

## ***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, June 26, 2023.

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, Bill Hammond\*,  
Rich Hammond\*, Trey Irwin, Aaron Lange, Steve McIntyre,  
David Teuschler\*

Members Absent: John "JD" Harkey, Randy Heinzen, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko, Jim Ledbetter,  
Dominic Rossini, Seth Schwebs

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Ruben Arroyo, Glenn Fankhauser, Kris Lowe, Martin Mochizuki\*, Todd  
Sanders\*, Beth Stone-Smith\*, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Chris Bowland, Tracy Cleveland, Alyssa Houtby

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Olufemi Alabi\*, Camilla Yandoc-Ables\*, Noelle Creamers, Katie Filippini\*, Leah Gayagas\*,  
Alana Jacobsen\*, Mark Harrington\*, Matthew Kaiser, Giancarlo LaGiusa, Mark McLoughlin,  
Michael Miiller, Mike Miller\*, David Morgan\*, Dylan Morris, Warren Nichols\*, Stacie Oswald,  
Michelle Pham, Robin Schoen\*, Nicole Shorter\*, Myrna Villegas, Anna Whitfield\*

\*Denotes attendance via web conference or teleconference.

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson William 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 Joseph Damiano 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**

William Drayton, Judy Zaninovich, and Joseph Damiano thanked everyone for joining in  
person and online.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 14,

2023, at Trinchero Family Estates Building, 501 Hopkins Road, Davis, California. The following meeting was tentatively set for 1:00 PM on Monday, January 22, 2024 at the CDFA Headquarters.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

William Drayton asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on April 18, 2023.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on April 18, 2023.

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

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

Judy Zaninovich asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on April 18, 2023.

- 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 April 18, 2023.

#### **Details of Task Force Vote**

Motion: Ruben Arroyo    Second: Glenn Fankhauser  
In Favor: Arroyo, Fankhauser, Lowe, Mochizuki, Sanders, Stone-Smith,  
Zaninovich  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Bowland, Cleveland, Houtby

### **FISCAL UPDATES**

Beth Stone-Smith provided a fiscal update from the USDA regarding federal funding. Stone-Smith reported that since the last meeting when the program was still operating with partial funds from earlier continuing resolutions, the full funding agreement totaling approximately \$15.6 million with CDFA had now been executed. She also reported that preparations were beginning for the upcoming federal fiscal year, and that Pest Prevention and Quarantine Deputy Administrator had recently attended the California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Association conference and met with California industry representatives but there were no indications about Program funding levels for the upcoming federal fiscal year at this time.

Joseph Damiano provided a program operations fiscal update, outlining PDCP revenues and current and projected expenditures for state FY 2021-22 and 2022-23. Damiano highlighted that the program no longer received funding from the State for regular operations and that federal funding had remained constant for many years despite increasing expenses. He reported that staff were evaluating program expenses and activities, and that the Program would likely request additional funding

from USDA for the upcoming federal fiscal year.

Matthew Kaiser provided a fiscal update for the Board for state FY 2021-22 and 2022-23. He reported carryover, assessment and interest revenues, future fiscal year obligations, as well as current and projected expenditure details. He noted that Urban Rapid Response Treatment expenses were unusually low the prior year and were expected to be higher in 2022-23 and in the future due to increased treatment activity, increased treatment cost, and the eradication efforts in Solano county.

### **CONTINGENCY FOR COUNTY BACKFILL UPDATE**

Joseph Damiano explained that in regard to Contingency for County Backfill, there had been expenses related to detection delimitation work that has been performed in Contra Costa, Imperial, and Sacramento Counties in FY 2022-23, totaling \$30,671. Matthew Kaiser elaborated that these were not routine activities and were not included the counties' regular budgets, and that they only occurred in response to GWSS detections in uninfested areas, primarily nurseries. Historically, expenses for these activities had been paid with federal or state funds that were not available this year. Damiano proposed and a discussion ensued regarding reimbursing the three counties for their activities in response to these detections using funds from the Board's Contingency for County Backfill.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend approval for using \$30,671 from the budget line Contingency for County Backfill to reimburse the three counties for these delimitation expenses in FY 2022-23.

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

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

Damiano proposed having up to \$100,000 from the Board's Contingency for County Backfill line be available in future years for use at the Program's discretion for delimitation expenses as they occur and when other funds are not available. Damiano explained this would streamline the process for ensuring counties were reimbursed for these important and unpredictable detection response delimitation activities. These funds would be set aside under a new, separate budget line for this purpose only, and the existing Contingency for County Backfill line would continue to function as it had in the past. After discussion, the Board agreed with this proposal.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve up to \$100,000 starting in FY 2023-24 be available for use at the Program's discretion for delimitation response activities as they occur and when other funds are not available.

