

## **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, April 26, 2022.

Physical Location:

California Department of Food and Agriculture Auditorium  
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 and via  
Web-conference and Teleconference.

### **PD/GWSS BOARD**

Members Present: Jeff Bitter, Greg Coleman, William Drayton, Rich Hammond,  
John "JD" Harkey\*, Randy Heinzen, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko\*,  
Trey Irwin\*, Aaron Lange\*, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Seth  
Schwebs, David Teuschler

Members Absent: Bill Hammond, Dominic Rossini

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Ruben Arroyo, Tracy Cleveland, Glenn Fankhauser, Martin Mochizuki,  
Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich\*

Members Absent: Alyssa Houtby

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

John Aguirre, Rodrigo Almeida\*, John Bailey\*, Chasika Bandna\*, Zach Barlow\*,  
Sam Blacklock\*, Elizabeth Carranza\*, Andrew Cline\*, Monica Cooper\*, Chris Cox\*,  
Noelle Cremers, Scott Deitrick\*, Craig Hanes, Mark Harrington\*, Victoria  
Hornbaker\*, Matthew Kaiser, Ed King, Giancarlo LaGiusa, Kris Lowe, Michael  
Miiller, Stacie Oswald, Michelle Phillips\*, Ted Reiger\*, Karen Ross, Todd Sanders\*,  
Nicole Shorter, Youngsoo Son\*, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas

\*Denotes attendance via web-conference or teleconference.

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Will Drayton 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**

Will Drayton welcomed everyone back for the first in-person joint Board and Task Force  
meeting in the last several years. Judy Zaninovich shared in those remarks.

Secretary Ross presented John Aguirre, President of California Association of  
Winegrape Growers (CAWG), a certificate of appreciation honoring his many years  
of dedicated service. John graciously thanked Secretary Ross for her support. This is

John's last meeting before he retires from CAWG.

### **PD/GWSS BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Craig Hanes introduced David Teuschler, Chief Horticulturalist for Devil Mountain Nursery, as the new public member of the Board. Craig also introduced Ruben Arroyo, Agricultural Commissioner for Riverside County, as a new member of the Task Force. Craig also mentioned that the nomination paperwork for Kris Lowe and Todd Sanders is being prepared and should be in effect by the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Miiller presented a letter the California wine industry recently submitted to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation regarding pending regulatory changes for neonicotinoid pesticides. They proposed exempting glassy-winged sharpshooter and other PD/GWSS Board designated pests and diseases from the pending regulation, and outlined how the wine industry would be impacted.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at CDFA Headquarters and will begin at 10:00 AM.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Will Drayton asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on January 24, 2022.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on January 24, 2022.

#### Details of Board Vote

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

\*\*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 January 24, 2022.

- 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 January 24, 2022.

#### Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Beth Stone-Smith      Second: Martin Mochizuki  
In Favor: Arroyo, Cleveland, Fankhauser, Mochizuki, Stone-Smith, Zaninovich  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Houtby

## **FISCAL UPDATES**

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update from USDA regarding the federal budget. The Federal Budget was signed late, but the program was funded quite early for \$15.5 million. USDA is starting the Federal Budget process for FY23.

Craig Hanes states PDCP budget was \$18.1 million in total funding and about \$18.6 million in program expenditures. Regarding expenditure detail, State Reserve Funds were expended higher than normal due to the “2021 area-wide operations” in Tulare and Kern counties which caused the program to go over the budget in regards to previous projections.

Matt Kaiser then provided an update on projected Revenues and Expenditures for FY 20/21 and FY21/22. This year, the Board carried over about \$10.4 million from the prior year and is expecting \$3.5 million in new assessment and interest revenue totaling about \$13.9 million. \$4.5 million in expenditures are projected for the current fiscal year, along with \$1.8 million in future obligations for an anticipated grand balance of about \$7.6 million. Matt went over additional costs in detail, including research projects, website assistance for the request for proposals, and the Research Coordinator position. Matt asked Will Drayton if the Board would like to keep the Symposium Conference Support line in future years to which Will agreed but reiterated the need to be flexible with these expenditures in the future. Further expenditures discussed included website remediation, ongoing nursery treatments, the red blotch monitoring project that recently ended, reserve for new projects, the Brown-Miller contract, urban rapid response treatments, county backfill and general expenses including supplies, travel, and administrative charges. Total YTD expenditures were a little over \$1.9 million with a total year-end projection of about \$4.5 million. Greg Coleman asked about the county backfill and asked why it is budgeted at \$2 million every year while rarely used, to which Craig Hanes explained this practice has been done since the beginning of the program to protect against potential federal funding delays or shortfalls.

