

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, January 25, 2016
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, Robert Crudup, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, Bill Hammond, Keith Horn, Drew Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Domonic Rossini, Steve Schafer

Members Absent: Ryan Metzler

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Greg Clark, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, David House*, Drew Johnson, Richard Mounts, John Snyder*, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Jim Cranney, Deborah Golino

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Aguirre, Ruben Arroyo, Jonathan Bash, Tyler Blackney, Monica Cooper, John Duarte, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Brad Goehring, Mark Greenspan, Craig Hanes, Kapua Kahumoku, Mike Miller, Stacie Oswalt, Raj Randhawa, Ted Rieger, Tim Schmelzer, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (PD/GWSS) Board Chair Bill Hammond called the meeting to order at 10:02 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). A quorum was present for the Board and the Task Force. Bill Hammond, Board Chair, then asked for introductions of other attendees and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Chair Bill Hammond asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 19, 2015.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 19, 2015.

Details of Board Vote

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

Task Force Chair Ben Drake asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings held on April 28, 2015, June 22, 2015, August 19, 2015 and October 19, 2015.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the meetings held on April 28, 2015, June 22, 2015, August 19, 2015, and October 19, 2015.

Details of Task Force Vote

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

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Monday April 18, 2016, 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.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nomination Committee members announced the nominations for the new Board officers. The committee consisted of Ben Drake, John Crossland, Keith Horn, and Ryan Metzler. The committee nominated the following new Board officers:

Chair: Nat DiBuduo
Vice-Chair: Pam Bond
Treasurer: Ryan Metzler

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the nominations recommended by the Nomination Committee:

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake Second: Drew Johnson
In Favor: Atkinson, Bond, Coleman, Crossland, Crudup, DiBuduo, Drake, Hammond, Horn, Johnson, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Rossini, Schafer
Against: None

Abstain: None
Absent: Metzler

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

Board Chair Bill Hammond asked the Board members to vote on the recommendation from the Nomination Committee on the new Board officers.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend approving the new Board officers.

Details of Board Vote

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

Following the vote, Bob Wynn presented outgoing Board Chair Bill Hammond with a certificate of appreciation, signed by Secretary Karen Ross, for his contributions and services as the Board Chair.

PD/GWSS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

None

UPDATE ON OCTOBER 19, 2015 TOUR OF KERN COUNTY/GENERAL BEALE AREA

Judy Zaninovich and Beth Stone-Smith discussed the PD/GWSS situation in the General Beale area of Kern County. They said there has been a significant increase in the incidence of GWSS and PD in the area. The tour of the area taken by the Board and Task Force in October highlighted some of the problem areas and at-risk vineyards. Ruben Arroyo, the Agricultural Commissioner of Kern County, discussed efforts and challenges with pursuing pest abatement actions against infected vineyards. Bob Wynn, Beth, and Judy said that funding for additional treatments will be needed this year. This will require redirecting federal funds from the state GWSS containment program to the area-wide programs, potentially creating a funding shortfall for the containment program. Consequently, it may be necessary to use some of the Board funds to make up the shortfall and maintain the effectiveness of the containment program. The amount is estimated to not exceed \$500,000. This would be taken out of the Board's budget line item called "Contingency for County Backfill," which was previously approved by the Board and totals \$2 million. During the discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board Chairperson and the Statewide Coordinator pursue obtaining matching funds from other industry groups and CDFA for the PD and GWSS problem in Kern County.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend that the Board Chairperson and the Statewide Coordinator pursue obtaining matching funds from other industry groups and CDFA for the PD and GWSS problem in Kern County.

Details of Board Vote

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

PDCP FISCAL UPDATE

USDA Program Director Beth Stone-Smith reported briefly on the federal funding for the Program. The Federal budget was signed December 18, 2015 and the PDCP will receive \$15,574,754. This is the same dollar amount reported at the October meeting.

PDCP Environmental Program Manager II Roger Spencer presented the financial update for the PDCP. He went over PDCP revenues and expenditures from fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16 along with projected total expenses.

PDCP Environmental Program Manager I Tom Esser presented the fiscal update for the Board. He reported that the Board's reserve of uncommitted funds will decrease this year because of reduced revenue from the assessment and increased expenses.

UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAM

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Research Screening Committee, presented two research proposals from Dr. Abhaya Dandekar at UC Davis for funding consideration by the Board. Both would continue for three months (4/1/2016-6/30/2016) Dr. Dandekar's grapevine field trial research (\$24,927) and federal permit management (\$10,158) activities.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend funding two research proposals from Dr. Abhaya Dandekar at UC Davis to continue his grapevine field trial research and federal permit management activities for another three months (4/1/2016 – 6/30/2016). The proposals total \$35,085.

Details of Board Vote

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

Steve reported that he had been contacted by Hal Huffsmith, Vice President of Vineyard Operations at Trinchero Estate Vineyards, regarding coordinating the research proposal review processes of the PD/GWSS Board and the American Vineyard Foundation (AVF). This idea is being looked at, since the broadening of the Board's scope to include research on other pests and diseases of winegrapes has created the potential for overlap with AVF's research funding effort. The suggestion would be for Kristin Lowe, Ph.D., AVF consultant, to attend the review panel meetings and the Research Screening Committee (RSC) meeting this year. This should help enhance communication between the two funding efforts and prevent funding redundancy. Bob Wynn said the two review processes are different and would need to remain separate. Also, if more industry input is desired in the PD/GWSS Board's research proposal review process, it should come from more participation by PD/GWSS Board members, since they are relied upon by the Secretary to advise on the use of assessment funds.

Steve also reported that Deborah Golino will be transitioning out of her role directing the research proposal review services provided to the Board by the University of California. She recommended that James Farrar, Director of the Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program at UC Davis, take over the responsibilities.

Steve discussed a few ideas for future research initiatives, including hiring a research director to direct and coordinate the work of several researchers towards developing platform technologies. He said no bids had been received to a call for proposals for regulatory consultant services, so we

may suggest trying again at a later date. He also said we had received a proposal from a private company to develop a diagnostic kit for the Pierce's disease bacterium. Lastly, Steve said we are looking for a field trial site, possibly in another state, for testing the Solano County field trial grapevines in areas with natural infection pressure.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION UPDATE

PDCP Environmental Program Manager I, Craig Hanes addressed the Board on the current Outreach and Education contract. The contract with Brown-Miller Communications will expire April 30, 2016. A new Outreach and Education contract is currently in the final stages of the RFP process. Craig asked the Board for authority to approve a new contract beginning May 1, 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$425,000.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend granting authority to CDFA PDCP to enter into a new two-year (May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2018) contract for outreach and education, for an amount not to exceed \$425,000.

Details of Board Vote

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

Ken Freeze of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on outreach and education activities. These included the fall and winter newsletters, updates on brochures and fact sheets, Andy Walker's wine tasting events, and tradeshow, including the California Association of Pest Control Advisers Conference and Agri-Expo held October 2015 in Reno, Nevada.

VITICULTURE CONSULTANT UPDATE

Mark Greenspan, Viticulture Consultant, updated the Board and Task Force on his recent activities and talked about the plans for phase 2 of the grapevine field trials in Solano County.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on the area-wide programs in Fresno, Madera, Riverside, and Tulare counties. The Kern County update was provided earlier in conjunction with agenda item 10, "Update on October 19, 2015 Tour of Kern County/General Beale." She discussed trapping results and treatment activities in each area and plans for this year.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

PDCP Staff provided updates on the latest activities within the program, including the nursery program and rapid response and treatment activities. Craig Hanes provided an update on CDFA's Statewide Pest Prevention Program Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and how it will affect PDCP program activities.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

Tyler Blackney and Brad Goehring of the California Association of Winegrape Growers addressed the Board and Task Force about introducing a new bill which would provide additional funding for Pierce's disease. The bill will be introduced by Assembly Member Jim Cooper and co-authored by Senator Lois Wolk. The bill would appropriate an unspecified amount from the General Fund to the Pierce's Disease Management Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund. The bill would also state various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to, among other things, Pierce's disease, the California wine industry, and funding the Pierce's Disease Control Program.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Elect-Chair Nat DiBuduo adjourned the meeting for both the Board and the Task Force at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on March 28, 2016 by

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