

## ***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 Thursday, January 30th, 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: Jeff Bitter, Greg Coleman, Rich Hammond\*, John "JD" Harkey,  
Randy Heinzen, Trey Irwin, Aaron Lange, Steve McIntyre\*,  
Dominic Rossini\*, Seth Schwebs\*, Dave Teuschler

Members Absent: Will Drayton, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko, Jim Ledbetter

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Chris Bowland\*, Tracy Cleveland, Ha Dang\*, Glenn Fankhauser, Kris  
Lowe, Martin Mochizuki, Todd Sanders\*, Beth Stone-Smith\*, Judy Zaninovich\*

Members Absent: Casey Creamer

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Camilla Ables\*, Buddhi Achhami\*, Julian Alston, Adam Borchard\*, Noelle Cremers,  
Joseph Damiano, Leah Gayagas\*, Matthew Kaiser, Giancarlo LaGiusa, Neil  
McRoberts\*, Michael Miiller, Dylan Morris, Warren Nichols\*, Stacie Oswalt, Michelle  
Pham, Tyson Porter\*, Karen Ross, Robin Shoen\*, Nicole Shorter, Youngsoo Son\*,  
Ned Thimmayya\*, Jay Van Rein\*, 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  
Kris Lowe 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**

Randy Heinzen thanked the Board and PDCP staff for coming to the Unified Wine and  
Grape Symposium and providing support. Kris Lowe echoed Heinzen's comments.  
Joseph Damiano thanked the Board for all their time and effort in supporting the  
program especially during difficult times. Damiano also thanked PDCP staff for putting  
the meeting together.

Damiano stated that Bill Hammond was no longer with Kendall-Jackson and would no longer be a member of the Board. Damiano expressed a desire to fill this vacancy with someone representing a producer/processor from the north coast of California.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Miiller of California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) congratulated Board Chairperson Randy Heinzen for his much-deserved Leader of the Year award. Miiller also mentioned that there was a great deal of media attention that stemmed from the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium and thanked everyone for their continued support.

### **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 November 4, 2024.

- 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 4, 2024.

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

Motion: Trey Irwin                      Second: Greg Coleman  
In Favor: Jeff Bitter, Greg Coleman, Rich Hammond, John “JD” Harkey,  
Randy Heinzen, Trey Irwin, Steve McIntyre, Seth Schwebs, Dave  
Teuschler  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Aaron Lange\*\*, Dominic Rossini\*\*, Will Drayton, Kendall Hoxsey-  
Onysko, Jim Ledbetter

\*\*Not present for this action item

Kris Lowe asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes of the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on November 4, 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 November 4, 2024.

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

Motion: Beth Stone-Smith              Second: Martin Mochizuki  
In Favor: Chris Bowland, Ha Dang, Glenn Fankhauser, Kris Lowe, Martin  
Mochizuki, Todd Sanders, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Casey Creamer, Tracy Cleveland\*\*

\*\*Not present for this action item

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at CDFA Headquarters and will begin at 1:00 PM. The following meeting was tentatively set for July 1, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

### **FISCAL UPDATES**

Beth Stone-Smith of the USDA provided a fiscal update regarding PDCP federal funds. Federal fiscal year (FY) 2025 began on October 1, 2024. Initially, a continuing resolution allowed a little under \$3.5 million for PDCP but a second continuing resolution allowed for 45.2% of last year's \$15.5 million, equating to about \$7 million, but this amount was not yet in place due to a funding freeze. With this current funding freeze in place, there could be no execution of new contracts or agreements. Stone-Smith stated that the freeze was enacted last week, and there was uncertainty about when it will be lifted. The freeze was affecting the billing and claims processing for FY 2024 and FY 2025 projects, and she would stay in contact with PDCP staff regarding next steps as additional information was made available.

Myrna Villegas of the PDCP provided an update regarding PDCP program funds. Her update covered the financial figures for the prior state FY 2023/24 and the current FY 2024/25, including budgeted and actual board funds and other funds. The total expenditures for FY 2023/24 were \$18.9 million with board funds at \$1.8 million and other funds at \$17.1 million. For FY 2024/25, budgeted board funds were \$3.4 million and other funds are \$16.8 million totaling \$20.2 million. Year-to-date totals for FY 20/2025 were a little over \$8.1 million.

Matt Kaiser of the PDCP provided an update regarding Board funds. The discussion included the prior fiscal year's assessment revenue, expenditures, and projected balance for the current fiscal year. Last fiscal year's assessment revenue was about \$5.4 million, with expenditures just shy of \$5 million. Current year assessment revenue was projected at \$4.6 million but would be updated with the upcoming release of the Grape Crush Report. Projected expenditures totaled just under \$6.4 million for the current year. The projected balance at the end of the current fiscal year for the board was about \$7.37 million, not including future fiscal year obligations amounting to \$1.6 million for multi-year contracts and research projects.

