

**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 Monday, November 9, 2020  
CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

**PD/GWSS BOARD**

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

Members Absent: Robert Crudup, Trey Irwin

**PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

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

Members Absent: None

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Tyler Blackney\*, Chris Bock, Noelle Cremers\*, Pete Downs\*, Leah Gayagas\*, Craig  
Hanes, Mark Harrington\*, Michael Miiller\*, Mike Miller\*, Judit Monis\*, Warren  
Nichols\*, Stacie Oswald, Ted Reiger\*, Nicole Shorter\*, Sean Veling\*, Myrna Villegas\*

\*Denotes attendance via web conference or teleconference.

---

**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**

PDCP Statewide Coordinator Craig Hanes 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  
welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for their participation. Craig  
Hanes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for their participation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Müller with the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) provided an update regarding his attendance of a meeting with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to discuss neonicotinoid mitigation measures. A follow up meeting will be scheduled to include Michael, Craig Hanes, USDA California Assistant State Plant Health Director Beth Stone-Smith, and PD Advisory Task Force member Jean-Mari Peltier to address unanswered technical questions from the previous meeting.

A member of the public, Judit Monis, addressed the Board concerning the 2020 PD/GWSS Research Coordinator Request for Proposal (RFP), the process for review of RFP proposals, the University of California, Davis (UCD) acting as director of the Board's grant program in the absence of a designated Research Coordinator, and a potential for UCD's influence on grant reviewers to award funding for their own grants as a perceived conflict of interest. Domonic Rossini thanked Judit for providing her public comment and ensured attendees that the Board would take her concerns under consideration.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Domonic Rossini asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meetings held on July 7, 2020 and September 29, 2020.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meetings held on July 7, 2020 and September 29, 2020.

### Details of Board Vote

Motion: Heinzen    Second: Bitter\*

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

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Crudup, Irwin, Ledbetter\*\*, 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 meetings held on July 7, 2020 and September 29, 2020.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meetings held on July 7, 2020 and September 29, 2020.

### Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Stone-Smith\*    Second: Golino\*

In Favor: Fisher\*, Golino\*, Izquierdo\*, Peltier\*, Stone-Smith\*, Zaninovich\*

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Friday, January 29, 2021 in Sacramento and will begin at 10:00 AM.

## **PD/GWSS BOARD ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

Craig Hanes informed attendees that the Board currently has two vacancies, one previously occupied by central valley producer/processor Keith Horn and one previously occupied by north coast producer/processor Pam Bond. Craig said that he is aware of one potential candidate to fill Keith's vacancy and is still working toward identifying a candidate to fill Pam's vacancy. Craig said that he will continue to work with Domonic Rossini to obtain industry recommendations for CDFG Secretary Karen Ross's consideration and is hoping to have the two new members in place in time for their attendance at the next Board and Task Force meeting.

Judy Zaninovich, addressing current Task Force vacancies, expressed interest in adding an entomologist and/or plant pathologist to the roster and is also considering the addition of an agricultural commissioner from the southern San Joaquin valley region who may have experience with conducting areawide pesticide treatments and familiarity with Pierce's disease. Judy requested that interested parties contact her for more information.

## **APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Domonic Rossini stated that, under the Board's customary practices, the terms of the Board's officers will end at the start of the next Board meeting. Domonic asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to nominate the next slate of officers. Jeff Bitter and Aaron Lange volunteered to serve on the committee with Domonic and will provide an update on their recommendations at the next Board meeting.

## **RESEARCH COORDINATOR UPDATE**

Craig Hanes reported that a Research Coordinator Request for Proposal (RFP) was published in August 2020, that one candidate application meeting minimum qualifications was received and, after a thorough review process was conducted, the application was found to have not received an acceptable score for Board consideration. Craig mentioned that the August 2020 Research Coordinator RFP received an excess of 500 online views.

Craig said that two years' worth of funding for the Research Coordinator position are included in the Board's budget, and that the RFP to fill this vacancy can be reviewed for modification of duties and resubmitted if needed. Domonic Rossini suggested that the hiring candidate who will fill PDCP's Environmental Program Manager I (Spec) vacancy, previously occupied by Tom Esser and due to be filled by December 2020, participate in a review and refinement of the proposed Research Coordinator duties for re-issue of a new RFP. Steve McIntyre agreed and furthered this recommendation to the Board.

Craig added that the Board does not currently have a Research Coordinator candidate for consideration, and management of the Board's annual RFP process is a significant task which is due for publication on December 1, 2020. The PDCP is following up with the University of California, utilizing the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology (UGMVE) website as they have in previous years, for assistance with the Board's annual RFP.

## **FISCAL UPDATES**

USDA California Assistant State Plant Health Director Beth Stone-Smith reported on the federal funding for the program to include a review of previous fiscal year funding and new fiscal year funding. Beth said that the USDA is operating under a continuing resolution

through December 11, 2020 which acts as a stopgap measure to provide a percentage of funding based on the previous years funded amount. Beth reported that initial funding of 19.7% (slightly over \$3M) of the proposed full amount of \$15.5M is awaiting approval for distribution to the PDCP.

