

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting / Conference Call
of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force
Held on Monday, April 24, 2017
CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Dennis Atkinson*, Pam Bond, Greg Coleman, John Crossland, Nat DiBudo, Ben Drake, Drew Johnson, Ryan Metzler, Domonic Rossini

Members Absent: Robert Crudup, Bill Hammond, Keith Horn, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Steve Schafer

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Greg Clark*, Nat DiBudo, Ben Drake, Deborah Golino, Drew Johnson, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Jim Cranney, Cathy Fisher, David House, Richard Mounts

OTHER ATTENDEES

Tyler Blackney, Pete Downs, Sandy Elles, Tom Esser, Jim Farrar, Ken Freeze, Mark Greenspan, Craig Hanes, Mark Harrington, Kapua Kahumoku, Eric Lauritzen, Michael Miiller (CAWG), David Morgan*, Stacie Oswald, Ted Rieger, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas, Alan Wei, Will Wei, Bob Wynn

* Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (PD/GWSS) Board Chair Pam Bond called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn, CDFA Statewide Coordinator, conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (Task Force). Quorums were present for the Board and the Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Chair Pam Bond asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2017.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2017.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Domic Rossini Second: Ben Drake
In Favor: Atkinson*, Bond, Coleman, Crossland, DiBuduo, Drake, Johnson, Metzler, Rossini
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Crudup, Hammond, Horn, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Schafer

Task Force Chair Ben Drake asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2017.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2017.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Nat DiBuduo Second: Drew Johnson
In Favor: Clark*, DiBuduo, Drake, Golino, Johnson, Stone-Smith, Zaninovich
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Cranney, Fisher, House, Mounts

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for June 19, 2017, in Sacramento and will begin at 10:00 am. It will be held at the CDFA Gateway Oaks office located at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive in Sacramento.

FISCAL UPDATES

USDA Program Director Beth Stone-Smith reported on the federal funding for the Program. She said the federal government is still operating under a continuing resolution and the Program is facing a potential shortfall of \$1.1 million. However, the intent is to fund the PDCP at \$15,574,754, which is the same amount as in the previous fiscal year. During the discussion she answered questions about carryover amounts, shortfalls, and future funding cycles.

PDCP Environmental Program Manager II (EPM II) Roger Spencer presented the financial update for the PDCP. He went over PDCP revenues and expenditures from state fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 along with projected total expenses. He also mentioned that area-wide treatments have been halted due to budget constraints. Spring treatments were not completed.

PDCP Environmental Program Manager I (EPM I) Tom Esser then presented the fiscal update for the Board. He reported that this year's assessment revenues were expected to be about \$4.5 million, and provided information on the amount of interest earned on the funds in the assessment account. He also said that alternate funding had been obtained for the upcoming Grapevine Virus Meeting. During the discussion a question was asked about the cost of the field

trials and the list of field trial agreements was requested. Additionally, staff was asked to survey Board members on the anticipated size and value of this year's winegrape crop.

CURRENT YEAR FUNDING STATUS, POTENTIAL REDUCTIONS AND ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION

Roger Spencer reviewed the funding status of the PDCP and potential reductions and alternative courses of action that may need to be taken to address potential shortfalls. He discussed reductions already taking place, which included reductions in staffing, a freeze on major purchases, a hold on all area-wide treatments, and a possible \$1.4 million dollar decrease in County contracts. During the discussion it was decided to hold a special meeting of the Board and Task Force to review program activities, costs, and funding. A trip to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressional and USDA officials was also suggested. A motion was then made to make assessment funds available to help the PDCP in the event that it's federal funding was less than anticipated this year.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend making up to \$1.309 million available from its "county backfill" line item to fund work plan activities in the event the Pierce's Disease Control Program does not receive its full federal funding allocation of \$15.574 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Nat DiBuduo Second: Ryan Metzler
In Favor: Atkinson*, Bond, Coleman, Crossland, DiBuduo, Drake, Johnson, Metzler, Rossini
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Crudup, Hammond, Horn, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Schafer

Following the vote, Michael Miiller from the California Association of Winegrape Growers gave an update on efforts to obtain \$5 million in state funding for the PDCP. He said encouraging progress has been made.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This agenda item began with a discussion on the UC indirect cost issue. Tom Esser referenced a February 2017 letter from UC to CDFA indicating tentative agreement on indirect cost rates for the next few years and the possible exemption from indirect cost charges of grower-funded boards and commissions. Discussion followed and various options and suggestions were considered. Next, the upcoming Grapevine Virus Meeting was discussed. Tom Esser reported that funding and other support for the meeting had been generously contributed by private parties, so it was not necessary for the Board to sponsor it. UC Foundation Plant Services Director Deborah Golino, the organizer of the meeting, then described the schedule and goals for the meeting. She said the meeting would be held the week of May 8, 2017 and would include a field trip to Napa Valley and presentations on grapevine virus research. Tom Esser then presented the research funding recommendations of the Board's Research Screening Committee, as well as a proposal from UC to provide support and scientific reviews during the next request for proposals cycle. Given the financial uncertainties raised earlier, the Board decided to defer voting on these items until the next meeting.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION UPDATE

Ken Freeze of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on outreach and education activities. This included showing a video featuring research being conducted by Dr. David Gilchrist.

VITICULTURE CONSULTANT UPDATE

Mark Greenspan, Viticulture Consultant, provided an update on his recent activities. This included the status and plans for the grapevine field trials. It was decided to ask Steve McIntyre and Tom Esser to follow up on concerns that were raised concerning the trials.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

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

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

PDCP Staff provided updates on recent program activities, including the nursery program and rapid response and treatment activities.

OTHER ITEMS

N/A

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Pam Bond adjourned the meeting for both the Board and the Task Force at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on June 13, 2017 by

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