

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 Tuesday, November 16, 2021

CDFA Headquarters, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Jeff Bitter*, Greg Coleman*, William Drayton*, Rich Hammond*,
Randy Heinzen*, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko*, Trey Irwin*, Aaron
Lange*, Steve McIntyre*, Domonic Rossini*, Seth Schwebs*

Members Absent: Bill Hammond, John Harkey, Jim Ledbetter

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Tracy Cleveland*, Glenn Fankhauser*, Cathy Fisher*, Martin
Mochizuki*, Beth Stone-Smith*, Judy Zaninovich*

Members Absent: Alyssa Houtby

OTHER ATTENDEES

Chris Bock, Noelle Cremers*, Pete Downs*, Leah Gayagas*, Craig Hanes, Mark
Harrington*, Matthew Kaiser, Ed King*, Anika Kinkhabwala*, Jason Leathers*, Kris
Lowe*, Neil McRoberts*, Michael Miller*, Michael Miiller*, Michelle Miller*, Warren
Nichols*, Stacie Oswalt, Michelle Phillips, Ted Reiger*, Nicole Shorter*, Ned
Thimmayya*, Chris Tsuji*, Myrna Villegas, Ed Williams*

*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

PDCP Statewide Coordinator Craig Hanes welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked
attendees for their participation, and requested a moment of silence in honor of the
memory and recent passing of Task Force member Jean-Mari Peltier.

Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked
attendees for their participation, and offered condolences for Jean-Mari's passing.

Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked
attendees for their participation, and offered condolences for Jean-Mari's recent passing.

Judy remarked on Jean-Mari's extensive historical contributions to the grape industry and said that her vacant Task Force position will remain open until further notice to allow for the identification and recruitment of a new member.

Craig offered apologies for those who were planning to attend this meeting in person but were unable due to COVID-19 related testing taking place at CDFA's headquarters building. Domonic inquired on the possibility of holding the next joint Board and Task Force meeting at an off-site location. Craig agreed to investigate potential locations for hosting of future off-site meetings.

PD/GWSS BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Craig Hanes provided an update on Board membership. Craig said that no changes to the Board's membership have occurred since the June meeting, that all 14 winegrape grower, producer, and producer/processor positions are filled, and that one public member vacancy will hopefully be filled by the next Board and Task Force meeting.

Judy Zaninovich said that no changes in Task Force membership have occurred since the June Board and Task Force meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Miiller with the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) offered to look into the possibility of hosting the next Board and Task Force meeting at CAWG's Sacramento office.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Monday, January 24, 2022 in Sacramento and will begin at 10:00 AM.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Craig said that in previous years, with the exception of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has rotated Board officer terms annually and that a new rotation of officers will need to occur in January 2022. Craig requested the establishment of a nomination committee to assist with identifying new officer candidates for further discussion and appointment during the January 24 meeting. Domonic requested volunteers to participate in the nomination committee and Board members Jeff Bitter and Seth Schwebs volunteered to participate along with Domonic.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Domonic Rossini asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on June 22, 2021.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on June 22, 2021.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Irwin* Second: Rich Hammond*

In Favor: Bitter*, Coleman*, Drayton*, Rich Hammond*, Heinzen*, Hoxsey-Onysko*, Irwin*, Lange*, Rossini*, Schwebs*

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bill Hammond, Harkey, 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 meeting held on June 22, 2021.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on June 22, 2021.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Mochizuki* Second: Fankhauser*
In Favor: Cleveland*, Fankhauser*, Fisher*, Mochizuki*, Zaninovich*
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Houtby, Stone-Smith**

** Not present for this action item

SOLANO COUNTY UPDATE

PDCP Environmental Program Manager Michelle Phillips provided a report on recent GWSS related activity in the Vacaville region of Solano County. Michelle said that, on October 1, 2021, Solano County reported an initial find of five adult GWSS in two traps within a residential area of Vacaville which were forwarded to the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics Center on the same day and confirmed as adult GWSS. Afterward, PDCP and Solano County staff discussed next steps which included the implementation of delimitation surveys. Survey traps were placed within one square mile of the initial find site on October 2, 2021, Craig Hanes assisted Solano County staff with conducting visual surveys within the vicinity of both find sites, and Solano County staff completed visual surveys within a one quarter mile radius of the initial find sites. As a result, additional finds were confirmed and additional traps were placed within one square mile of these additional find sites. Michelle referred to displayed maps to assist with identifying the location of the affected residential neighborhood, which is northwest of Highway 80 and west of Highway 505.

