

## ***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, June 25th, 2024.

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: Greg Coleman, William Drayton, Bill Hammond\*, Rich Hammond\*, Randy Heinzen, Trey Irwin\*, Aaron Lange, Jim Ledbetter, Dominic Rossini\*, Dave Teuschler

Members Absent: Jeff Bitter, John "JD" Harkey, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko, Steve McIntyre, Seth Schwebs

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

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

Members Absent: Chris Bowland, Tracy Cleveland, Casey Creamer, Todd Sanders

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Camilla Ables\*, Buddhi Achhami, Chasika Bandna, Noelle Cremers, Joseph Damiano, Kathy Diaz\*, Anna Ferrera\*, Leah Gayagas\*, Mark Harrington, Matt Kaiser, Ed King\*, Giancarlo LaGiusa, Michael Miiller, Joe Monson, Dylan Morris, Warren Nichols\*, Stacie Oswald, Michelle Pham, Ted Reiger, 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 Randy Heinzen and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich called the joint meeting to order at 10:11 AM.

### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

PD/CP 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**

Randy Heinzen and Judy Zaninovich welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was rescheduled from Wednesday, November 6 to Monday, November 4, 2024, at the Trinchero Family Estates Building at UC Davis and will begin at 10:00 AM.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Randy Heinzen asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on April 24, 2024.

- It was moved, seconded, and by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on April 24, 2024.

### **Details of Board Vote**

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

\*\*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 April 24, 2024.

- 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 24, 2024.

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

Motion: Beth Stone-Smith                      Second: Kris Lowe  
In Favor: Fankhauser, Lowe, Mochizuki, Stone-Smith, Zaninovich\*  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Bowland, Cleveland, Creamer, Sanders

## **TASK FORCE CHAIR AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

PDCCP Statewide Coordinator Joseph Damiano provided an update regarding recent Task Force changes. Current Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich would be leaving the Chairperson position but would remain part of the Task Force and Kristen Lowe would be taking over as Chairperson in Zaninovich's place. Damiano also stated that Ha Dang, the Agricultural Commissioner for San Diego County, would be joining the Task Force, filling the vacancy left by Reuben Arroyo, who had since retired. Zaninovich expressed her pleasure in serving the Task Force and Lowe accepted the role and acknowledged Judy's long-term contributions.

## **REFERENDUM UPDATE**

Joe Monson, CDFA Marketing Branch Chief, provided a presentation on the upcoming referendum required every five years by the Food and Ag Code and the renewal of the Program and PD Assessment. The program had been renewed consistently in 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The latest referendum, which occurred in 2020, had 49% of ballots returned, with 78% voting in favor of continuing the assessment and program. The next referendum was scheduled to start in April 2025 for a 30-day period, and a 30-day extension would also be allowed if not enough ballots were returned. Each grower entity who pays the PD assessment would be entitled to a ballot, with cooperatives given the option to submit block votes on behalf of membership. The list of growers would be compiled in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service with information from wineries. A 40% participation rate was the required threshold in order for the vote to be valid. Results were expected by June 2025.

Monson discussed additional details of how the list of voting growers is collected and answered questions about how a 30-day extension would be advertised and conducted, if needed. Discussion ensued around the likelihood that the list of growers in 2024 may be smaller than expected. Outreach efforts to remind growers to vote ahead of the referendum were also discussed.

## **FISCAL UPDATES**

Beth Stone-Smith of the USDA provided a brief update on federal funding. The federal budget was approved in March, and the program allocations were received in June with the full \$15.5 million going to CDFA as in prior years. The CDFA had originally asked for a little over \$19 million, but the request was denied due to budget constraints and other pressures. The specialty crop line-item was already short on funding and had taken a million-dollar cut and there were additionally costs associated with multiple fruit fly quarantines in California.

Myrna Villegas of the Pierce's Disease Control Program provided an overview of the program operations fiscal display, covering the prior fiscal year 2022-23 and the current fiscal year 2023-24. Villegas stated there had not been many changes over the last few months except for some updates on expenditures. Budgeted Board funds totaled \$2.4 million, and other funds including federal and CDFA Emergency Funds totaled \$18.4 million. Total year-to-date expenditures were just over \$16 million. A balance of approximately \$4.8 million remained, but more of these funds will be utilized for pending county invoices and other charges as the fiscal year closed out.

Matt Kaiser of the Pierce's Disease Control Program provided an update on Board funds for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24, including revenue and expenses. The grape crush revenue from the 2023 harvest was mostly in, with total projected revenue including interest about \$5.6 million. Projected expenditures for the current year totaled \$6.5 million, with the projected balance to be carried over to the next year \$8.8 million. At the last meeting the Board has approved \$2.7 million in new research with an additional \$850,000 approved to backfill an operations shortfall for the counties, starting July 1, 2024 and included in the proposed budget discussed later.

Kaiser then provided a brief overview of various line items and their current status. Research project invoices continued to come in though some invoices were delayed. The National Academy of Science (NAS) was expected to wrap up their project at the end of the 2024 calendar year. Nursery Treatments were projected to total about \$270,000 current year. Urban Rapid Response Treatments were ongoing in Fresno, Tulare, Madera, and Solano counties. A small delimitation expense of just over \$3,000 was incurred in Imperial County. Administrative costs were expected to be fully expended this year. Overall, Kaiser concluded that about \$3.6 million has been expended so far with about \$6.5 million projected for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

## **RESEARCH AND FIELD TRIAL UPDATE AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Kaiser provided a brief update on the status of the transgenic rootstock field trial projects previously approved by the Board. An agreement to manage the federal permits for the field trial was previously funded for one year through FY 2024-25 at the last meeting. The Program had since learned that in order for the vineyard to stay in place through the next year, the permit would need to be extended for one more year following the removal of the vineyard for post-removal monitoring. The additional cost for the additional year of the permit in FY 2025-26 would be \$59,318. This amount was included in the proposed budget discussed and voted on next.

Kaiser also provided an update on the status of the new research grants that were

approved at the last meeting and stated that research reports would be due at the end of July. The Research Coordinator contract was expiring at the end of the current fiscal year and in response to the advertisement discussed at previous meetings, one application was received which met the qualifications and Kris Lowe would continue in her role for the next three fiscal years. This item was also included in the budget discussed next.

#### **PD/GWSS BOARD BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

Matt Kaiser presented the proposed Board budget for FY 2024-25, including items previously approved totaling \$4.1 million in FY 2024-25 and \$1.3 million in future fiscal years, as well as new items totaling \$3,536,054 in FY 2024-25 and \$274,594 in future fiscal years. The total budgeted expenditures for the FY 2024-25 were \$7,652,114 as proposed with a projected carryover of \$8.8 million from FY 2023-24. The revenue target to maintain a \$5 million carryover was \$3.8 million if all budgeted items were spent. Including a total of \$1.6 million in future year obligations, the projected revenue target was \$5.4 million.

Jim Ledbetter expressed concern about increased Board funds going to support program operations, whether that would affect research activities, and questioned whether additional funding would be requested in the future. Joe Damiano described how the program had prepared to make cuts in the face of rising costs and flat federal funding, and that the Board and other sources were allowing the program to maintain current operations. A discussion ensued regarding the state budget as well as challenges the wine grape industry was facing. Both Damiano and Beth Stone-Smith stated that asking for additional industry funding was a measure of last resort. Stone-Smith stated that originally, the funding for the program was supposed to be shared between state, federal, and industry, and that annual state funds had largely stopped coming to the program after 2011. Randy Heinzen acknowledged the challenges and the work the program was doing to balance the budget. Damiano emphasized that without additional funding, cuts to the program would be likely in the future.

Greg Coleman asked about the protocols regarding activities at the CDFA Border Stations, in particular inspections for spotted lanternfly. Michelle Pham of the CDFA was able to answer some of the questions regarding protocols and emphasized that maintaining staffing at some stations was a challenge. Joe Damiano added that Plant Division had previously reported at meetings that they were collaborating with the railyard in Roseville to inspect and remove tree of heaven, as well as inspections and surveys elsewhere in the state. Beth Stone-Smith added that SLF does tend to lay eggs on rusty surfaces, and perhaps additional efforts at targeting those materials could be a good idea, but may be difficult considering the normal traffic and limited manpower issue. Damiano stated there will be an update on the agenda on this issue for the next meeting.

Randy Heinzen asked the Board for a motion to approve the FY 2024-25 budget as presented.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend a budget totaling \$7,652,114 for FY 2024-25. The budget included items that were previously approved, totaling \$4,116,060 in FY 2024-25, and new items that were recommended for approval at this meeting, totaling \$3,536,054 in FY 2024-25 and \$274,594 in future years.

#### Details of Board Vote

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

### **ASSESSMENT RATE FOR 2024 HARVEST**

Discussion revolved around determining the assessment rate for the 2024 harvest, considering crop size, revenue needs, and market conditions. Randy Heinzen shared notes that Jeff Bitter provided indicating an average crop size with mixed development and potential impact from a heat wave at the time. There was additional discussion of crop condition and farming challenges across the state. There was consensus amongst the Board that a reasonable path forward would be to estimate that the crop value could be down by about 15-20% compared to last year, and maintaining the assessment rate at \$1.25 would still align with the current budget requirements. Board members agreed to maintaining the current assessment rate at \$1.25 and projecting an approximately 15% decrease in revenue.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board that the assessment rate in 2024 remain at \$1.25 per \$1,000 of value.

