

**MINUTES**  
**VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**California Department of Food and Agriculture**  
**Various Locations**  
**Conference call**  
**December 11, 2014**

Members Present

**California Department of Food and Ag (CDFA) - Plant Lab: (916) 262-1102**  
**3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832**

David Kratville  
Mark Novak  
Ruben Arroyo

**Alameda County Dept. of Agriculture/Weights & Measures**  
**3575 Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94550**

Karen Sweet  
Guest: Ed Duarte

**Hopland Research & Extension Center**  
**4070 University Road Hopland, CA 95449-9717**

Robert Timm

**CSU Fullerton**  
**800 N State College Ave, McCarthy Hall Rm MH-161, Fullerton CA 92831**

Paul Stapp

**Kings County Agricultural Commissioner Office**  
**680 N. Campus Dr. Suite B, Hanford, CA 93230**

Dennis Bray

Members Absent

Art Foster  
Dan Spangler  
Dale Huss

Called in Guests

Roger Baldwin  
Michelle Dennis

The Meeting convened at 1 p.m. by Mr. Dennis Bray and introductions were made.

**BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT AND VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLIANCE**

Mr. Bray and the Committee acknowledged the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee (VPCRAC) compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

## **MINUTES FOR APRIL 30, 2014 MEETING**

**Motions:** *Ruben Arroyo moved that the Committee recommend approving the minutes from the April 30, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Stapp and passed unanimously.*

## **MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 22, 2014 MEETING**

**Motions:** *Mark Novak moved that the Committee recommend approving the minutes from the October 22, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Stapp and passed unanimously.*

## **CDFA UPDATES**

Mr. David Kratville explained that CDFA requested a motion from the Committee to approve pursuing efforts to amend Legislation to extend VPCRAC rodenticide surcharge authorization.

**Motions:** *Karen Sweet moved that the Committee recommend approve the pursuit of legislation authorizing the extension of the rodenticide surcharge and the VPCRAC. The motion was seconded by David Kratville and passed unanimously.*

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mr. Kratville stated the FY 2015/2016 budget line items were adjusted after the October 22, 2014 meeting. He presented an option in the new budget that would pay for registration fees for CDFA maintained rodenticide labels rather than passing those fees on to the participating counties. The costs for the CDFA maintained rodenticide labels will be reflected in the final FY 2015/2016 budget.

**Motions:** *Karen Sweet moved that the Committee recommend approving the Financial Reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Stapp and passed unanimously.*

**Motions:** *Dennis Bray moved that the Committee recommend approving the Proposed Budget to include the pesticide registration fees as a line item charged directly to VPCRAC. The motion was seconded by Ruben Arroyo and passed unanimously.*

## **GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

Ms. Michelle Dennis presented research proposal guidelines that would include a limit of 10 percent overhead for VPCRAC funded research. The Committee discussed the need to identify VPCRAC research needs. The proposal guidelines include a section where the Committee can identify areas of research that are of particular importance to the program. These suggestions will continue to be discussed and updated at future meetings.

Discussion followed.

**Motions:** *Paul Stapp moved that the Committee recommend approval to set a 10 percent overhead for all research proposals. The motion was seconded by Mark Novak and passed unanimously.*

## **RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

**Motions:** *David Kratville moved that the Committee recommend funding the research proposal from Dr. Roger Baldwin, UC Davis and Gary Witmer, National Wildlife Research Center, "A Field test of Rodenticides for Pocket Gopher (Thomomys spp.) Control" in the amount of \$43,514.55. The motion was seconded by Robert Timm and passed unanimously.*

**Motions:** *Ruben Arroyo moved that the Committee recommend funding the research proposal from Dr. Roger Baldwin, UC Davis, "Encouraging Owl Predation of Rodents by Erecting Owl Boxes: Myth or Potential Management Strategy?" in the amount of \$76,908.15. The motion was seconded by Robert Timm and passed with a majority vote of five Yeas and one Nay. Paul Stapp abstained from voting.*

**Motions:** *Mark Novak moved that the Committee recommend funding the research proposal from Dr. Katherine Horak, National Wildlife Research Center, "Evaluation of the Hazard of Sequential Exposures to First and Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides Encountered by Non-Target Raptors at the Urban-Agricultural Interface" in the amount of \$142,946. The motion was seconded by Paul Stapp and passed unanimously.*

## **PURSUING A CALIFORNIA SPECIAL LOCAL NEEDS LABEL FOR ZINC PHOSPHIDE ON CABBAGE**

Mr. Bray presented Modoc County Agricultural Commissioner's preliminary Special Local Need label for Zinc Phosphide treated cabbage for controlling Belding's ground squirrels. Belding's ground squirrels do not readily take grain based baits and

historically were controlled by applications of cabbage treated with Compound 1080. The state of Oregon recently permitted the use of Zinc Phosphide treated cabbage for this pest.

Mr. Kratville requested feedback from the Committee to pursue a statewide CDFA Zinc Phosphide label for the Belding's ground squirrels and other rodent pests that do not readily take grain based baits. The Committee recognized the need for the label and is interested in reviewing more research regarding the suggested label. The Committee recommended presenting the topic as an agenda item for discussion during the next meeting.

Discussion followed.

**Closed Executive Session of the VPCRAC Pursuant to Government Code Section 1126 (If deemed necessary)**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Future Action Items:**

Mr. Bray requested the Proposal Guidelines and the request for a Zinc Phosphide label from Modoc County are added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Arroyo stated researchers submitting proposals should be available to answer questions during meeting research consideration.

Ms. Dennis stated CDFA is currently working on guidelines regarding Committee membership.

Mr. Kratville will research any conflicts of interest regarding Farm Bureau staff requesting to serve as a VPCRAC Members.

**Tentative upcoming Meeting Location and Date:**

April 22, 2015 at CDFA Headquarters, Sacramento, CA

**Adjourn**

3:00 p.m.

David Kratville  
Secretary to the Board