### **PROGRAM OPERATIONS FUNDING FOR FY 2025-26**

Joseph Damiano provided an overall update on PDCP and continued operations in the midst of budget cuts. The state of California was facing a deficit for FY 2025-26, requiring state agencies to cut \$7.5 billion. PDCP had given up unfilled positions to protect against potential liabilities, but future hiring should be possible if new federal or state funding became available. Recent fires in Southern California were expected to consume additional state resources. The federal budget situation was uncertain and even if funding remained unchanged, the program needed to make cuts to balance the budget. Currently, PDCP still had a deficit that needed addressing and as a result the area-wide treatment program would reduce trapping by over 60% to reduce costs and ensure as much funding as possible could go for area-wide treatment reimbursements. Damiano and others outlined efforts being made to secure funding from federal appropriations, with active communication with industry associations.

### **APPROVED TREATMENT PROGRAM MATERIAL STUDY PROPOSAL**

Stacie Oswald of the PDCP provided a presentation on a new study proposal for nursery treatment products. Specifically, Oswald discussed a research proposal provided by Dr. Matt Daugherty for evaluation of an additional material, flupyrifidifurone (Altus®), for use as

an approved treatment insecticide for nursery stock. The proposed study was similar to the insecticide trial conducted by Dr. Redak in 2003-04 during which the current approved treatment insecticides were selected after being tested for efficacy against GWSS nymphs emerging from egg masses on nursery stock. The study is tied to the GWSS lifecycle and populations in the field, the request was being made out-of-cycle to enable a start date of May 2025 and maximize the availability of GWSS adults and egg masses required to conduct the trials. It was suggested by Judy Zaninovich that for future consideration of out-of-cycle proposals that are technical or scientific in nature, the Task Force convene ahead of time to discuss and provide a formal recommendation to the Board.

After discussion, Kris Lowe asked the Task Force for a motion to recommend approval of the research proposal, with emphasis that the Task Force felt it was an important enough proposal to warrant approval out-of-cycle and that the science behind the proposal is strong enough to move forward without a separate Task Force meeting.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed by the Task Force to approve funding for the ATP study.

#### Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Judy Zaninovich      Second: Stone-Smith  
In Favor: Chris Bowland, Tracy Cleveland, Ha Dang, Kris Lowe, Martin Mochizuki, Todd Sanders, Beth Stone-Smith\*, Judy Zaninovich  
Against: Glenn Fankhauser  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Casey Creamer

Following the Task Force vote, Randy Heinzen asked the Board for a motion to recommend approval of the proposal from University of California, Riverside totaling \$94,736, with \$25,115 in the current fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 and \$69,621 in FY 2025-26.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the funding for ATP Altus trial study.

#### Details of Board Vote

Motion: Jeff Bitter      Second: Steve McIntyre  
In Favor: Jeff Bitter, Greg Coleman, Rich Hammond, John "JD" Harkey, Randy Heinzen, Trey Irwin, Aaron Lange, Steve McIntyre, Dominic Rossini, Seth Schwebs, Dave Teuschler  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Will Drayton, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko, Jim Ledbetter

### **PD ECONOMIC STUDY UPDATE**

Dr. Julian Alston provided a presentation regarding the recent economic study commissioned by the Board to study the economic impacts of Pierce's disease in California, including the Pierce's Disease Control Program and the wider impacts on industry. The discussion focused on the costs and benefits of control efforts, and the value of vines lost annually. The study included recalculating costs using old and new loss rates and revising estimates of payoffs from investments. The updated study showed lower baseline and outbreak numbers for vine losses due to Pierce's disease compared to previous estimates in similar studies 10-15 years earlier. Alston

reiterated that these numbers are based on updated estimates of disease prevalence and more conservative estimates of potential outbreak impacts, especially in regions like Napa-Sonoma and southern California. The discussion included the compliance costs borne by industry, particularly the citrus and nursery industries, and how these costs have changed over time. Judy Zaninovich made suggestions to consult with David Haviland from UC Cooperative Extension for his insights on Pierce's disease monitoring in Kern County. Dr. Alston confirmed he would be seeking additional expert input before finalizing the report.