Michelle reported on additional activities that have taken place since the initial find including a CDFA-issued press release on October 21, 2021 announcing the GWSS detection, weekly meetings involving CDFA and Solano County staff to provide updates and collaboration on next steps, bi-weekly meetings involving Solano County and neighboring counties to share updates and coordinate activities, and commencement of notifications and treatments at find sites and neighboring properties. Michelle said that next steps will include establishment of boundaries by mapping trapping and visual survey results, Solano County's efforts to maintain minimal trapping throughout upcoming winter months, completion of additional soil treatments planned for late winter and early spring 2022, and additional survey activities planned for spring 2022.

Michelle provided treatment funding related information and said that CDFA has requested \$250,000 in emergency funds to support initial rapid response activities which is currently pending approval. Michelle said Solano County estimated the cost for a two-year eradication program at \$630,000. As a result, Solano County will require an additional \$380,000 in support of their eradication activities to compensate for a funding shortfall in the amount of \$150,000 for fiscal year 2021-2022 and \$230,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Craig Hanes said that, if the Board agrees to provide the requested additional funding for fiscal year 2021-2022, funds would be allocated from their Contingency for County Backfill

budget line item, and that PDCP's request for departmental emergency funds is expected to be approved.

Aaron Lange requested clarification on how approval for the use of these funds would affect the Board's budget.

Craig explained that the Board's budget includes a line item titled Contingency for County Backfill which is currently valued at \$2M, and that zero funds have been used during the current fiscal year for this purpose.

Aaron requested clarification on if a county's shortfall of funding required for outbreak containment and eradication efforts is normal or atypical.

Craig said that the outbreak scenario unfolding in Solano County is atypical and that an outbreak of this nature has not occurred in northern California in nearly fifteen years. Craig said that, during previous outbreaks, PDCP received increased federal funding as well as a recurring allocation of state general funds. Craig remarked on similarities between this funding request and the September 2020 Board and Task Force meeting in which concerns for increased area-wide treatments were raised, resulting in the contribution of additional funding by the Board and the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest & Disease Control District (CCVTGPD CD) in the sum of \$600,000 each, respectively, marking the first time in the Board's history to utilize Contingency for County Backfill funds.

Jeff Bitter requested reasoning for PDCP's request of \$250,000 emergency funds as opposed to a higher amount and asked if it would be possible for PDCP to request additional emergency funds or if there is a request limitation in place.

Craig said that there are no emergency funding request limitations and agreed to investigate the possibility of requesting additional CDFA provided funds. Craig said that the requested amount of \$250,000 was based on a short notice projection and estimate derived in the absence of information which has since been provided by Solano County. Craig said that the Board's Contingency for County Backfill budget line item exists to allow the Board opportunities to provide funding assistance in support of this type of scenario, and that the PDCP will commit to investigating the request of an additional \$250,000 in emergency funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 as needed.

Domonic Rossini asked the Board for a motion to provide up to \$150,000 for fiscal year 2021-2022 rapid response activities in Solano County, funding derived from the Board's budget line item titled Contingency for County Backfill and to only be utilized if no other funds are available to cover these costs.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to provide up to \$150,000 for fiscal year 2021-2022 rapid response activities in Solano County, funding derived from the Board's budget line item titled Contingency for County Backfill and to only be utilized if no other funds are available to cover these costs.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Lange* Second: Drayton*

In Favor: Bitter*, Coleman*, Drayton*, Rich Hammond*, Heinzen*, Hoxsey-Onysko*, Irwin*, Lange*, Rossini*, Schwebs*

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bill Hammond, Harkey, Ledbetter, McIntyre**

** Not present for this action item

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) UPDATE

CDFA Staff Counsel Ned Thimmayya provided an update on the PEIR. Ned said that the Third District Court of Appeals raised a decision, as released on October 15, 2021, finding that the PEIR, which includes Pierce's Disease eradication and control activities, did in part comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), while other parts did not comply with CEQA. Ned said that this decision became final on November 15, 2021. Ned said that the implication of this decision is that an injunction issued in 2018 by a trial court may become effective again and would prohibit CDFA from relying on this PEIR for chemical activities undertaken directly by CDFA. Ned said that the Third District Court of Appeals sent this case back to the trial court for revised judgement according to its decision, and a revised judgement from the trial court is expected to be issued after November 24, 2021. Ned said that, considering the contents of the appellate court decision, we should expect a new writ of mandamus mirroring that of 2018 which would likely order CDFA to set aside and decertify the PEIR at least until it is revised according to the Third District Court and trial court's findings. Ned entertained questions and said that, since this is an ongoing litigation matter, he may be limited on how he is able to respond.