Craig Hanes presented the financial update for the PDCP. He provided a detailed outline of fiscal year 2019-2020 projected funding, fiscal year 2019-2020 expenditures, and budgeted funding amounts for fiscal year 2020-2021. Craig said that fiscal year 2019-2020 was the final year of the PDCP's access to state general funds. Craig indicated that the increase in budgeted Board funding from \$1.5M, as identified during the July 7, 2020 Board and Task Force meeting, to \$2.1M is due to the addition of \$600,000 that was approved for allocation during the September 29, 2020 Board and Task Force meeting for the purpose of conducting additional area-wide treatments in Kern and Tulare Counties in response to increased GWSS activity in those regions. Craig also called attention to an additional "Other Funds" entry which included an additional \$600,000 as provided by the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District (CCVTGPDCD) to also be used for the purpose of conducting additional area-wide treatments in Kern and Tulare Counties.

Craig Hanes presented the fiscal update for the Board. He reported a summary of projected revenues, expenditures, and future obligations for fiscal year 2020-2021. Craig said that the projected assessment rate and interest accumulation of \$3.9M may be slightly high due to the potential for smoke taint based on California fire activity earlier this year. Craig also noted the addition of a \$600,000 expenditure listed under the category of "Contingency for County Backfill" which was approved during the September 29, 2020 Board and Task Force meeting for additional area-wide treatments in Kern and Tulare Counties.

### **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY UPDATE**

Dr. Matthew Kaiser, State Survey Coordinator with CDFA's Plant Health Division, gave a presentation on Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) which included highlights from June's CAWG hosted SLF presentation as well as additional updates including reported distribution through October 2020, potential distribution based on temperature, elevation, precipitation, and other variables. Matthew also mentioned SLF's impact to grapes, SLF management efforts via insecticide treatments, other treatment options including biocontrol using parasitoid wasps and tree of heaven using plant pathogens, comparisons to European grapevine moth, what related actions CDFA is taking, what else can be done, and other collaborative opportunities.

Aaron Lange inquired on what efforts are underway at the federal level to address SLF and support states in quarantine areas, and if SLF currently has enough attention to warrant the federal government to provide additional supportive funding. Matthew said that the USDA has not enforced federal quarantines but has provided funding to eastern states for treatment and tree removal activities. Beth Stone-Smith said that limited federal funding does exist and that USDA has not implemented a federal quarantine or related regulations due to the current inability to properly detect and locate SLF. Instead, states are being supported in these efforts based on the use of their existing internal infrastructure and knowledge of local agricultural commodities.

### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on recent outreach and education activities including an announcement on the development of an SLF educational plan designed to help connect with California winegrape growers which will include

information from Dr. Kaiser's presentation. Nicole said that the Fall PD/GWSS Board newsletter will also include information from Dr. Kaiser's presentation and will identify helpful steps that California winegrape growers can take to combat SLF. Nicole mentioned that this year's industry trade show will be conducted via an online format, and that Brown-Miller Communications will be presenting information virtually to connect California growers.

#### **DR. ANDY WALKER LAB TRANSITION**

Research Screening Committee (RSC) Chair Steve McIntyre provided an update on Dr. Andy Walker's transition into retirement. Steve said that UC Davis has established a committee which has been tasked with hiring Dr. Walker's replacement and that the search process should begin soon. Dr. Walker will plan to work with the new staff to ensure an efficient transition in the management of current germplasm and related field trials.

#### **AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided a status update on program activities taking place in Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties to include significant increases in trap find numbers and related activity from last year. Beth said that area-wide treatments are ongoing and that there have been increasing challenges in Tulare County due to the amount of existing organic citrus and required volume of communication with growers in that region. Beth said that October treatments in the Hwy 65 region of Kern County have been completed and that treatments covering approximately 10,000 acres in the General Beale region are scheduled to take place in December.

Beth offered a review of additional treatment funding requested and approved for use during the September 29<sup>th</sup> Board and Task Force meeting as generously provided by the PD/GWSS Board and CCVTGPDCD. Of the \$1.2M total additional funding, Tulare County received \$793,145 and Kern County received \$406,855. Tulare County's original treatment budget included \$580,000 for the treatment of approximately 8,000 acres and, augmented by additional industry funding, increased to \$1,373,145 for the treatment of 16,800 acres. Kern County's original treatment budget included \$1.5M for the treatment of approximately 15,000 acres and, augmented by additional industry funding, increased to \$1,906,855 for the treatment of 25,700 acres (15,700 acres in the Hwy 65 region and 10,000 acres in the General Beale & Northern Zone region).

#### **PDCP STAFF REPORTS**

Stacie Oswalt provided updates on program activities including nursery stock shipment numbers, nursery stock approved treatment program numbers, detection and rapid response delimitation updates for San Joaquin and Santa Barbara counties, and urban treatment program updates for Fresno, Madera, and Tulare Counties.

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

None.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by  
Christopher Bock, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
California Department of Food and Agriculture