## **RESEARCH PROGRAM AND FPS UPDATE**

Matt Kaiser of the PDCP provided updates for the research program including updates regarding Foundation Plant Services (FPS). At the last meeting, FPS presented an out-of-cycle proposal but would instead submit to the regular RFP process, which will be reviewed by the research screening committee in April. Kaiser shared that Dr. Anita Oberholster had recently passed away after an illness, and that UC Davis was preparing a celebration of life on May 12. The Board supported a session at American Society for Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) symposium a year and a half ago, and there was interest in pursuing a symposium at the next ASEV which was scheduled for June 2025, in Monterey. The Spotted Lanternfly Summit is an annual event that would be held virtually March 11-13 with free registration. Kaiser also mentioned that a 1906 herbarium sample from Modesto was used by UC Berkeley researchers to estimate when Pierce's disease was introduced to North America, funded by a European project. Kaiser also stated that while the recent National Academy of Sciences review suggested funding projects for longer than three years, CDFA grant policies meant that three years would continue to be the maximum grant award period. Lastly, Kaiser stated the scientific review panels were being organized by Kris Lowe, with 12 scientists already signed up and about 20 proposals submitted as of that morning.

## **RESEARCH COORDINATOR UPDATE AND NAS REPORT SUMMARY**

Task Force Chairperson and Research Coordinator Dr. Kristin Lowe provided an update on the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) virus review project along with other updates. The NAS project involved a nearly two-year study with experts in virology, entomology, and biotechnology, resulting in a report with 214 pages of consensus findings received on December 12, 2024. The overall consensus report included 88 conclusions and 64 recommendations, categorized by impact and priority. The committee had also provided a comprehensive review and critique of the Board's proposal selection process. The committee suggested improvements for transparency, standardization, and expansion of industry impact sections. Consequently, an improved RFP and updated scoring rules had already been implemented and further changes would be considered moving forward. The consensus report highlighted research on virus latency, spread, and management strategies, including clean plants and bioengineering for resistance. Clean plant programs and bioengineering for resistance were recommended as essential for long-term management, and the report identified latency periods and virus spread as critical areas for research to develop management strategies. Lastly, the NAS committee recommended setting aside funds for early and mid-career scientists and recommended efforts to attract new researchers and potentially engaging in directed research projects when funding is limited.

## **OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND REFERENDUM UPDATE**

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update regarding recent public outreach including efforts related to the upcoming referendum. Shorter stated that promotional materials such as newsletters, website updates, and postcards had been prepared and distributed regarding the upcoming PDCP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The newsletter reaches about 1,200 growers and stakeholders with a 39% open rate. The Facebook and

LinkedIn pages had almost 400 followers. The YouTube channel had 70 subscribers and over 53 hours of video watched in 2024. The LinkedIn page had over 3,500 followers. In 2024, there were 36 news articles related to the board. Michelle Pham of the PDCP provided a brief update regarding changes to the annual legislative report that were previously required. Recently, amendments to the annual reporting requirements to the legislature removed the requirement for a formal report to the legislature. The current reporting deadline was now December 31, and the change was expected to simplify the review and approval process.

Shorter then explained the outcomes of a recent grower survey about the Board and PDCP. Over half of the respondents found the program effective, 80% viewing the program as effective in minimizing impact, and 92% of people finding the information they need. Shorter stated that the survey results showed the program's perceived effectiveness and awareness amongst wine growers and stakeholders.

### **AREA-WIDE PROGRAM TRAPPING CHANGES**

Tyson Porter of PDCP provided an update regarding recent area-wide trapping efforts. The discussion involves changes to the trapping program in the San Joaquin Valley of California, focusing on budget reductions and operational adjustments. The trapping program would now focus more on the grape-citrus interface, reducing traps in citrus-only areas, and trapping efforts would occur from May through September, with servicing done monthly instead of bi-weekly. Overall, significant reductions in trapping would occur especially in Tulare County, from 5,547 traps to 1,280 traps. The changes would reduce CDFA staff by 10 seasonals across four counties and decrease vehicle usage and subsequent cost. The new trapping protocols would still provide sufficient data to USDA and treatment coordinators to inform treatment planning. Beth-Stone Smith along with Porter stated that trapping in the winter is less effective due to weather conditions, making summer trapping a more efficient use of resources.

### **PDCP PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATES**

Stacie Oswalt of PDCP provided a brief update on rapid response, bulk citrus and nursery program activities. Due to time constraints, she referred Board and Task Force members to a handout that was provided summarizing these activities that occurred during calendar year 2024, including new infestations in El Dorado and Stanislaus counties. Oswalt mentioned that counties undergoing rapid response activities were gearing up for the 2025 treatment season.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

None.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chairperson Randy Heinzen and Task Force Chairperson Kris Lowe adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted on March 10th, 2025, by  
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
California Department of Food and Agriculture