Judy Zaninovich asked if this will in any way affect eradication efforts in Vacaville.

Ned said that, to his knowledge, those treatments may continue and, regarding if the injunction falls back into place, it will only prohibit CDFA from relying on the PEIR, which would not prohibit CDFA from conducting any treatments.

Craig Hanes confirmed that this process will not impact eradication activities taking place in Vacaville and that PDCP will continue working with Ned and CDFA's Plant Health and Citrus divisions to investigate other options for achieving CEQA compliance.

Judy requested confirmation that this issue only impacts residential treatments and does not impact grower treatments, upcoming GWSS area-wide treatments in Kern County, for example.

Craig said that this issue is isolated to program-initiated activities, generally described as urban or rural residential treatments only, and that grower or other treatment activities will not be impacted.

FISCAL UPDATES

USDA California Assistant State Plant Health Director Beth Stone-Smith reported on the federal funding for the program. Beth said that, as of the beginning of federal FY 2022, which began on October 1, 2021 and will continue through September 30, 2022, we do not have a full federal budget, and that a continuing resolution, set to expire on December 3, 2021, has been established to allow the continuation of federal government operations. Beth said that the next step in the budget approval process may include either the approval of a budget or the application of a full federal FY continuing resolution. Beth said that, while awaiting further decision leading up to December 3, the distribution of 17.5% of previous year funding totaling \$15.5M is allowed, which equates to \$2.7M. Beth said that this \$2.7M has not yet been allotted based on pending receipt of USDA approval.

Domonic Rossini requested a prediction on how much additional time may be required to obtain funding approval of \$2.7M.

Beth said that additional encouragement on her part may be required to include emphasis on PDCP incurring ongoing expenses and being allowed the allotted 17.5%.

Craig Hanes presented the financial update for the PDCP. For FY 2019-2020 reporting, Craig referenced the listed \$1.7M of general funds and said that FY 2019-2020 marked the third year of the access to \$5M that was initially received during FY 2017-2018, and that FY 2019-2020 was the final year to utilize those funds. Craig reported FY 2019-2020 area-wide expenditures at \$1.9M based on an overall line item budget of \$2.5M.

Craig reported FY 2020-2021 federal funds budgeted at \$17.1M, reserve funds at \$100,000, and Board funds at \$2.1M. Craig indicated that the listed \$2.1M is slightly higher than usual because it includes \$600,000 in Board authorized funds for area-wide activities, which corresponds with \$600,000 listed within the other funds line item and as previously contributed by the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District (CCVTGPDCD). Craig reported total funding budgeted at \$19.9M.

For FY 2020-2021 expenditures, Craig reported PDCP personal services budgeted at \$3.5M, operating expenses at \$1.9M, county workplans at \$9.2M, area-wide programs at \$3.7M, urban rapid response treatments at \$1.2M, and nursery treatments at \$300,000, for a total budget of \$19.9M.

For FY 2020-2021 projected funding, Craig reported federal funds at \$17.1M, reserve funds at \$15,000, Board funds, including additional funds for area-wide, urban rapid response, and nursery treatments at \$1.7M, other funds, as previously described, at \$541,000, with total funding at \$19.4M.

For FY 2020-2021 projected expenditures, Craig reported PDCP personal services at \$3.5M, operating expenses at \$1.8M, county workplans at \$9.2M, area-wide programs at \$3.6M, urban rapid response treatments at \$943,000, and nursery treatments at \$248,000, with total funding projected at \$19.4M.

For FY 2021-2022 budgeted funding, Craig reported federal funds at \$17.2M, reserve funds at \$100,000, Board funds at \$1.5M, to include \$1.2M for urban rapid response treatments and \$300,000 for nursery treatments, for a total budget of \$18.8M.

For FY 2021-2022 budgeted expenditures, Craig reported PDCP personal services at \$3.5M, operating expenses at \$1.9M, county workplans at \$9.2M, area-wide programs at \$2.5M, urban rapid response treatments at \$1.2M, and nursery treatments at \$300,000, for total budgeted expenditures at \$18.8M.