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

Motion: William Drayton                      Second: Trey Irwin  
In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Drayton, Bill Hammond, Rich Hammond, Irwin,  
Lange, McIntyre, Teuschler  
Against: None  
Abstain: None

Absent: Harkey, Heinzen, Hoxsey-Onysko, Ledbetter, Rossini, Schwebs

### **PD/GWSS BOARD BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24**

Matthew Kaiser presented the proposed Board budget for FY 2023-24 along with background information. The proposed budget consisted of items that were approved at previous meetings and new items for consideration at this meeting. Previously approved items included research projects, the last year of the current Research Coordinator contract, and the second year of the National Academy of Sciences review project, totaling \$4,243,640 for FY 23/24 and \$803,989 for future years.

Kaiser then explained the new items for consideration, which included symposium and conference support, RFP assistance and grant management expenses from the department, reviewer travel and per diem, a reserve for new projects, the outreach coordinator contract, urban rapid response treatments, a contingency for county backfill, a delimitation response contingency as discussed earlier in the meeting, agricultural supplies, Task Force travel and per diem, and administration. These new items totaled \$4,383,000 in FY 2023-24, as well as \$450,000 in future years associated with the second and third years of the new three-year outreach coordinator contract. Including previously approved and new items, the proposed budget for FY 2023-24 totaled \$8,626,640.

Jeff Bitter asked why administration costs were increasing in relation to previous fiscal years to which Kaiser explained that administration costs were expected to increase because in recent years, personnel costs associated with Board operations had been covered by other funding sources including state funds which were no longer available.. Kaiser also stated that statute limits administrative costs to a maximum of 14% of assessment revenue or approximately \$528,000, and that true administrative costs were likely to be higher than the proposed budgeted amount. After discussion, Greg Coleman stated that the several budget line items are rarely fully expended and that the Board should consider this when setting the assessment rate

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend a budget totaling \$8,626,640 for FY 2023-24. The budget included items that were previously approved, totaling \$4,243,640 in fiscal year 2023-24, and new items that were recommended for approval at this meeting, totaling \$4,383,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$450,000 in future years.

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

Motion: Trey Irwin      Second: Greg Coleman

In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Drayton, Bill Hammond, Rich Hammond, Irwin,  
Lange, McIntyre, Teuschler,

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Harkey, Heinzen, Hoxsey-Onysko, Ledbetter, Rossini, Schwebs

### **ASSESSMENT RATE FOR 2023 HARVEST**

Board members discussed the likely value of the 2023 winegrape crop and the assessment rate that would be needed to cover anticipated expenses and maintain a prudent reserve. It was estimated that the 2023 crop would be similar in value or up to ten percent higher value relative to the 2022 crop. After discussion, Board members agreed there was no reason to increase the assessment rate this year and that they may be able to decrease the rate in future years, but that for 2023 the rate should remain the same as 2022.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board that the assessment rate in 2023 remain at \$1.25 per \$1,000 of value.

#### Details of Board Vote

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

### **RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE**

Matthew Kaiser provided a research program update. The American Society for Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) Conference sponsorship was scheduled for the coming week. This sponsorship included a session with three speakers conducting Board-funded research, a program introduction from Research Coordinator Kristin Lowe, and an exhibit booth. Kaiser also reported on the status of new research grant agreements that were recommended for approval at the last meeting, and stated that recently contact had been made with Julian Alston who had led an economic analysis of Pierce's disease and the program several years ago. Joseph Damiano stated that he believed it would be valuable to revisit and update some of those numbers in light of changes and a recently updated wine industry economic impact study. William Drayton agreed that an updated economic study for Pierce's disease and the program would be of value to the program and Board. Beth-Stone Smith stated that an updated economic study would be valuable for federal reporting as well.

### **RESEARCH COORDINATOR AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES UPDATE**

Kristin Lowe provided an update for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) review of grapevine virus research. She stated that there were 16 proposals submitted to the Board in 2023 which were also evaluated by the NAS committee using the same scoring criteria outlined in the Board's RFP. Of the 11 projects recommended for funding by the NAS committee, seven had been recommended for approval by the Board. Lowe then outlined how individual proposals scored and various reasons why some proposals may have scored differently through the Board's review process. She reported that the next task for NAS will be a review of the RFP process the program uses for soliciting and evaluating research and outreach proposals which was expected soon. Steve McIntyre stated that the Board had members from the previous NAS review committee act as a Science Advisory Panel to review proposals in addition to the existing review process, and that they had provided valuable insight on scientific merit. Aaron Lange asked about the scoring regarding practicality for these awards. Lowe responded that the practicality was based on practicality for implementation to industry.

