

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 Monday, January 24, 2022
Web-conference and Teleconference only

PD/GWSS BOARD

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

Members Absent: Jeff Bitter, Jim Ledbetter, Bill Hammond, Randy Heinzen

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

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

Members Absent: Glenn Fankhauser, Alyssa Houtby

OTHER ATTENDEES

Ruben Arroyo*, Tyler Blackney*, Andrew Cline*, Noelle Cremers*, Pete Downs*, Leah Gayagas*, Paul Giboney*, Craig Hanes*, Mark Harrington*, Matthew Kaiser*, Kris Lowe*, Mark McLoughlin*, Neil McRoberts*, Sarah Mellor*, Michael Miiller*, Jana Miscevic*, Lori Miyasoto*, David Morgan*, Stacie Oswald*, Michelle Phillips*, Ted Reiger*, Secretary Ross*, Nicole Shorter*, Robert Sisson*, Sean Veling*, Myrna Villegas*, and 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

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross was present during opening remarks to thank existing Board and Task Force member for their continued service.

Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for their participation. This will be Dominic's final meeting as Chairperson for the Board.

Craig informed the board of Chris Bock's recent departure and that Jana Miscevic and himself would temporarily be filling his role.

PD/GWSS BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Craig announced the vacancy of a public member and the subsequent nomination of David Teuschler, Chief Horticulturalist for Devil Mountain Nursery. If this nomination is approved by the Board, this appointment would be effective by the next meeting in April.

Domonic Rossini asked the Board for a motion to approve the appointment of David Teuschler as the public member of the Board.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend David Teuschler of Devil Mountain Nursery as the public member of the Board.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Rich Hammond* Second: Will Drayton*

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

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bitter, Bill Hammond, Heinzen, Ledbetter, McIntyre**

**Not present for this action item

Craig Hanes announced that Cathy Fisher will be stepping down from the Task Force and this will be her final meeting. She will be replaced by Ruben Arroyo of Riverside County. The Task Force is also looking to add Kris Lowe and targeting her appointment being final by the meeting April.

Craig Hanes and Judy Zaninovich thanked Dominic Rossini and Cathy Fisher for their continued service and wished them the best of luck in the future. Domonic Rossini also thanked Cathy Fisher.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday April 26, 2022, with a location to be determined, and will begin at 10:00 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dominic Rossini asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on November 16, 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 November 16, 2021.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Trey Irwin* Second: Seth Schwebs*

In Favor: Coleman*, Drayton*, Rich Hammond*, Harkey*, Hoxsey-Onysko*,

Irwin, Lange*, Rossini*, Schwebs*
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Bitter, Bill Hammond, Heinzen, 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 November 16, 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 November 16, 2021.

Details of Task Force Vote

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

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Craig Hanes reiterated the recommendation of the nomination committee which included Will Drayton being promoted to Chairperson, Randy Heinzen being promoted to Vice-Chairperson, and Trey Irwin would become Treasurer.

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the new Executive Committee: Chairperson Will Drayton, Vice-Chairperson Randy Heinzen, and Treasurer Trey Irwin.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Seth Schwebs* Second: Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko*
In Favor: Coleman*, Drayton*, Rich Hammond*, Harkey*, Hoxsey-Onysko*,
Irwin*, Lange*, Rossini*, Schwebs*
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Bitter, Bill Hammond, Heinzen, Ledbetter, McIntyre**

**Not present for this action item

Craig made a point that a plaque was made for Dominic Rossini in appreciation for his service to the board. Following the vote, Will Drayton served as Board Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL TASK FORCE

Matthew Kaiser provided an overview regarding the out-of-cycle proposal discussed at the

prior meeting entitled *Continuing Field Studies on the Topical Delivery of Promising Grape-Derived Peptides for the Treatment of Pierce's Disease*, with Santa Fe Community College as the administrator. A task force including Research Screening Committee chair Steve McIntyre and board member Aaron Lange investigated and discussed questions and concerns about the proposal that came up at the prior meeting. After carefully reviewing the history of the project, the submitted proposal, and the most recent progress reports, the recommendation was for the Board to not make a funding decision on this proposal at this time but instead invite the applicants to apply through the regular request for proposals process if interested in pursuing additional funding from the Board. No further comments or recommendations regarding this issue were made.