Aaron Lange requested clarification on the difference between Board funds and general funds.

Craig said that Board funds are associated with received assessment funding and general funds refers to the remnant of PDCP's previously received state funding.

Matthew Kaiser presented the fiscal update for the Board. For FY 2020-2021 revenues and expenditures, Matthew reported total assessment revenue to include \$33,000 of interest at \$2.8M and a projected net balance to include remaining obligations to be carried over into FY 2021-2022 at \$10M.

For FY 2021-2022 budgeted revenues and expenditures, Matthew reported carryover at \$9.6M and total assessment revenue to include \$30,000 of interest at \$3.4M. Matthew said that the next grape crush report will become available on January 10, 2022 and should

offer additional insight on anticipated revenue accuracy. Matthew reported budgeted carryover plus revenue at \$13.1M, expenditures budgeted at \$6.9M and projected at \$4.2M, with a net balance of \$9.2M at the end of FY 2021-2022.

For FY 2021-2022 future fiscal year obligations, budgeted expenditures that the Board has previously approved for future years, Matthew reported that the listed \$1.2M includes \$230,000 for the Brown-Miller Communications outreach and education contract in effect through June 2023, \$210,000 for the new Research Coordinator contract in effect through June 2024, and approximately \$780,000 for research projects over the next several years. Matthew reported a projected carryover balance of \$8M which is well above the Board's \$5M target balance.

For FY 2021-2022 expenditure detail, Matthew reported no expected changes between budgeted and projected figures for research projects, \$20,000 for RFP assistance work to coordinate review of research proposals, \$5,000 for symposium and conference support, a correction for the Research Coordinator line item year to date from \$0 to \$23,760, and \$40,000 for website remediation related to ensuring website posted research progress reports meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

For FY 2021-2022 applied research, Matthew reported year to date nursery treatments at \$8,626 in comparison to \$248,374 in the previous year, noting that several related invoices were recently received and are pending approval for payment, and the Red Blotch line item refers to a project being completed under a six month no-cost extension with no currently allocated funding.

Matthew reported FY 2021-2022 reserve for new projects at \$500,000, the public outreach contract budgeted at \$229,681 and year to date corrected from \$19,197 to \$63,413, County Programs and PDCP Operations budgeted at \$1.2M with year to date at \$55,460 and projected at \$1.0M, contingency for county backfill budgeted at \$2.0M and year to date at \$0, agricultural supplies budgeted at \$25,000 and year to date at \$0, task force travel and per diem budgeted at \$10,000 and year to date at \$0, and administration costs budgeted at \$267,000 and year to date at \$7,270, for total projected expenditures of \$4.2M which does not include an up to \$150,000 allocation for the previously discussed Solano County response activities nor the out of cycle research proposal up for discussion during the next meeting agenda item.

OUT OF CYCLE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Matthew Kaiser introduced an out of cycle research proposal titled "Continuing Field Studies on the Topical Delivery of Promising Grape-Derived Peptides for the Treatment of Pierce's Disease," to be administered by the Santa Fe Community College Foundation, with Pete Downs and Maureen Maguire as Cooperators and Michelle Miller with Innate Immunity as Principal Investigator. Matthew said that this project was previously led by Dr. Goutam Gupta, administered by the New Mexico Consortium (NMC), and was approved for funding by the Board in late 2019 in the amount of \$447,786 over two years. Matthew said that, due to personnel and structural changes at NMC and Innate Immunity, who holds intellectual properties for this research, billing on this contract agreement was halted in early 2021 and NMC decided that they could no longer administer this grant, leaving \$255,000 in unspent funding and several previously proposed and approved research objectives partially completed.

Matthew said that this out of cycle research proposal is being submitted by cooperators from the original project under the administration of the Santa Fe Community College Foundation. This proposal is intended to allow for completion of the original project's objectives utilizing unspent grant funds, totaling \$255,000, from the original agreement.

Matthew said that NMC were willing to directly transfer the agreement to a new administrator but CDFA is unable to change a designated grantee institution while an existing grant is still in progress. Matthew said, for that reason, it is required for the existing grant to end and a new proposal to begin, and is now being proposed for the Board's consideration.

Aaron Lange, acknowledging familiarity with the proposal's details, inquired on reasoning for project objectives not being achieved and if this result should arouse the Board's caution for proceeding with providing approval of continuing the project under the proposed administration, and requested clarification on if the Board's previous funding approval should be perceived as a loan, resulting in royalty payout, versus a grant.