### **SPOTTED LANTERN FLY UPDATE**

Director of CDFA Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services (PHPPS) Mark McLoughlin provided an update regarding efforts to prepare for spotted lanternfly. He stated that APHIS released a five-year plan for combatting the spread of SLF. There had been no interceptions of SLF entering California so far this year, even though there were some interceptions in the previous year. Aaron Lange asked if there were any successes in the effort to keep SLF at bay, to which McLoughlin responded that that in regard to risk of transport by rail, PHPPS was building relationships and gaining cooperation with rail companies including at the Roseville railyard. Beth Stone-Smith reiterated that another success in regard to SLF is the continued outreach and broad public awareness of the pest and risk.

## **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE AND NEW CONTRACT**

Michelle Pham provided an update regarding the outreach coordinator contract which has been awarded to Brown-Miller Communications for three years for \$225,000 per year. Pham stated that discussions were occurring between PDCP management and Brown-Miller regarding future public outreach activities. Nicole Shorter stated she was happy to be working with PDCP for the next three years and briefly outlined the latest newsletter, postcards, monthly email, and media coverage report. Content of the current draft newsletter presented at the meeting was discussed. Social media efforts were also described as was the advertising campaign for spotted lanternfly outreach via both digital and print ads in English and Spanish. Over the past three months the spotted lanternfly campaign had reached over 78,000 including 3,900 clicks.

## **AREA-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on area-wide control of GWSS. She reminded everyone that in most cases treatment of organic citrus was now being deprioritized due to costs of material and relatively low effectiveness of the treatments. The USDA was instead focused on areas with GWSS finds near grapes, GWSS finds outside of or within a half mile of the infested area boundary, and areas containing high populations of GWSS. Treatments are planned for the fall and winter seasons. Due to the recently cool temperatures, they were seeing a higher amount of GWSS nymphs and fewer adults than the prior year, and expected July temperature increases to lead to more GWSS adult activity and trap catches. For example, Madera county had seen zero trapped GWSS year to date, which was less than what occurred the year prior. Much of the GWSS activity in Tulare county so far had been concentrated in southern end of the county, in an area being treated less due to the presence of organic citrus. Judy Zaninovich provided additional details and background information about treatment activities in the area, and highlighted challenges associated with the program's level funding despite dramatically increased costs of treatments and limited product availability. Discussion continued regarding the effects of cooler temperatures so far this season likely delaying development of GWSS leading to reduced activity being detected in traps so far.

## **PDCP STAFF REPORTS**

Stacie Oswalt provided an update regarding program activities. From January 1, 2023, through May 31, 2023, there were 14,839 nursery stock shipments from the GWSS infested areas to non-infested areas of the state, which was down by 3,000 compared to the same timeframe in 2022. One viable GWSS life stage has been found in February 2023 by destination county inspectors during incoming nursery stock inspections, resulting in a Notice of Rejection. Five egg masses and two adults had been found by origin county inspectors on the loading docks during outgoing inspections of plant material. During the same first half of the year, there were about 4,000 ATP shipments consisting of approximately 761,000 plants. The total number of ATP shipments and plants during the same timeframe in 2022 was about 5,000 and over 1,000,000 respectively. No regulatory actions had been taken year to date against any ATP nurseries for viable life stages. Treatments started the week of June 19 in the Reedley area. Following these treatments, Fresno County staff was tentatively planning treatments for the Fowler area. For Madera County, a total of 396 properties had been treated, primarily in the Madera Ranchos area. For Solano County, 774 properties had been treated within the Vacaville GWSS project area. Release of biological control agents was continuing in 2023 including 1,260 wasps for the year to date. Solano County staff had conducted 1,935 trap inspections of the 204 delimitation traps that were deployed. No viable GWSS life stages have been found year to date and Solano continues to monitor traps and conduct spot surveys in and around old find sites and treatment refusal homes. During a recent survey, county staff detected GWSS egg scars that were determined to be old and non-viable. For Tulare County, treatments have been ongoing with 593 properties treated year to date and should be completed in approximately one week. Tulare County staff were tentatively planning to treat

areas of Exeter in the future.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

Aaron Lange stated that there was concern among some growers regarding the frequency of vines testing positive for viruses and desire to ensure that vines coming from nurseries were clean. Lange stated he wanted to make sure the Board was aware of these concerns and asked whether this was a topic the Board could take action on in the future. A discussion ensued regarding how this would be a good opportunity for growers to be educated on the Grapevine Registration and Certification Program and to collaborate on that program's effectiveness. Steve McNytre stated that the Board might consider investing in research on the subject. Lange emphasized the need for additional information and PDCP staff recommended that the interested parties reach out directly to the CDFA Nursery Services Program for additional information. Katie Filippini of the Nursery Services program stated she could provide additional information about the program to interested parties, and welcomed attendance at the next California Fruit Tree, Nut Tree and Grapevine Improvement Advisory Board (IAB) meeting, which was scheduled for November 8, 2023.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted on August 23, 2023 by  
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
California Department of Food and Agriculture