Matt also informed the Board that after some discussion with the CDFA Legal office, all research and funding discussions should be discussed in an open setting unless among two or fewer people. Unless pending litigation or a significant personal or safety issue is being discussed, closed sessions generally should not be used at Board meetings. Additionally, in most cases when a closed session would be allowed, the subject of discussion would need to be included on the agenda ahead of time.

FISCAL UPDATES

The USDA representative, Beth Stone-Smith gave a breakdown of the 2022 Federal Fiscal Year, which started on October 1, 2021. The USDA does not yet have a full budget due to the Federal Budget not being passed yet. Currently the USDA is operating under the 2nd Continuing Resolution which allows them fund based on percentage of the previous year's funding. This resolution allows them to keep working until February 18, 2022. The 2nd Resolution brings the allowable funding request for this fiscal year to \$6,011,855 but this has not received official approval yet. Overall, the USDA is optimistic that a formal federal budget or a continuing resolution for the remainder of the year, will be passed.

Craig Hanes provided a financial update for the CDFA's Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP). He explained the programs yearly expenditures through a series of charts that compared FY 2020 total costs as compared to FY 2021 current expenses. Craig explained that the CDFA had received additional funding through unclaimed gas taxes for agricultural use, and many of these funds were mandated to specific programs, which required that some of these funds be directed to PDCP. This why the State Reserve Fund was listed a "0" balance for fiscal year 20/21.

Craig elaborated further on the PDCP budget, stating that the overall budget of \$19,060,070.00 contained \$17,310,070 in Federal funds, \$100,000 in State Reserve funds, and \$1,650,000 in Board funds. The Board funds increased from \$1,500,000 to \$1,650,000 since the last meeting on account of an additional up to \$150,000 in funding being added for Solano County, which was approved at the last Board meeting. Regarding expenditures, PDCP personnel services was budgeted to \$3,577,073, and operation expenses was budgeted at \$2,032,884, County Workplans was budgeted to \$9,402,177, Area-Wide Programs \$2,547,936, Urban Rapid Response Treatments \$1,200,00, and Nursery Treatments was \$300,000 for an overall grand total of \$19,060,070. Beth Stone-Smith took this opportunity to reiterate the importance of lobbying efforts by industry.

Matt Kaiser then provided an update on the Board fiscal display. Currently, the program is projecting to receive about \$3.38 million from the grape crush assessment and the program is anticipating a \$9,200,000 net balance at the end of the fiscal year after expenses. Currently, PDCP has received about \$1,000,00 in assessments this year, but that is expected to increase as 2021 assessment payments are received and processed. The Board has previous approved several multi-year research and outreach agreements of an additional cost of \$1.2 million in future fiscal years, but the Board is still projected to maintain a balance over \$8 million. The Expenditure Detail Report is projecting a little over \$4.49 million in expenses which is slight increase over last year's ending balance of \$4.44 million.

Matt continued to explain financial obligations and year to date expenditures of the Board, which include previously approved research and outreach contracts, a new Research Coordinator position, nursery treatments, and administrative costs.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Matt provided a recap of the 2021 PDCP research symposium that was held virtually December 14 and 15. Matt thanked Research Coordinator Kris Lowe as well as Nicole Shorter from Brown-Miller Communications, CDFA staff, as well as all of the researchers that gave great presentations and provided written reports. Matt also thanked Aaron Lange for his presentation on virus challenges and John Kovacevich and Josh Polich from Anthony vineyards for discussing PD/GWSS in organic table grapes. The symposium attracted 230 registrants the first day and 147 the second, with attendance at any given time around half those numbers. Highlights included 21 research presentations and 3 grower perspective presentations, a welcome from the Secretary, a short update on spotted lanternfly, and end of day roundtable discussions.

In regard to new research proposals, the Request for Proposals (RFP) opened December 1, 2021 and closes January 31, 2022. The review panels and Research Screening Committee will be scheduled before the next April Board meeting. The RFP is being hosted by the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website through UC Davis, which has been used over 10+ years to facilitate increased coordination between grape research organizations. Currently, the CDFA is creating a department-wide grant management website which is expected to manage future grant solicitations. This new platform is still being developed, and PDCP staff are working with CDFA IT, UC Davis staff, and external partner organizations such as American Vineyard Foundation to ensure coordination between organizations continues in the future.

RESEARCH COORDINATOR UPDATE

Kris Lowe gave a presentation and update on the research proposal review process. Kris reached out to 51 researchers and received 11 responses that promised to provide scientific reviews of submitted projects. The Research Screening Committee has nine participants from last year who will be reviewing the proposals and scientific review comments to ensure recommended projects align with the RFP and industry needs.

Kris then proceeded to discuss the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and their past audit of PDCP's grant funding process. A Final Report from 2004 contained the results of the scientific audit and created a series of recommendations to ensure uniformity and scientific rigor amongst PDCP funded projects. Since this audit, the Board has expanded funding priorities to include research on other designated pests and diseases of winegrapes. Kris proposed that a new audit would be a worthwhile exercise to help focus the research priorities of the PD/GWSS Board pertaining to grapevine viruses and their vectors.

Aaron Lange asked about the genesis of this project and Kris explained the beginnings of project in detail and what the needs and motivations of the Board were when the first audit was commissioned. Several board members commented that these reports add a great deal of credibility to the projects that are funded and orchestrated the importance of having a Research Coordinator.

Aaron Lange proposed a motion for Kris Lowe, PD/GWSS Board Research Coordinator, to explore a possible National Academy of Sciences (NAS) research audit with grapevine virus focus. Steve McIntyre provided additional insight on the formation of this audit as well.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to explore a possible National Academy of Sciences (NAS) research audit with grapevine virus focus.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Aaron Lange Second: William Drayton
In Favor: Coleman*, Drayton*, Rich Hammond*, Harkey*, Irwin*, Lange*, McIntyre*, Rossini*, Schwebs*
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Bitter, Bill Hammond, Heinzen, Ledbetter, Hoxsey-Onysko**

**Not present for this action item

NURSERY TREATMENT FUNDING

Stacie Oswald conducted a presentation on the Nursery Treatment Reimbursement Program. Currently, this program is active in both Riverside and Ventura counties. Stacie provided a brief explanation as to how the program works, and what some of the results have been. Stacie notified that Board that these treatments specified in the nursery program are expected to go into effect in early July 2022. The current agreements are expiring on June 30th, 2022, which means new agreements will need to be executed by July 1, 2022. PDCP is requesting \$300,000 for fiscal year 2022-23 and an additional \$300,000 for 2023-24. Aaron Lange asked how the program is verifying that these nursery treatments are in fact occurring and having the desired effect as originally anticipated. Stacie responded that the counties are required to observe the treatments whenever possible, or pull the appropriate pesticide use paperwork. CDFA and the respective counties then verify and cross reference the records along with the estimates and the invoices. All treatments must be approved in advance by CDFA or the county agricultural commissioner's office.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve Nursery Treatment Agreements in the amount of \$300,000 for fiscal year 2022/23 and \$300,000 for FY 2023/24 (\$600,000 total)

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Aaron Lange Second: Trey Irwin
In Favor: Coleman*, Drayton*, Rich Hammond*, Harkey*, Hoxsey-Onysko*, Irwin*, Lange*, McIntyre*, Schwebs*, Rossini*
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Bitter, Bill Hammond, Heinzen, Ledbetter