Craig Hanes said that, in reference to the Board obtaining royalties resulting from this project's research, CDFA's Legal Office reached a determination that it would not be possible.

Matthew said that this project was designed as a grant to fund research for designing, improving, and testing purposes, that the use of funding would not be applied toward product marketing or any regulatory requirements, and that initial funding approval discussion included opportunities for the project to potentially provide revenue back to the Board, but was ultimately treated as a research grant similar to others.

Matthew elaborated on the details of this proposal by saying that, other than Dr. Gupta, who remains the co-founder of Innate Immunity, all others who were previously involved with this project remain involved, and that contributing factors for project objectives being incomplete can in part be attributed to the NMC's office and laboratory space being sold, and their resulting relocation to a new laboratory location.

Project Cooperator Pete Downs praised Dr. Gupta's efforts with the development of peptides and related involvement with this project and said that Dr. Gupta remains a founding member of NMC and an investor in this project, and that Innate Immunity is the owner of this project's intellectual property. Pete said that the project's current goals include evaluating efficacy and dose levels of peptides which have already been developed. Pete said that when NMC's laboratories were sold, they lost the ability to conduct project related work and transitioned to a new laboratory environment in Colorado. Pete said, at that time, COVID-19 social distancing protocols caused restrictions with scheduling of laboratory staff and, as a result, much of the project's work was delayed. Pete said that those involved with this project are now requesting that the project be extended and that the use of remaining funding be allowed for completion of the project's outstanding objectives.

Jeff Bitter said that he has held concerns about this project since it was originally approved, questioned the reasoning behind the Board's request to fund research being conducted by a private entity versus being raised elsewhere, and questioned if the Board would encounter any negative repercussions, to include lost funds, should they not approve the use of remaining project funding.

Will Drayton expressed interest in gaining a better understanding of the financial dimensions surrounding this project and examining the surety and safety of committing to any further investment prior to reaching a funding conclusion.

Randy Heinzen inquired on the reasoning for evaluating this proposal out of cycle and asked if it could instead be included with other projects during the normal funding cycle to allow for further technical analysis to be completed at that time.

Aaron asked if the Board should request Research Coordinator Kris Lowe's input on this issue.

Kris Lowe said that the Board may benefit from reviewing recent project related data and findings prior to proceeding.

Aaron expressed interest in understanding the potential ramifications of delaying a funding decision, was in favor of obtaining input from Research Screening Committee Chair Steve McIntyre and Research Coordinator Kris Lowe before proceeding, and was not in favor of voting to determine continuation of funding during this meeting.

Jeff requested that the project's Principal Investigator, Michelle Miller, provide additional information.

Innate Immunity CEO and the proposed project's Principal Investigator Michelle Miller provided an overview of occurrences and challenges this project has encountered, to include the selling of NMC's laboratory facilities, relocation to Colorado, adherence with COVID-19 related restrictions, and approaching the commercialization phase of the project. Michelle said that the project has been primarily funded by Innate Immunity for most of 2021, that two field trials have recently been completed and resulting data is being evaluated, and that emphasis of understanding dosages and timing and application seasonality are being focused on. Michelle said that NMC expressed interest in transferring administration of the project to a new entity but was not permitted due to CDFA policy restrictions, hence the identification of a new administrator.

Aaron asked if this is the only Innate Immunity project that is currently being commercialized.

Michelle added that field trials are currently being conducted on similar peptide products for citrus in Florida.

Jeff asked if postponing a funding approval vote in favor of gathering additional information for discussion during the next Board and Task Force meeting may jeopardize work being completed on this project.

Michelle said that Innate Immunity has made efforts to comply with honoring commitments to grantors and investors and was unable to provide additional comment.

Jeff asked if it would be possible to conduct an executive closed session meeting to further discuss this topic upon conclusion of this meeting.

Craig said that since this meeting's agenda did not include reference to an optional closed session it would unfortunately not be possible in order to adhere to Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements. Craig offered alternatives to a closed session meeting to include the development of a task force comprised of two Board members to work with Kris Lowe and Matthew Kaiser, or to hold a separate public Research Screening Committee meeting.

