

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 23, 2012
CDFA Auditorium at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Kevin Andrew*, Dennis Atkinson*, Greg Coleman, Ben Drake, David House*, Drew Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Dana Merrill*, Al Rossini, Marilyn Wolf

Members Absent: Pete Downs, Steve Schafer, Herb Schmidt

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Kevin Andrew*, Ben Drake, David House*, Scott Hudson, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson, Corky Roche, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Stewart-Leslie, David Whitmer

Members Absent: Kassim Al-Khatib, Jim Cranney, Richard Mounts, John Snyder

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Aguirre, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Deborah Golino, Craig Hanes, Jim Houston, Kapua Kahumoku, Paul Kronenberg, Ron Lopp, Mike Miller, Matt Myers, Stacie Oswald, Raj Randhawa, Rob Schmidt, Roger Spencer, Jay Van Rein, Sean Veling, Ed Williams, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Steve McIntyre and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Kevin Andrew called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (Task Force). A quorum was present for both the Board and the Task Force. Steve McIntyre then asked for introductions of other attendees and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Steve McIntyre asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2012.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2012.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Dennis Atkinson Second: Al Rossini

In Favor: Andrew*, Coleman, Drake, House*, Johnson, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill*, Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Downs, Schafer, Schmidt

Chairperson Kevin Andrew asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2012.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2012 meeting.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Ben Drake Second: Drew Johnson
In Favor: Andrew, Drake, House, Hudson, Irelan, Johnson, Roche, Stewart-Leslie, Stone-Smith, Whitmer
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Al-Khatib, Cranney, Mounts, Snyder

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board and Task Force was set for Monday, June 11, 2012, at CDFA headquarters in Sacramento, and will begin at 10:00 am.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

PDCP Statewide Coordinator Bob Wynn reported they have been trying to fill the vacancy on the Board for a producer from the North Valley. They have a recommendation and hopefully that position will be filled by the next meeting.

FISCAL UPDATE

USDA PD/GWSS Program Director Beth Stone-Smith started by reporting on the federal funding for the Program. She said there were no changes in the fiscal year 2012-appropriation figures from the last meeting. There is a new cooperative agreement with Madera County. As reported in the last meeting the Texas Pierce's Disease Research Program had been eliminated from the federal budget. Texas has contacted USDA and CDFA about funding to keep their Pierce's Disease program and research active. Bob Wynn said that Texas is currently drafting a proposal for consideration by the Board.

Bob Wynn briefly discussed the Department's budget situation.

OTHER DESIGNATED PESTS

Roger Spencer reported that the Other Pest or Disease Designation Committee met and discussed two pests that had been nominated for designation by a stakeholder: ring nematode and grapevine leafroll virus. Information was currently being gathered on the pests and the Checklist for Recommendation was being filled out. Once completed the recommendations would be provided to the Board for their consideration.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 (AJR 29)

CDFA Deputy Secretary for Legislation and Public Engagement Jim Houston talked about AJR 29, which is intended to protect honeybees and other pollinators by prohibiting the use, marketing, or sale of neonicotinoid products such as imidacloprid. Imidacloprid is an important material for control of GWSS and Asian citrus psyllid. He said that CDFA is monitoring the progress of the resolution and that it goes to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture for a vote on May 9, 2012.

PIPRA UPDATE

Research Director Nancy Irelan briefly gave an update on PIPRA (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture) since a representative from PIPRA could not make the meeting. She provided an update on the field trials being conducted with plant material exhibiting Pierce's disease resistance in earlier studies. She reviewed the timelines for planting and inoculation, the plans for evaluating resistance, and operational strategies.

RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Research Screening Committee, presented the Committee's research funding recommendation. He reported that 16 proposals were submitted, and of those, nine proposals totaling \$2,062,589 were recommended for funding.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend funding the nine research projects recommended by the Committee for \$2,062,589 spread over three years.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre Second: Drew Johnson
In Favor: Andrew*, Coleman, McIntyre, Ledbetter, Johnson, Drake, House*, Rossini,
Wolf, Atkinson*, Merrill*, Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Downs, Schafer, Schmidt

Ben Drake pointed out that most of the proposals came from the UC System, and asked if something could be done to increase participation by other research institutions. Steve McIntyre suggested reconvening the Research Screening Committee to reevaluate the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Nancy Irelan asked for some time to get together with others in the research community to see what is going on in the industry currently and what is working.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR UPDATE

Research Director Nancy Irelan discussed her recent activities. She said she has been working on the proposal review process, working with the Research Scientific Advisory Panel, participating in scientific reviews, and working with the Research Screening Committee. She is also working on a scope of work for a facilitator to oversee development of research discoveries into PD management solutions available to growers.

RESPONSE TO DR. REDAK'S RESEARCH:

PDPC Branch Chief Roger Spencer presented results of field trials conducted by Dr. Rick Redak at UC Riverside to evaluate potential new chemicals for control of GWSS egg masses on nursery stock. He said the other materials tested did not perform as well as Sevin and Tame, which remain the best chemical options for the Approved Treatment Program.

NURSERY TREATMENTS

PDPC Senior Environmental Scientist Stacie Oswalt reviewed past funding support from the Board for nursery treatments in southern California, and asked if they would continue the support in fiscal year 2012-13. The requested amount is \$300,000, with \$250,000 being for nurseries in Ventura County, and \$50,000 for nurseries in Riverside County. After discussion, it was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

TRAPPING AND AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES

PDCP Branch Chief Roger Spencer stated that the cost for GWSS traps for FY 2011-12 was going to be more than the \$150,000 included in the Board's budget. He requested that the Board consider increasing this amount in its next budget.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-14

PDCP Program Supervisor Craig Hanes presented to the Board a proposed two-year outreach and education contract with Brown Miller Communications. The contract period would be May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2014, and the total amount of the contract would be \$398,265. There was some discussion about the overlap on the fiscal years. Steve McIntyre asked if the contract period could be adjusted to match up with state fiscal years. Craig said he would look into it.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend funding the outreach and education contract for \$398,265.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre Second: Ben Drake
In Favor: Andrew*, Atkinson*, Coleman, Drake, House*, Ledbetter, Johnson,
 McIntyre, Rossini, Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Downs, Schafer, Schmidt

OUTREACH & EDUCATION UPDATE

Ken Freeze from Brown Miller Communication reported on recent outreach and education activities. He said they are preparing for trade shows for the upcoming summer and fall season. Ideas include serving wines from PD resistant grapevines developed by Dr. Andrew Walker, displaying resistant vines, and showing informational videos. Ken showed a video about the PDCP's GWSS biological control activities.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

USDA PD/GWSS Program Director Beth Stone-Smith reported on recent trapping and treatment activities in the area-wide programs in Fresno, Kern, Riverside, and Tulare counties.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Nursery: PDCP Senior Environmental Scientist Stacie Oswald provided an update on the Nursery Regulatory Program and the Approved Treatment Program. She reported that from January through March 2012 there were 12,229 nursery shipments from the GWSS generally-infested areas to non-infested areas of the state. One regulatory action has been taken year-to-date by a destination (receiving) county due to a viable GWSS life stage found in a nursery stock shipment during the month of March. There have been 2,629 ATP shipments consisting of 705,431 plants during the same time period. No viable life stages were detected in any ATP shipments.

Rapid Response: PDCP Program Supervisor Craig Hanes provided an update on GWSS rapid response activities. He said that a public meeting was held on April 11, 2012 for upcoming treatments in the Rolling Hills neighborhood of Madera County. About 160 properties are scheduled for treatment starting around the first week of May. These treatments are in response to GWSS finds from last year.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

N/A

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chairperson Steve McIntyre and Task Force Chairperson Kevin Andrew adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on June 7, 2012 by

Kapua Kahumoku, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
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Department of Food and Agriculture