



Greening/Abandoned Groves
November 20, 2007

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Carrere, Chairman, Bob Ford, Scott Schuyler, Trey Smith, John Smoak, III, Justin Sorrells, and Mike Sparks

Others Present: Doug Bournique, Melanie Burns, Candice Erick, Richard Gaskalla, Laurie Hurner, Jewel Letchworth, Andrew Meadows, Bob Terry, Rusty Wiygul

I. Welcome

Chairman Mike Carrere called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedule to make the meeting. Mr. Carrere gave a brief overview of the September meeting reporting that the committee felt a definition needed to be devised for 'abandoned groves' and next steps.

Mr. Carrere and members present feel it is important that we seek grower input on whatever plan they decide to move forward on.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was declared.

III. Discussion on Abandoned Grove Options

Mr. Richard Gaskalla with FDACS/DPI reported that the FDACS has received approximately 1,300 Compliance Agreements and Business Plans from the industry. He advised that DPI is more than committed to continuing the educational process regarding greening and citrus canker management working closely with IFAS.

Mr. Gaskalla in pulling together the "draft" for abandoned groves, spoke to several agriculture tax assessors in the large counties. The tax assessors indicated they would appreciate a more definitive definition for abandoned groves. The proposed definition indicates that an abandoned grove is one that has had no fruit harvested and no irrigation or pest control measures for at least two production cycles.

Mr. Gaskalla stated that DPI will need to address the resources needed to carry out the industry's plan for abandoned groves. He felt that if we went with a "mandatory" program, it would create more problems and take a longer time to put into effect and would be met with some resistance. A program that is voluntary, limits the state's liability, and provide incentives to participate would be in the best interest of all parties concerned. Discussion continued on ways to fund and resource an abandon grove abatement plan. The Agriculture Emergency Eradication Trust Fund and CHRP dollars were both mentioned. Richard Gaskalla reported that FDACS should

receive approximately \$9 million out of the \$34 million appropriated for CHRP. Mike Sparks will request a breakdown on the remaining dollars.

Mr. Bob Terry with USDA/FASS advised the committee that beginning in September they will begin compiling numbers for abandoned groves. He did not feel they would have complete numbers but it would be a start.

The subject of “transitional groves” was addressed. It was decided that a definition needs to be determined, possibly categorize the groves, determine how many and what the possible fixes are.

IV. Discussion on Abandoned Groves owned By Government Entities

Mr. Gaskalla reported that DPI has contacted one of the WMD’s to address an abandoned grove they own and will continue to work with all of the WMD’s to address the issue. They did not run into any opposition from the first meeting.

V. Action Needed

Mr. Richard Gaskalla reported that he will redraft the current definition of abandoned groves as well as pulling together a White paper on “transitional groves”. He hoped to have this complete in the next 30 days.

VI. Adjourn

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Mike Carrere
Chairman