#### Details of Board Vote

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

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

Kris Lowe provided an update on the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) project that is still ongoing. The project is continuing to work on task three, which involves information gathering through literature review and direct input from researchers on leafroll and red blotch viruses and their vectors. On April 19, there was a hyperspectral imaging Q&A session with Luca Brillante from Fresno State University and Nitin Nitin from UC Davis. On May 8 and 9, there was a multi-day in-person meeting in Washington, D.C., with speakers including Gerhard Pietersen of Patho Solutions in South Africa, Mark Lubell from UC Davis, and Katie Gold from Cornell University. Recordings of all meetings of the NAS committee are available on the project website. The final report was being written and was expected to be available in a pre-publication copy later in the year.

Lowe reported her observations of the devastating impact of leafroll-3 virus, associated with sudden vine collapse. The disorder appeared to be related to a combination of leafroll-3 and other stressors causing graft union failure. Lowe noted that different growing regions all have unique challenges associated with grapevine viruses. Lowe also reported

on her efforts to collect resources and simplify information about the regulatory processes involved in releasing a genetically modified or gene-edited grapevine. Several research projects and technologies were advancing, and Lowe hoped to help members and the public better understand how these fit into current complex regulations.

## **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Joe Damiano opened up the discussion by explaining that outreach was a critical effort of the program. To that point, Damiano stated that on May 31 and June 12, PDCP staff attended two industry meetings where they spoke about program history and activities in fighting GWSS, as well as current funding challenges. Damiano wanted to emphasize the effective work the program has conducted and the continued importance of the program.

Randy Heinzen mentioned that he attended the American Society for Enology and Viticulture meeting and emphasized how Board-funded research was prominent at the meeting. He stressed the importance of the Board's research investments over the years.

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on their continued outreach efforts and the upcoming referendum. She thanked Board members for their continued outreach efforts, and would be preparing speaking points about the Board and program for anyone attending industry meetings over the fall and winter. She shared that referendum information would be included in upcoming newsletters and e-blasts, and additional materials such as postcards to be mailed to growers along with flyers for various trade shows were being prepared. Shorter emphasized the importance of the referendum ballots and the 40% mandatory return rate. Kathy Diaz, Director of CDFA Marketing Services Division, asked Shorter to work with Joe Monson to identify and flag potential duplicate ballots.

The draft summer newsletter was shared including articles on the assessment rate, Board funding, GWSS survey and inspection activities, video research reports, and the border station spotted lanternfly interception. Shorter thanked the California Association of Winegrape Growers for their press release regarding the spotted lanternfly interception and highlighted the communications toolkit on the Board's website. The newsletter would be posted online and a corresponding postcard would be mailed to over 7,000 stakeholders. She also highlighted the monthly e-newsletter that is sent to about 1,200 stakeholders with a 40% open rate. A media coverage report included articles on spotted lanternfly and the Board's research funding. Digital ads about spotted lanternfly in American Vineyard and Meta-advertising in English and Spanish and had reached over 235,000 people and had over 350 post engagements between April and June 2024. Brown-Miller would be preparing additional materials and advertising campaigns for the new fiscal year. There was a short discussion about the upcoming newsletter layout, where it was suggested that the spotted lanternfly interception be the lead story.

## **SOLANO COUNTY ERADICATION UPDATE**

Ed King, the County Agricultural Commissioner of Solano County, provided an update regarding the GWSS eradication effort in the Vacaville area. King thanked the Board and PDCP staff for their assistance, as well as their treatment contractor. He gave an overview of the project which began in October 2021 with initial detections and delimitation. Throughout 2022 and 2023, multiple rounds of foliar and soil injection treatments were conducted. As of the latest update, 143 total adults and over 600 egg masses had been detected since the beginning of the project. Over 2,500 soil injection and 182 foliar treatments had been conducted, and nearly 11,000 biocontrol wasps released. King noted there was good cooperation from most residents. Persistent refusals from some residents for survey and treatment were being addressed through communication, good faith letters and potentially formal abatements in the future, so far 60 priority refusal sites had been identified. King highlighted how staff were working hard since the beginning to ensure the project ends with successful eradication.

Aaron Lange asked about how experience with this project could be transferred to other pests like spotted lanternfly that do not have a good trap. King outlined how soil injection treatments had worked for GWSS, and also how Solano County was working with grape growers to proactively control tree of heaven near grapes. King stated that exclusion efforts such as at boarder stations continue to be crucial. Will Drayton asked about and King outlined a number of their communication efforts and challenges throughout the project, including a thank you note that went to residents partway through the project. Joe Damiano echoed King's comments about building trust with residents. Martin Mochizuki asked about the timeline of the project looking forward. King stated that the goal is to scale back treatment work gradually depending on whether any additional GWSS are found, and that increased trapping levels would continue for at least two years.

#### **PDCP PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATES**

Stacie Oswalt of PDCP provided a brief update on program operations and nursery inspections. County origin inspectors and destination inspectors were working hard, with only one destination nursery shipment find reported year to date. Nursery shipments were about on par with last year numbers, 36 egg masses and one nymph had been stopped by origin county inspectors on the loading docks, and no finds had been reported in the approved treatment program nurseries.

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

None.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chairperson Randy Heinzen and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted on September 5th, 2024 by  
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
California Department of Food and Agriculture