## **HOPLAND VINEYARD RESEARCH SITE CONCEPT**

John Bailey, Director of the University of California Hopland Research and Extension Center, started off by explaining a proposed 20-acre research vineyard dedicated to studying the long-term effects of various board-designated pests and diseases in Mendocino County. Kris Lowe further elaborated on the project and asked if the Board would be willing to absorb some of the costs of project and its implementation.

Rodrigo Almeida and Monica Cooper explained the genesis of the project and the challenges facing the project and why support would be helpful. The main goal is to study infected plants that are over 2 years old, which is a challenge since many growers are very reluctant to retain plants that are infected with diseases such as red blotch virus.

Jeff Bitter expressed concerns about cross-contamination to surrounding vineyards to which Monica responded that the vineyards would be under extreme surveillance because of the study. Rodrigo agreed with Monica’s response and elaborated that cross-contamination between vineyards would be unlikely. Steve McIntyre asked about where any additional funding would be coming from, and Will Drayton asked about the planting and vineyard management costs over time. Will asked if this project would have to stay specific to certain pests and Kris Lowe responded that to the Board would need to decide which pests and projects the Board would like studied. Steve McIntyre and Aaron Lange asked if any projects like this had been implemented before to which Rodrigo stated that he was not aware of anything of this size or scope previously implemented and would likely be the first of its kind. As stated before, researchers have difficulty finding growers willing to allow the 3-5 years needed to observe and study infected vines.

Greg Coleman asked for clarification regarding what was specifically being asked for and Drayton recommended that this discussion be tabled pending the creation of committee to review the project. Seth Schwebs and Steve McIntyre volunteered to investigate further before the next meeting.

## **RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Steve McIntyre started off by briefly explaining the Research Screening Committee and what its function is. There were 22 projects submitted this year with a recommendation to fund 14 and further discuss three additional projects. Kris Lowe elaborated further by explaining that before the Research Screening Committee, 11 scientific reviewers split into three separate panels read and reviewed the proposals. As in prior years, the scientific reviewers scored proposals and submitted written comments individually, then reached a consensus through discussions at each panel meeting.

Steve McIntyre asked for motion to approve 14 projects for full or partial funding as recommended by the Research Screening Committee. Of these 14 projects, 8 have been previously funded for at least 1 year. The total costs of these projects are \$2.36 million.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend approval of the 14 projects recommended by the Research Screening Committee.

### Details of Board Vote

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

\*\*Not present for this action item

Steve McIntyre and Kris Lowe explained two additional projects pertaining to field trials led by David Gilchrist and Abhaya Dandekar. These projects initially seemed similar to reviewers, and both represent the final field evaluation of transgenic rootstocks that have been developed and are already planted in a research field. The review panel had recommended two years of funding for the proposal from Dandekar and one year of funding for the proposal from Gilchrist. Steve explained that after additional review and discussing with the PI's, he felt comfortable with recommending both projects to the Board. Jim Ledbetter was concerned that the Gilchrist project did not contain any 2<sup>nd</sup> year costs. Kris, Matt Kaiser and Steve confirmed that funding was requested for two years but was only being recommended for one year at this time.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the two additional projects listed from Dandekar and Gilchrist for one year each.

### Details of Board Vote

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

\*\*Not present for this action item

Steve McIntyre introduced and Kris Lowe explained the proposal from Maher Al Rwahnih in further detail. Lowe described this as less of a traditional research proposal and more of a service agreement. Steve added that this proposal is requesting only a portion of the funding for the entire project, specifically the testing of plant material for viruses and subsequent propagation. Matt Kaiser informed that the Board could fund projects related to board-designated pests and diseases such as such as red blotch which is the primary threat to the foundation nurseries, but if the board is concerned about the legalities surrounding this research project, they can request counsel from the CDFA Legal Office. Craig Hanes concurred with Matt's assessment. The board agreed to table the discussion pending additional information and a full budget analysis on the physical facility of the project.

Steve brought up the remaining five continuing projects receiving funding allocations in the upcoming fiscal year which had been recommended for approval by the Research Screening Committee.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve funding allocations in the upcoming fiscal year for the five continuing projects.

#### Details of Board Vote

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

\*\*Not present for this action item

### **RESEARCH COORDINATOR UPDATE**

Kris Lowe gave a presentation and update on the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) audit of virus research, as well as the current RFP and funding process. To this effect Lowe reached out to Robin Schoen, Director of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources at the NAS, who recommended that the Board create a statement of task (SOT) explaining the final deliverables desired. Kris explained what the project would likely consist of and created a draft SOT for the Board. Steve McIntyre stated some of the benefits of having an audit document from NAS included potential requests for federal funding. Beth Stone-Smith stated that the USDA does not regulate red blotch virus federally. Seth Schwebs asked if this document would be made available to the public to which Kris responded that the NAS findings would be available to the public via the NAS website. Beth stated the importance of the being proactive with federal lobbying efforts. Will Drayton and Steve McIntyre volunteered to discuss this matter further including the scope of the audit before the next board meeting.

