

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, October 21, 2013
CDFA at 2800 Gateway Oaks, Room 267, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Pam Bond, Greg Coleman, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, , Drew Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Ryan Metzler, Al Rossini, Marilyn Wolf

Members Absent: Dennis Atkinson, David House*, Bill Hammond, Dana Merrill, Schafer

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Kassim Al-Khatib, Kevin Andrew*, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, Scott Hudson, Drew Johnson, John Snyder, Beth Stone-Smith, Dave Whitmer, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Jim Cranney, David House*, Richard Mounts, Corky Roche

OTHER ATTENDEES

Alex Camacho, Cecilia Chi-ham, Brenda Coleman, Tom Esser, Deborah Golino, Craig Hanes, Kapua Kahumoku, Paul Kronenberg, Peter Matlock, Stacie Oswald, Raj Randhawa, Nicole Shorter, Lance Simmons, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Drew Johnson and Advisory Task Force Chairperson Ben Drake called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.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 both the Board and the Task Force. Drew Johnson then asked for introductions of other attendees and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Drew Johnson asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 21, 2013.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2013 meeting.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre Second: Jim Ledbetter
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, DiBuduo, Drake, Johnson, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Metzler,
Rossini, Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Atkinson, Hammond, House*, Merrill, Schafer

Chairperson Ben Drake asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 21, 2013 meeting.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2013 meeting.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Nat DiBuduo Second: Dave Whitmer
In Favor: Al-Khatib, Andrew*, DiBuduo, Drake, Johnson, Snyder, Stone-Smith,
Whitmer, Zaninovich

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Cranney, House*, Mounts, Roche

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the PD/GWSS Board and Advisory Task Force was set for Monday, January 27, 2014, in Sacramento, and will begin at 10:00 am. It will be held at the CDFA headquarters auditorium at 1220 N Street.

PD/GWSS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Bob Wynn presented certificates of appreciation to PD/GWSS Board member Kevin Andrew and Advisory Task Force member Dave Whitmer.

Kevin Andrew is leaving the Board and stepping down as Chair of the Task Force. However he will still remain on the Advisory Task Force. Ben Drake will assume the duties of the Advisory Task Force Chair.

After 33 years of service in the agricultural industry Dave Whitmer is retiring and stepping down from the Advisory Task Force. Dave has also been actively involved with the Nursery Sub-Committee since its inception. David House, Nursery Sub-Committee Chair, presented Dave with a letter of appreciation for his work with the Nursery Sub-Committee and Advisory Task Force.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR BOARD OFFICERS

Board Chair Drew Johnson requested from the Board suggestions on members to replace the existing nominating committee members. The current committee members are Ben Drake, Dana Merrill, and Greg Coleman. The committee makes recommendations to the Board on replacements for the PD/GWSS Board officers.

The current officers are:

Chair: Drew Johnson
Vice-Chair: Steve Schafer
Treasurer: Marilyn Wolf

After discussion it was decided that Drew Johnson, Marilyn Wolf, and Pam Bond will comprise the new nominating committee.

FISCAL UPDATE

Because federal government employees had been on mandated furloughs recently and did not return to work until October 19, 2013, Beth Stone-Smith did not have a fiscal update for the meeting. .

Roger Spencer gave the fiscal report for the PDCP, and Tom Esser gave the report for the PD/GWSS Board.

PIPRA UPDATE

Cecilia Chi-Ham from PIPRA (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture) reported on their recent activities. She mentioned that the USDA Biotechnology and Regulatory Services would be holding a workshop at UC Davis on December 12, 2013 on regulatory permitting and compliance. She also discussed a proposal to amend the current contract with PIPRA that would shift responsibilities for the grapevine field trials from PIPRA to the grapevine field trial researchers. PIPRA would continue to assist the CDFA PD/GWSS Board with intellectual property issues associated with research discoveries and development.

GRAPEVINE FIELD TRIAL UPDATE AND PROPOSALS

Several discussions took place during this part of the meeting as the Board was presented with multiple proposals which included obtaining the services of a viticulture consultant, amending PIPRA's current contract to transfer the grapevine field trial responsibilities to another entity, and amending the current grant agreement with Dr. Abhaya M. Dandekar at UC Davis to take on additional responsibilities and tasks associated with the grapevine field trials being conducted in Riverside and Solano counties.

The Board voted to recommend obtaining the services of Dr. Mark Greenspan as a viticulture consultant by contracting through the Cooperative Agricultural Support Services (CASS). It was suggested that a prioritized list of tasks be prepared and made part of the agreement. The contract term would be from November 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, in the amount of \$50,000, with payment being based on an agreed-upon monthly amount rather than on an hourly rate.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the proposal to obtain the services of viticulture consultant, Dr. Mark Greenspan

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake Second: Jim Ledbetter
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, DiBuduo, Drake, Johnson, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Metzler, Rossini, Wolf

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Atkinson, Hammond, House*, Merrill, Schafer

The Board voted to recommend accepting a proposed amendment to the current contract with PIPRA to transfer the grapevine field trial responsibilities to another entity, except for provisions

which would have added funding (\$60,000) for obtaining the services of a Viticulture Consultant in fiscal year 2014-15. The revised amendment would reduce the current contract amount by \$62,361, changing the total amount for the contract to \$288,489 for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the proposal submitted by PIPRA, with revisions as noted above, to amend their current contract.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Jim Ledbetter Second: Ben Drake
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, DiBudo, Drake, Johnson, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Metzler, Rossini, Wolf

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Atkinson, Hammond, House*, Merrill, Schafer

The Board voted to recommend accepting a proposed amendment to a current grant agreement with Dr. Abhaya M. Dandekar at UC Davis, whereby Dr. Dandekar would take on additional responsibilities and tasks associated with the grapevine field trials being conducted in Riverside and Solano counties. These responsibilities and tasks are currently conducted by PIPRA. The amendment would add \$48,024 to Dr. Dandekar's grant agreement, changing the total amount for the agreement to \$89,779 for the period February 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the proposed amendment to the current grant agreement with Dr. Dandekar at UC Davis

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Greg Coleman Second: Al Rossini
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, DiBudo, Drake, Johnson, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Metzler, Rossini, Wolf

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Atkinson, Hammond, House*, Merrill, Schafer

TECHNOLOGY FACILITATOR UPDATE

Peter Matlock, the new Technology Facilitator, presented a report on the status of current research and development of solutions to Pierce's disease and the steps and time it would take to commercialize them.

2013 REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS (RFP)

Tom Esser gave a brief report on this year's Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP will be released on December 1, 2013 and submissions will be due by January 31, 2014. Tom said they will be requesting an exemption from the requirement to pay indirect cost charges on research grants with the USDA-ARS. If we are successful, it will allow USDA-ARS researchers to submit proposals to the annual PD/GWSS request for research proposals, which they currently cannot do because of the requirement to include indirect costs in their proposals.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on recent outreach and education activities.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CONTRACT AND RFP PROCESS

Craig Hanes reported that the current outreach and education contract expires next April. He will be starting the new RFP process for the next outreach and education contract. The contract is a two year contract.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW & UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith gave a brief overview of ongoing area-wide activities, which included treatments in the General Beale area of Kern County.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

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

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

Drew Johnson mentioned that there continues to be interest expressed by winegrape growers about red blotch, so it would be good for the Board and PDCP to keep apprised of activities and developments concerning it. Nat DiBuduo added that growers are also concerned about other pests and diseases such as eutypa and vine mealybug, so it may be necessary to consider these for designation sometime in the future.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Al Rossini was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned by Board Chairperson Drew Johnson at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 by

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