Domonic Rossini requested the coordination of a Research Proposal Task Force with Board members Aaron Lange and Steve McIntyre plus Kris Lowe and Matthew Kaiser to meet prior to the January 24 meeting to allow for additional research and discussion.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Matthew Kaiser reported on the status of the Board's research program. Matthew welcomed Kris Lowe as the Board's new Research Coordinator.

Matthew referred attendees to a copy of the annual Request for Proposal (RFP) as included in today's meeting handouts for review and any proposed updates in anticipation of its posting on December 1, 2021. Matthew said that, in reference to the UC Davis hosted UGMVE website, CDFA is working on the development of a grant management portal that will be administered by a third party vendor but will not be functioning prior to December 1. Matthew said that UC Davis has agreed to bring the UGMVE site back online for an additional year which, as previously mentioned, will include entering into a new service agreement contract for the application of security upgrades and related work required to make the site available for use. Matthew said that the UGMVE site will be used for proposal submission and review coordination this year.

Matthew said that the 2021 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium will be held virtually on December 14 and 15 and that free online registration should become available within one week. Matthew said that a draft Symposium agenda is included in today's meeting handouts for review. Matthew thanked Research Coordinator Kris Lowe and Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications for their participation with planning this year's Symposium.

RESEARCH COORDINATOR UPDATE

Kris Lowe introduced herself as the Board's newly appointed Research Coordinator and provided an overview of current tasks underway to include planning for the upcoming Pierce's Disease Research Symposium, reviewing and understanding the research proposal review process, and creating strategies to identify future research needs to help guide and move the Board's research program forward.

Kris said that additional tasks include compiling a list of potential research proposal reviewers, increasing familiarization with the current and recent body of research being conducted, considering working products which could result from current research, and considering the possibility of requesting an independent review and assessment of Board funded research proposals similar to those previously conducted by the National Academy of Sciences and the American Vineyard Foundation.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY UPDATE

CDFA Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Environmental Program Manager Jason Leathers provided an update on Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) activities in the eastern United States and California. This included an overview of SLF biology, history of detection and distribution in Pennsylvania and other states, SLF's impact to grapes, what tools are currently in use to combat SLF to include insecticide sprays, Tree of Heaven removal and treatment, and egg scraping, and other tools under consideration to include biological control with parasitic wasps and biological control of Tree of Heaven using plant pathogens.

Jason offered comparisons between SLF and European Grapevine Moth to include pheromone lures, mating disruption, human-mediated dispersal methods, control methods, and movement and feeding preferences. Jason offered a list of actions currently being taken by CDFA to include a meeting of a SLF Science Advisory Panel, risk based surveys to be conducted each summer, border station inspections, air cargo inspections, implementation of a master gardener sentinel program, a harmonized state exterior quarantine, and a University of California, Riverside research grant to include collaborative

parasitoid and pathogen investigations being conducted by USDA, Cornell University, and the Pennsylvania State University. Jason provided find totals for aircraft and border inspections to date, as well as a summary for annual surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021 to include quantities of host and SLF presence.

Aaron Lange inquired on if it would be possible to obtain a national SLF activity map which includes more information than what Jason presented, and expressed interest in holding additional SLF action planning discussion meetings with CAWG and Wine Institute staff.

Beth Stone-Smith said that she would request an updated activity map from USDA staff.

Wine Institute Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Noelle Cremers agreed to communicate Aaron's request to her colleagues.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on recent outreach and education activities. Nicole said that an SLF toolkit has been finalized, has been added to the Board's website, and is being printed for mail distribution to grower associations, county Agricultural Commissioners, county farm bureaus, and University of California extension offices in January 2022. Nicole said the toolkit focuses on emphasizing SLF as a grower threat, includes photographs of all life stages, and encourages SLF photography and specimen collection.

Nicole said that Brown-Miller Communications staff were present at several in-person trade shows in which SLF was a key point of discussion.

Nicole said that Brown-Miller Communications staff are assisting the Pierce's Disease Symposium planning committee with material development and event promotions, and that in addition to research proceedings the creation of an executive companion component to include brief summaries of presented research projects is in development.

Nicole said that a draft of the fall newsletter will soon be distributed to over 7,000 winegrape growers, industry stakeholders, and legislators, and that the monthly e-newsletter will be distributed to over 1,400 winegrape growers and other stakeholders.

