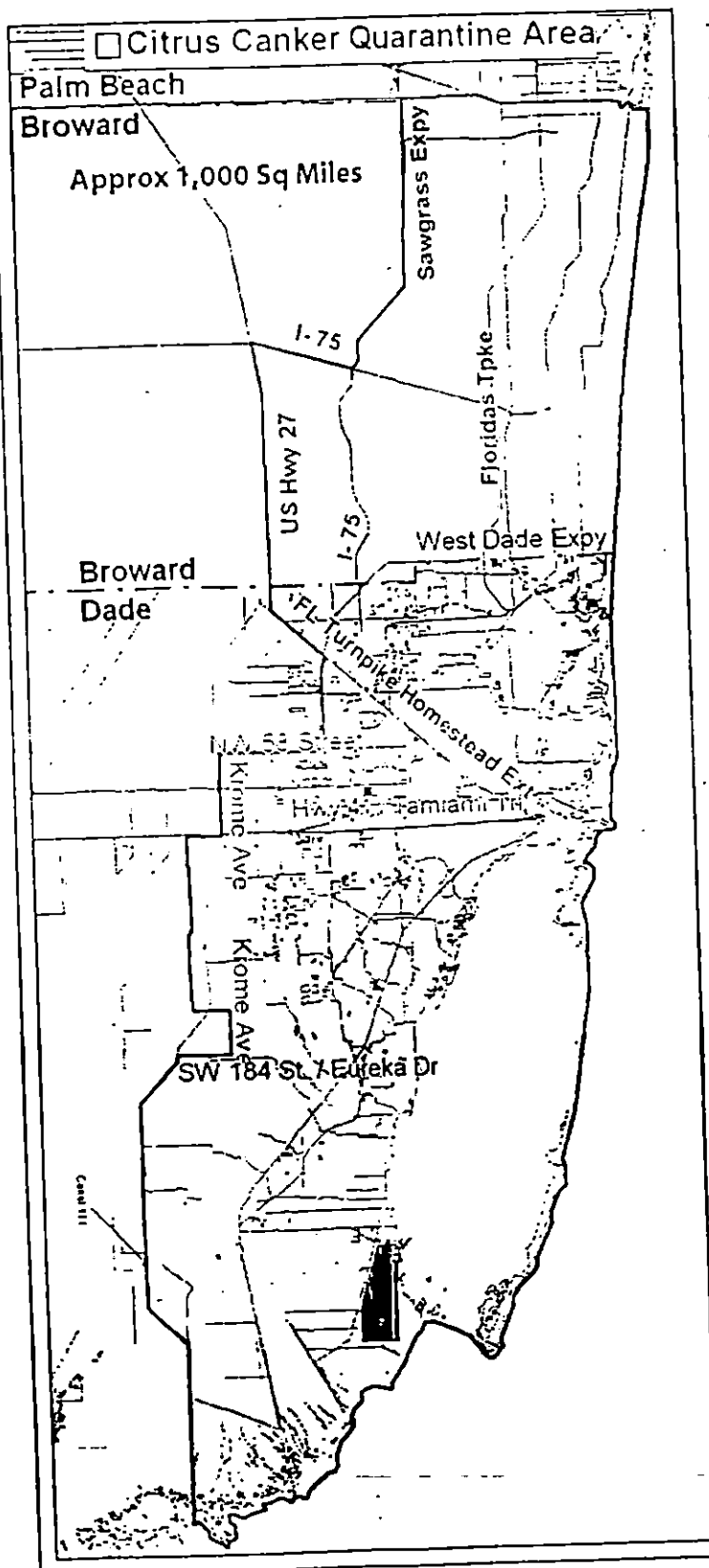
-Telephone interview Palm Beach Observer, Re: update and quarantine expansion. (Mark Fagan)

-Addressed Oakland Park City Commission meeting. (Mark Fagan)

-Distributed canker education material at City libraries.

-Television interview on citrus canker update with Conus Network (statewide distribution)(Liz Compton)

Residents in citrus canker quarantine areas must follow a few simple guidelines to help prevent the spread of citrus canker:



Do not move citrus plant material in any form (fruit, leaves, stems, whole plants) from your property.

Do not exchange dooryard citrus fruit with anyone (e.g., neighbors, relatives, etc.). Citrus in major grocery stores comes from non-quarantine areas and does not carry canker inoculum that can spread the disease.

Dispose of any citrus fruit peels, uneaten citrus fruit, citrus leaves or other citrus debris that are homegrown in a doubled plastic bag.

Do not plant any new citrus in your yard.

If you use a lawn maintenance service: check for a decal in the driver's side windshield of the lawn maintenance company's vehicle to confirm that their company has signed a compliance agreement with the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Lawn maintenance companies must decontaminate personnel and equipment when arriving at and departing homeowners' properties.

<http://doacs.state.fl.us/canker/>
**Citrus Canker Eradication
Program Helpline:
1-800-850-3781**

STATEWIDE DECONTAMINATION UPDATE
APRIL 6, 2000

On Friday, March 17, 2000, the Citrus Canker Technical Advisory Task Force passed a motion to accept the statewide decontamination compliance agreements presented by the Regulatory Issues Working Group. Commissioner of Agriculture, Bob Crawford, reviewed and accepted them the following Monday, March 20, 2000.

The Division of Plant Industry information office had the agreements, attachments and instructions printed and the bulk of the agreements were mailed that same week to a publishing company who was recommended by Florida Citrus Mutual as having the most complete list of growers. They were subsequently mailed by this firm the following week. All other agreements were mailed by our staff on March 23 - 24 (citrus nurseries, harvesters and intermediate handlers, gift fruit packers) with the exception of the compliance agreements for the packing houses and processors which were delivered by the Division of Fruit and Vegetables inspectors.

The agreements and instructions are posted on the department web site at: <http://doacs.state.fl.us>. A toll free number is operational in Winter Haven at the Cowperthwaite Building to answer questions. The number is 1-800-282-5153.

The emergency rule implementing statewide decontamination was filed on Friday, March 31, 2000 instead of April 1 as recommended because that day fell on a Saturday and the Secretary of State's office was closed that day.

Compliance agreements are due back to the Winter Haven office by April 15, 2000. Anyone not receiving a copy can obtain one by accessing the web site or calling the toll free number.

Leon Hebb and his staff are working with individual grower groups to answer their questions about decontaminating between closely located blocks and groves under one management firm.

Some people received more than one type of agreement, and some agreements were mailed to people already under compliance agreement due to being located in quarantine areas. The instructions contain information that different compliance agreements are required in quarantine areas, since there was no way for us to separate these individuals in the mass mail-out.

The next step, following April 15 will be to locate those individuals who received agreements, but did not mail them back and those individuals who were not on any of our mailing lists. Additional enforcement activities will follow.