### **GRANT MANAGEMENT WEBSITE UPDATE**

Chris Cox of the CDFA Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) provided an update to the grant management software AmpliFund that is currently being implemented for all of CDFA. The Board currently uses a website developed and hosted by UC Davis in collaboration with other viticulture and enology grantmaking organizations for soliciting and reviewing proposals. Chris stated that the new CDFA system powered by AmpliFund would be made available for the other viticulture and enology organizations the Board currently coordinates with even though they are external organizations. OITS did not have a cost

breakdown available at this time, but research is ongoing, and the level of usage would be a major factor in determining the final cost. The current timeline for implementation could be well in advance of the next RFP opening in December 2022. Chris stated that support will be ready and available for training. Kris Lowe asked about potential training for PI's, reviewers, and other interests parties to which Chris responded that there will be multiple levels of training available for different users ranging from applicants to administrators.

### **SOLANO COUNTY UPDATE**

Ed King, Solano County Agricultural Commissioner, provided an update on the GWSS eradication project. Last fall in the Browns Valley area of Vacaville, five GWSS were trapped in a residential neighborhood near a previous GWSS infestation eradicated in 2007. Solano County has conducted 1,500 trap checks and over 1,200 property inspections. These surveys have produced 57 adults, 7 nymphs, and 57 egg masses (nine viable). Ed believes the infestation is confined to this residential area and away from commercial agriculture. Solano County started eradication treatments in Fall 2021 which included 86 residential treatments where there were confirmed finds. As recent as Winter 2022, Solano has conducted 625 residential soil injections, 8 common area soil injections, and 5 foliar applications. Ed estimated a \$126,885 shortfall to cover the costs of the GWSS eradication project for the remaining 2021/22 fiscal year. Craig Hanes explained to the Board that this additional funding would only be necessary in the event that requested emergency funds (E-fund) from CDFA are not available to cover these costs.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the remaining costs for the Vacaville eradication project in Solano County for fiscal year 2021/22 in the event E-fund is not available, not to exceed \$126,885.

#### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion: Steve McIntyre                      Second: Rich Hammond

In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Drayton, Rich Hammond, Heinzen, Ledbetter,  
McIntyre, Schwebs, Teuschler

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bill Hammond, Harkey\*\*, Irwin\*\*, Hoxsey-Onysko\*\*, Lange\*\*, Rossini

\*\*Not present for this action item

### **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY UPDATE**

Andrew Cline, Assistant Director for CDFA Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division, stated the CDFA is actively surveying the state for the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) with its various partners and collaborators. The annual detection survey from last year is completed with 470 sites coming up negative. This year's survey will be occurring in August and September 2022, which will probably include 600 sites including some fairgrounds. The CDFA Border Stations are on the lookout for SLF and are continuing to monitor incoming vehicles. Plant Health has recently partnered up with UC Davis regarding a series of partnered research projects. 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 for SLF that may take place in the future.

### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications shared a draft of the next newsletter. She also shared that they have been participating in tradeshow and making website and social media updates to increase SLF awareness. Many of these updates also included the Solano County GWSS infestation. Brown-Miller also provided an update regarding their public awareness campaign which included seminars, feedback, and education to the public regarding the spread SLF. Nicole stated that there has been an increase in public

interest regarding SLF, and the recent research symposium videos created significant interest on YouTube.

### **AREA-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on area-wide suppression. Beth reminded everyone that there are no federal regulations in place regarding GWSS. The USDA is still conducting areawide programs in citrus groves in Riverside, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties. There are no area-wide treatments occurring in Riverside, but surveillance is occurring which captured 23 GWSS which is reduction from last year's numbers. Madera County detected a single GWSS as opposed to zero from the previous year. Fresno County trapped 12 GWSS as compared to last year. Trimmer Springs is a city in Fresno County where GWSS is currently infested, but this site is not being treated due to funding limitations and the site being located away from commercial agriculture. In Tulare County, 559 GWSS were trapped this year as opposed to over 1,000 a year earlier. Kern county has 2,918 GWSS as opposed to 4,193 from the year before as well. Beth stated that treatments are ongoing, and work will continue.

### **PDCP STAFF REPORTS**

Craig Hanes explained the Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus was detected in Tulare County. So far 40 positive citrus trees have been detected. It is vectored by four different insects, citrus whitefly, green citrus aphid, cotton aphid, and the cowpea aphid. The virus originated from the Middle East and there is one documented case of a grapevine testing positive in Turkey that was growing on an infected lemon tree. So far no grapevines in California have tested positive. The CDFA is delimiting the infestation.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

None.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chairperson Will Drayton and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted on May 3, 2022 by  
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
California Department of Food and Agriculture