Nicole said that this meeting's handouts include a media coverage report which highlights several articles on the spread of SLF, coverage of Kris Lowe's Research Coordinator appointment, and GWSS activity in Solano County.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided a status update on area-wide program activities taking place in Riverside, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties. Beth introduced herself to new attendees as the federal representative associated with the PD/GWSS program and collaborative developer of area-wide treatment programs. Beth provided details surrounding the purpose, methodology, and execution of these programs. Beth said that, with regard to current date and stage of GWSS biology, trap finds primarily include adults which will over-winter and mate and lay eggs next spring. Beth said that conducted fall treatments will be designed to target this adult population and additional treatments planned for December are designed to target the over-wintering population.

Beth reported no GWSS detections for the Coachella region of Riverside County this year. Based on several years of negative data, reporting of the Coachella region will be discontinued unless there is activity to report.

Beth reported 572 GWSS trapped to date in Temecula, Riverside County, which indicates a 50% decrease in trap finds during the previous year, despite this region not currently being treated.

Beth said that a team of Treatment Coordinators are now in place in Fresno and Madera Counties. In Madera County, there were 35 GWSS trapped, an increase of one from last year's total of 34. Beth said that no treatments were conducted in Madera County in 2020.

Beth reported trap totals for Fresno County to be just under last year's totals, that some areas of this region were not trapped, and that treatments are being prioritized with emphasis on grapes.

Beth reported a number of GWSS finds outside of infested areas of Tulare County, that over 8,300 acres have been authorized for fall treatments in comparison with 16,000 acres last year, with trap finds at 18,500 compared to 28,000 last year.

Judy Zaninovich added that, working in collaboration with the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner, a double treatment was applied to a key organic citrus area, that there has been tremendous growth in the development of organic citrus throughout Tulare County, and that treatment coordinators are working with the University of California and local organic growers to identify more efficacious treatment options.

For Kern County's Highway 65 region, Beth reported a fall foliar treatment for approximately 9,500 acres, noting a marked decrease in trap finds to date compared to last year.

For Kern County's Northern Zone/General Beale region, Beth said that treatments are currently being planned for completion in December, with 57,000 insects trapped through October in comparison to 141,000 trapped last year. Beth said this decrease in activity can be attributed to the generous funding previously provided by the Board and the CCVTGPDCD.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

A prepared handout for this meeting provided updates on program activities for the period of January 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 to include nursery stock shipment numbers, nursery stock approved treatment program numbers, and detection and rapid response information.

There were 31,711 nursery stock shipments from the GWSS generally infested areas to non-infested areas of the state. Shipments were down by 374 compared to the same timeframe in 2020. Viable GWSS life stages have been detected twice during destination inspection of nursery stock year to date, resulting in two Notices of Rejection. Origin county inspectors have stopped six adults, two nymphs, and 29 egg masses from moving in nursery stock shipments.

There were 8,950 ATP shipments consisting of 1,849,537 plants. The total number of ATP shipments and plants for the same timeframe in 2020 was 8,593 and 2,143,956, respectively. No regulatory actions have been taken year to date against any ATP nurseries for viable life stages. Eight egg masses have been sleeved by destination counties from ATP shipments year to date. No viable emergencies have occurred.

For detection and rapid response updates, on September 16, 2021 one adult GWSS was trapped at a nursery in Fairfield, Solano County. As a result of this find, the Solano County

Agricultural Commissioner's office conducted a delimitation survey which included visual survey of plant material within a one quarter mile radius and increased trapping levels within the square mile surrounding the find. No additional GWSS were found, and the delimitation concluded on October 18, 2021.

On October 1, 2021, a delimitation began in Vacaville, Solano County which was reported on during this meeting's Solano County Update agenda item.

Martin Mochizuki asked if the GWSS find in Fairfield was traced back to a wholesale nursery source.

Stacie Oswalt said that, due to the high volume of shipments received at the nursery, and despite a full delimitation conducted by Solano County, there was no conclusion on the identification of an original source.

Martin asked if, based on the proximity of the Fairfield find to the recently reported Vacaville infestation, there is any suspected connection between the two.

Craig Hanes said that there is no suspected connection between the Fairfield and Vacaville finds, and referred to Solano County Agricultural Commissioner Ed King for additional comment.

Ed King agreed that there is no suspected connection between the Fairfield and Vacaville finds, and added that Solano County will be treating approximately 160 residential properties, half of which may be completed by end of week and possible total completion by early December, with additional focus on soil treatments being conducted in January 2022.

OTHER ITEMS

None.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted on December 27, 2021 by
Christopher Bock, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Pierce's Disease Control Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture