

**California Department of Food & Agriculture**

**Minutes**

of the Meeting

of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board

and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on Thursday, April 23, 2020

CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility

2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

**PD/GWSS BOARD**

Members Present: Jeff Bitter\*, Greg Coleman\*, Robert Crudup\*, William Drayton\*, Bill Hammond\*, Rich Hammond\*, John Harkey\*, Randy Heinzen\*, Trey Irwin\*, Aaron Lange\*, Jim Ledbetter\*, Steve McIntyre\*, Domonic Rossini

Members Absent: Pam Bond, Keith Horn

**PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Cathy Fisher\*, A. Humberto Izquierdo\*, Jean-Mari Peltier\*, Beth Stone-Smith\*, Judy Zaninovich\*

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Deborah Golino

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Maher Al Rwahnih, Tyler Blackney, Chris Bock, Pete Downs, Tom Esser, Jim Farrar, Leah Gayagas, Craig Hanes, Mike Miller, Michael Miiller, David Morgan, Stacie Oswald, Ted Rieger, Nicole Shorter, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas, Bob Wynn

\*Denotes attendance via webconference or teleconference.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich called the joint meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Acting PDCP Statewide Coordinator Roger Spencer conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (Task Force). Quorums were present for both the Board and the Task Force.

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich thanked everyone for joining the meeting during these challenging times caused by the COVID-19 emergency. Roger Spencer welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Board and Task Force members for the important work they do to protect agriculture, which has been deemed an essential function during the current COVID-19 emergency.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Domonic Rossini asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on February 3, 2020.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on February 3, 2020.

### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion: Crudup\* Second: Irwin\*  
In Favor: Bitter\*, Coleman\*, Crudup\*, Drayton\*, Bill Hammond\*, Rich Hammond\*, Harkey\*, Heinzen\*, Irwin\*, Lange\*, Ledbetter\*, Rossini  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Bond, Horn, McIntyre\*\*

\*\*not present for this action item

Judy Zaninovich asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on February 3, 2020.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on February 3, 2020.

### **Details of Task Force Vote**

Motion: Peltier\* Second: Izquierdo\*  
In Favor: Fisher\*, Izquierdo\*, Peltier\*, Stone-Smith\*, Zaninovich\*  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Andrew, Golino

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Monday, June 15, 2020 in Sacramento and will begin at 10:00 AM.

## **FISCAL UPDATES**

USDA California Assistant State Plant Health Director Beth Stone-Smith reported briefly on the federal funding for the Program. She said the federal funding situation has not changed since the last meeting. She stated that the USDA is currently working on the funding plan for federal fiscal year 2021, which is typical for this time of year.

Roger Spencer presented the financial update for the PDCP. He provided information on the PDCP's revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Tom Esser presented the fiscal update for the Board, including revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20. He said the assessment revenue from the 2019 winegrape crop will be about \$3.8 million, which is close to the 19-year average for the assessment.

## **RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Research Screening Committee (RSC), presented the funding recommendations of the RSC. He said a total of 17 proposals were received this year, plus one proposal that was received out of cycle. Of these, the RSC is recommending funding 11 as basic research projects, and considering one for funding as an applied research project. After discussion, the Board voted to recommend funding the 12 proposals.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend funding 11 basic research projects totaling \$2,243,173 over the next three fiscal years, and one applied research project for \$166,714 for one year.

### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion: Heinzen\*    Second: Drayton\*

In Favor: Bitter\*, Coleman\*, Crudup\*, Drayton\*, Bill Hammond\*, Rich Hammond\*, Harkey\*, Heinzen\*, Irwin\*, Lange\*, Ledbetter\*, McIntyre\*, Rossini

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bond, Horn

Steve McIntyre announced there would be an RSC meeting in May to discuss the review process, consider ways to increase the number of submitted proposals, and develop ideas for targeted research. Steve recommended all members review the recent progress report by Dr. Steven Lindow on the biological control of Pierce's disease with *Paraburkholderia phytofirmans*. CDFA will distribute the report.

## **COUNTY AG COMMISSIONER SHIPMENT INSPECTION STATUS UPDATE**

Roger Spencer reported that origin county agricultural commissioners continue to clear and certify all GWSS nursery stock shipments that are destined for non-infested areas of California. A survey will be sent out to all county agricultural commissioners to determine current and anticipated levels of county activities. Results of this survey will be presented at the next Board and Task Force meeting.

## **REFERENDUM VOTE UPDATE**

Roger Spencer reported that the ballots for the grower vote that will determine if the PD/GWSS Board and assessment will continue for another five years were mailed out on April 9, 2020. The voting period ends after 30 days and may be extended by an additional 30 days if the minimum response is not received. The results of the vote are expected to become available in mid-June. The Board requested that CDFA provide an update on the number of ballots returned to date.

## **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Brown-Miller Communications representative Nicole Shorter gave an update on outreach and education activities. She provided recent Board-related media clips and a draft of the spring newsletter. Nicole said the documents and other content posted on the website pdgwss.net, maintained by Brown-Miller for Board-related items, is being migrated to the Pierce's Disease Control Program's website.

## **AREA-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on the area-wide programs in Fresno, Kern, Madera, Riverside, and Tulare counties. This included information on trap catches, insecticide treatments, and challenges in each program area.

## **PDCP STAFF REPORTS**

Craig Hanes provided updates on recent program actions, including information on nursery stock shipments and rapid response and treatment activities in Fresno, Madera, and Tulare counties. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the PDCP is exploring holding virtual online public meetings this spring for areas where treatments will be applied.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

Judy Zaninovich discussed Task Force membership and suggested adding an agricultural commissioner from the southern San Joaquin Valley and an entomologist. A plan to bolster task force membership will be developed.

Roger Spencer announced that he will be retiring from CDFA effective May 1, 2020. He thanked the Board and Task Force for their contributions through the years.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 11:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted on April 27, 2020 by

Christopher Bock, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
California Department of Food and Agriculture