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY UPDATE

Andrew Cline, Assistant Director for CDFA Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division, stated the CDFA is active surveying the state for the spotted lanternfly (SLF) with its various partners and collaborators. The CDFA is creating an SLF action plan and is on the verge of having this action plan approved where it will become the basis for any regulatory actions that take place in the future. Lastly, the CDFA approved a survey of SLF, the primary means the CDFA uses for attempting to detect any infestations of SLF within the state. Andrew stated there is no evidence of any SLF infestations occurring anywhere in California. In 2021, Plant Division staff surveyed a total of 42 counties throughout the state and a total 472 high-risk target locations. CDFA is working with the Master Gardeners

through UC Cooperative Extension to get more people trained to help identify this pest. CDFA is also engaging with the Entomological Society of America and exchanging information regarding SLF. CDFA has reached out to local railway authorities to provide information on how the SLF could be spread via rail throughout the state. Lastly, Plant is increasing efforts to get the public to report SLF infestations via the CDFA's "report-a-pest" app or through county agricultural offices.

Will Drayton asked Andrew about the status of SLF as it pertains to the rest of the country. Andrew responded that it appears to be making a "slow-creep" across the country but there are several measures in effect that are mitigating the spread to other states.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided a draft copy of the "Winter Newsletter." Brown-Miller has attended multiple public meetings and symposiums explaining the status of PD/GWSS Board-funded research projects. Brown-Miller also provided an update regarding their public campaign against the spread SLF. They are currently working on a new print and digital advertising campaign for SLF awareness. This campaign will probably cost around \$25,000 and will include Facebook advertising. Publications will include extensive information in the various life-stages of SLF and how the general public can identify the pest.

Beth Stone-Smith asked if there was a way to emphasize that this insect was not dangerous to humans. Nicole mentioned that the communications toolkit goes over the "Snag-it, Snap-it, Report-it" part of the reporting process, as this pest is not dangerous to humans. Michael Miiller asked if there was anything else they could be doing to get the message out regarding SLF. Nicole recommended a previously used webinar that was effective.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on area-wide suppression. To assist with this effort are the treatment coordinators who work with the program and growers directly to mitigate the spread of GWSS. Currently, for budget reasons only foliar are being made, timed to occur before overwintering adults lay eggs. So far, the numbers are declining in Temecula, where only monitoring is now done. In Madera County, GWSS populations have increased but not significantly in relation to 2020 numbers. Fresno county was largely prioritized on GWSS finds near grapes, and about 1,700 acres were done in 2020. Beth pointed out that the increased Board and Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District in fall 2020 increased the number of overall treatments which led to declines in GWSS in most counties in 2021 for Kern and Tulare counties. For Tulare County where there is a lot of Citrus, overall GWSS populations have decreased due to treatments. For Kern County, the prevalence of organic citrus has made treatments difficult to apply, but despite these challenges, overall numbers of GWSS decreased.

Trey Irwin asked if the shortage on products and increased applications costs have had a negative impact on the program. Beth stated a lack of availability in products is a bigger issue than price increases.

Steve McIntyre asked what effect climate change is having on GWSS populations and whether they're increasing or decreasing. Beth responded that the USDA is continuously observing these populations, but they have not been able to determine the exact effects of climate change on GWSS populations. Judy Zaninovich commented that GWSS is very dependent on reliably watered host plants, and that drought or restrictions on irrigation and pumping from wells may affect the movement of GWSS and spread of Pierce's Disease.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Stacie Oswalt provided an overview for the entire program for 2021 including nursery statistics. Overall, there were 39,800 nursery stock shipments that moved from infested to non-infested areas of the state. These numbers were down slightly from the previous year. County of origin inspectors were able to stop multiple life stages of GWSS from moving in nursery stock shipments and therefore prevent potential outbreaks. Regarding rapid response, one new GWSS infestation was found in October of 2021 in Vacaville, Solano County and one existing infested area slightly expanded in Kern County. PDCP treated 3,849 urban/residential properties in Fresno, Madera, Solano, and Tulare counties.

OTHER ITEMS

None.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chairperson Will Drayton and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 12:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted on April 20, 2022 by
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Pierce's Disease Control Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture