

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 Friday, January 29, 2021

CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility

2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Jeff Bitter*, Greg Coleman*, Robert Crudup*, William Drayton*,
Bill Hammond*, Rich Hammond*, John Harkey*, Randy Heinzen,
Trey Irwin*, Aaron Lange*, Steve McIntyre*, Domonic Rossini*

Members Absent: Jim Ledbetter

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Cathy Fisher*, Jean-Mari Peltier*, Beth Stone-Smith*, Judy Zaninovich*

Members Absent: Deborah Golino, A. Humberto Izquierdo

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Aguirre*, Chris Bock, Noelle Cremers*, Pete Downs*, Leah Gayagas*, Craig
Hanes, Matthew Kaiser, Neil McRoberts*, Michael Miiller*, David Morgan*, Warren
Nichols*, Stacie Oswald*, Ted Reiger*, Nicole Shorter*, Jay Van Rein*, Sean Veling*,
Myrna Villegas*, Ed Williams*, Robert Wynn Jr.*, Emily Zakowski*

*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.

Craig announced the appointment of new Board member Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko
effective January 29, 2021. Kendall has filled Pam Bond's vacancy as a representative
of a winegrape producer who is also a processor in the North Coast production area of
the state. Craig said that approval for one additional Board member appointment to fill
Keith Horn's vacancy is currently in progress and, once completed, will create a full
Board roster.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked
attendees for their participation. Domonic informed attendees that Board Vice Chairperson

Will Drayton would conduct the remainder of the meeting on his behalf due to travel schedule requirements.

Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for their participation. Judy said that efforts are underway regarding the recruitment of new Task Force members, and that related updates are forthcoming.

Craig Hanes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for their participation. Craig introduced CDFA Environmental Program Manager I (Specialist) Dr. Matthew Kaiser as the newest member of the Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP) team. Matthew joins the PDCP by way of the CDFA Pest Detection and Emergency Projects division where he acted as Statewide Survey Coordinator and has filled Tom Esser's recent vacancy. Matthew will be responsible for oversight of the Board's research grant agreements and related functions.

Craig Hanes welcomed and introduced Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko as the newest member of the PD/GWSS Board. Domonic Rossini thanked Kendall for joining the meeting and becoming a member of the Board.

Will Drayton welcomed Matthew Kaiser & Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko and thanked them for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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 November 9, 2020.

- 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 9, 2020.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Rich Hammond Second: Drayton

In Favor: Bitter*, Coleman*, Crudup*, Drayton*, Bill Hammond*, Rich Hammond*, Harkey*, Heinzen*, Hoxsey-Onysko*, Irwin*, McIntyre*, Rossini*

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lange**, Ledbetter

**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 9, 2020.

- 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 9, 2020.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Stone-Smith* Second: Peltier*
In Favor: Fisher*, Peltier*, Stone-Smith*, Zaninovich*
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Golino, Izquierdo

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Monday April 19, 2021 in Sacramento and will begin at 10:00 AM.

Will Drayton inquired on actions being taken to prepare for Research Screening Committee (RSC) related discussion to take place during the next Board and Task Force meeting.

Craig Hanes said that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for new research projects was due to close on January 31, 2021 and asked Steve McIntyre to confirm that the RSC will be meeting in late March or early April to discuss results.

Steve confirmed this as a recurring annual meeting timeframe that will occur again in March/April 2021.

Will requested that a meeting date for the next RSC meeting be identified during the current Board and Task Force meeting. An April 2, 2021 meeting date was agreed upon by those in attendance.

Craig added that, when the research review panel process has been concluded, confirmation of the April 2, 2021 meeting date will be provided to all Board members and posted on the Board's website for public viewing and attendance.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Will Drayton requested that members of the Board Nomination Committee provide an overview of their recent officer nomination discussion.

Jeff Bitter said that email exchanges had occurred and concerns arose regarding current protocols for the nomination of new Board officers, specifically related to term duration. After further investigation it was identified within the minutes of the first Board and Task Force meeting that it is acceptable for Board officers to hold up to a two-year term. Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini, Board Vice Chairperson Will Drayton, and Board Treasurer Randy Heinzen all agreed to extend their current officer terms for an additional year.

Will Drayton asked the Board for a motion to approve the extension of current Board officer position terms for an additional year.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the extension of current Board officer position terms for an additional year.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Bitter Second: Irwin
In Favor: Bitter*, Coleman*, Crudup*, Drayton*, Bill Hammond*, Rich
Hammond*, Harkey*, Heinzen*, Hoxsey-Onysko*, Irwin*, McIntyre*,
Rossini*

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Lange**, Ledbetter

**Not present for this action item

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

Referring to the previous Nomination Committee Report agenda item and based on the vote process and resulting motion carried regarding the extension of current Board officer terms for an additional year, no further discussion or action was required.

PD/GWSS BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Craig Hanes provided an update on Board and Task Force membership. Craig welcomed Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko as the newest member of the Board. Craig said that an approval request for one additional Board member appointment to fill Keith Horn's vacancy is currently in progress and, once complete, the Board will operate with a full member roster.

Craig informed attendees that Task Force member Humberto Izquierdo has recently transitioned from his Napa County Agricultural Commissioner position to Agricultural Commissioner of Yolo County, and that efforts are underway in Napa County to fill the vacant Commissioner's position. Craig said that he is working with Advisory Task Force Chair Judy Zaninovich to identify a southern San Joaquin Valley Commissioner representative, citrus industry member, a grape industry member, an entomologist, and an epidemiologist for appointment to the Task Force. Judy hopes to have new Task Force members in attendance for the next Board and Task Force meeting.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Craig Hanes reminded attendees of the November 9, 2020 Board and Task Force meeting discussion surrounding the completion of an RFP intended to advertise for and hire a Research Coordinator, which proved unsuccessful. As a result, and per the Board's request, it was agreed that the individual who fills Tom Esser's vacancy would review the RFP scope of work and apply any necessary revisions.

Matthew Kaiser announced that he has completed his review of the RFP scope of work and that no recommendations for major changes have been made. Matthew said that he discussed his recommendation with Research Screening Committee Chairperson Steve McIntyre and Board Chairperson Domonic Rossini, and the review process is now complete. Matthew requested input from the Board regarding whether there is interest in re-advertising the Research Coordinator RFP. Matthew said that funding for the Research Coordinator position has been approved through June 2023, and that it is already included in the Board's budget. Matthew also informed the Board that, due to requirements present in CDFA's contracting process, the RFP would likely be executed late in fiscal year 2020-2021 or early fiscal year 2021-2022.

Steve McIntyre recommended to the Board the readvertisement of the Research Coordinator RFP and said that several potential candidates have been contacted and encouraged to apply for the position.

Will Drayton asked if, based on no changes being applied to the position scope of work and no changes in advertising method, what the Board should expect to occur differently with a readvertisement, and asked attendees if they had any ideas regarding reaching a broader or more qualified audience.

Steve said that, while speaking with previous Research Coordinator Nancy Ireland, he was reminded that not many responses were received as a result of advertisement for her position, and that through encouragement Nancy accepted the position. Steve said that he has taken that experience and repeated the process of contacting & encouraging quality individuals to apply.

Will agreed to Steve's recommendation and stated that this is a vital position for the Board which has already been approved for funding, and that it is important to hire a high caliber candidate in order to ensure quality of research and high industry applicability.

Craig said that, assuming the Board would like to proceed with readvertisement of the RFP and once it is posted for public viewing, a link to the position information could be distributed to the Board for possible aiding in recruitment efforts.

The Board agreed to proceed with readvertisement to fill the vacant Research Coordinator position. It was decided that, based on securing prior approval for funding of the position, a vote for this item was not required.

Matthew provided additional research program updates. He said that the Board's annual RFP for outreach and research projects is currently active and will close on January 31, 2021. He said that one component of the scope of work for the Research Coordinator position that was recently discussed includes assisting with the RFP review process which, in the past, has been coordinated with the University of California (UC) system. Matthew said that, because the Research Coordinator position has not been filled, the Research Screening Committee is working with the UC system to assist with the RFP review process, and that completion of the review will accompany recommendations to the Research Subcommittee prior to the upcoming April 2021 RSC meeting.

Steve asked if Matthew was aware of how many research proposals have been received to date. Matthew said that, based on proposals being submitted via the University of California Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology (UGMVE) website, he was unable to access related information or provide an update on number of proposals received to date, and was unsure how to obtain that information prior to the RFP closing.

Neil McRoberts, Jim Farrar's successor for coordination of UC research review processes, directed related inquiries to staff who maintain the UGMVE website and was unable to provide additional information. Craig reminded attendees that the Board's outreach and research RFP is due to close on Sunday, January 31 at midnight.

Matthew said that he is working on completion of a 2020 proceedings-like document which will summarize research from 2020, and that there are plans to hold a full research symposium in 2021. Will inquired on the decision-making process for location planning and related logistics for research symposium events. Craig said that that a symposium planning group, led by Matthew and consisting of individuals from PDCP and the research community, will be assembled to plan an event agenda, location, and related details. Craig said that research symposium events are usually held in San Diego during early December.

FISCAL UPDATES

USDA California Assistant State Plant Health Director Beth Stone-Smith reported on the federal funding for the program. She said that, despite a federal budget having been signed on December 27, 2020, only \$3M of allocated funds have been received and that she is awaiting receipt of further information on assessments and allocation of remaining funds. Beth said that, despite the absence of protective language which was previously present in the budget's explanatory notes, she felt confident that remaining funds would be allocated.

Will Drayton inquired on reasoning for the removal of protective explanatory notes.

Beth explained that the GWSS program falls under a funding umbrella which includes many programs dealing with specialty crop pests and that her leadership is responsible for making decisions pertaining to allocation of funding for those programs. She said that, in past years, language has been included in the federal budget that specified an allocation of \$21.1M for the GWSS program, but for an unknown reason that language was not present this year.

Will asked if there should be any concern regarding erosion of specific funds for the GWSS program.

Beth said that as long as industry continues to emphasize the importance of the continuation of the GWSS program to her leadership, she remains unconcerned.

Jean-Mari Peltier stated that there was bipartisan support and protective language included in the budget, but different actions were taken this year with the creation of the omnibus continuing resolution. Jean-Mari said that she has already made contact with Representative Jim Costa's office, that he is aware of related concerns, and that discussion with the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) and the Wine Institute recently occurred.

CAWG President John Aguirre stated that he felt the final stages of the Senate passing the omnibus funding bill were not completely transparent, that it appeared to be somewhat of a confused process, and that he could not provide an explanation regarding the absence of GWSS program protective language.

Craig Hanes presented the financial update for the PDCP. Craig began by providing a summary of funding and expenditures. Craig indicated that the fiscal year 2020-2021 budgeted amount for state general funds was listed as zero, and that fiscal year 2019-2020 actual amount for state general funds was listed as \$1.7M. Craig explained this was due to the PDCP previously receiving state general funds on a regular basis in addition to federal funds until economic downturns occurred. For fiscal year 2017-2018, the PDCP received a one-time allocation of \$5M and was able to encumber that amount for two additional years. A portion of that \$5M was utilized during fiscal year 2017-2018, and the remaining balance was encumbered into fiscal years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Fiscal year 2019-2020 was the final year that the PDCP had access to state general funds.

Craig continued by stating that fiscal year reserve funds are budgeted at \$100,000, Board funds are budgeted at \$2.1M to include the additional \$600,000 allocated for area-wide treatments during the September 29, 2020 Board and Task Force meeting, other funds are budgeted at \$600,000 based on a similar area-wide treatment based contribution from the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District (CCVTGPDCCD). Craig said that total projected funding is \$20.5M.

Craig said that expenditures for fiscal year 2020-2021 include \$3.5M for personal services, \$1.9M for operating expenses, and \$9.8M for county workplans. For area-wide programs, Craig called attention to the budgeted amount of \$4.3M and the projected amount of \$4.3M, explaining that these figures were incorrect and should be listed as \$3.7M, and that this correction will be reflected in future budget presentations. Craig said that urban rapid response treatments are budgeted at \$1.2M and nursery treatments are budgeted at \$300,000 for a budgeted total of \$20.5M.

Craig said that, due to being approximately halfway through the current fiscal year, year to date expenditures appear at around half of their projected totals. Craig stated that, for area-wide program expenditures, the year to date figure of \$1.2M has increased since the development of this summary, and that it is currently approaching \$2M due to area-wide treatments not occurring on a consistent schedule throughout the year.

Matthew Kaiser presented the fiscal update for the Board. For revenues, Matthew said that carryover is at \$10.3M, reported assessment and interest revenues are at \$5.5M, which is an increase from \$3.8M as presented during the November 9, 2020 Board and Task Force Board fiscal update and due to the recent receipt of payments from previous assessments. Matthew said that the same assessment amount of \$3.8M has been budgeted with the understanding that the actual figure is likely to be less due to fire and smoke related challenges recently experienced by industry.

Matthew invited the Board to provide insight on what assessment figures should be expected for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Will Drayton said that, in the north and central coast areas, he has observed a decrease in yield due to smoke exposure, reduced production, and several heat waves.

Jeff Bitter said that industry estimates indicate the possibility of assessment funds falling below \$3.5M, a probable decrease of around 15%.

Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko concurred with Jeff's estimate of a 15-20% decrease in assessment funds.

Matthew said that the PDCP should be able to provide a more realistic projected figure at the April Board and Task Force meeting based on the release of the upcoming grape crush report.

Matthew continued by stating that future fiscal year obligations are budgeted at \$1.9M and include previously approved funding for PDCP's outreach and education contract, the Research Coordinator position, nursery treatments, and several multi-year research and outreach projects.

Matthew elaborated on expenditure detail by explaining that year to date figures indicate delays in submission of invoices, and research project and outreach grant awardees encountering COVID-19 related challenges and restrictions which are impairing their ability to remain on schedule.

Will Drayton asked how the Board may better understand if any funded projects are currently at risk of not reaching completion or providing unacceptable results.

Matthew said that, in addition to final project reports which are included in proceedings, awardees are required to provide additional periodic reports throughout the year.

Craig Hanes added that multi-year projects are extensively monitored by the Board's Research Screening Committee review panel to ensure that sufficient progress is being made and to concur that these projects should continue.

Matthew said that he will review these projects and communicate any concerns regarding a perceived lack of resulting deliverables.

Jeff Bitter requested an update on research progress being made by the New Mexico Consortium (NMC).

Pete Downs with Family Winemakers of California said that the NMC are continuing their research, have completed their first year of their project, and continue to show excellent results to include a 95% or greater clearance on Pierce's disease. The NMC is currently in the process of establishing two additional California test sites starting in February 2021.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on recent outreach and education activities. Nicole announced the distribution of an upcoming newsletter which will include information on the Virtual Unified Wine Grape Symposium and a wine tasting session featuring wine produced with Dr. Andy Walker's Pierce's disease resistant hybrid grapevines, a monthly e-newsletter distribution, Board related news clips, and a summary overview of a spotted lanternfly (SLF) outreach and education plan handout for the development of related informational materials, website content, and social media advertising.

Jean-Mari Peltier and Beth Stone-Smith requested an update on CDFA SLF related activities.

Craig Hanes said that he would contact CDFA's Plant Health division to request that a member of their staff provide SLF activity updates during the Board and Task Force's April 2021 meeting.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided a status update on area-wide program activities taking place in Riverside, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties to include collected trap find data spanning the entirety of calendar year 2020.

Beth reported that Riverside County has seen a decrease in trap find activity from the previous year.

Madera County, while reporting a lower volume of trap finds than neighboring regions, had more finds than in any previous years with a total of 34.

The most significant volume of trap finds in Fresno County occurred in the north east section of the region and reported a significant increase in finds with 242 in 2019 and 1,834 in 2020. Beth said that she is hopeful in hiring a treatment coordinator for that region to help reduce the current volume of GWSS activity and has plans to conduct further related discussion with Fresno County staff.

Tulare County reported a number of finds outside of infested areas, with total finds exceeding 28,700 in 2020, and nearly 16,000 acres approved for treatment, which is up from over 8,000 acres due to increased Board and CCVTGPDCD funding.

Kern County reported 48,035 trap finds in 2019 and 141,773 in 2020, an increase of over 93,700 finds and nearly the same amount as reported in 2001, with a majority of finds isolated to the General Beale area during that time.

The Highway 65 region had 15,600 acres authorized for treatment, an increase from the previous fall with just over 9,000 acres authorized. Some organic sites in this area will be treated in May 2021. Judy Zaninovich added that there was increased GWSS notification contact with grape growers in the western section of this region in 2020.

The Northern Zone and General Beale region had just over 11,000 acres approved for treatment, up from 7,100 in 2019, with plans for limited treatments to occur in May 2021.

Beth said that current treatment priorities are treating finds near grapes, finds that are out of infested area boundaries, and areas with high population levels.

Beth reminded attendees that the PD/GWSS Board and the CCVTGPDCD both provided \$600,000 to conduct additional areawide treatments in fall and December 2020, \$793,145 of which was allotted for treatments in Tulare County, and \$406,855 of which was allotted for treatments in Kern County. Beth reported total federal and industry funding at \$1.3M for Tulare County and \$1.9M for Kern County.

Beth reported plans for treating 16,800 acres in Tulare County with actual currently treated acres at 15,970 due to pending organic treatments scheduled to occur in May 2021, with 16,800 acres estimated based on an average acre per cost of chemical. Beth said that growers' identification of specific chemicals to be used in treatment can help with refining an actual acreage treatment number.

Beth reported plans for treating 25,700 acres in Kern County, with the number of authorized acres to be treated at 26,611.

Beth said that she will provide revised information as updates are received and for further reporting during April's Board and Task Force meeting.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Stacie Oswalt provided updates on program activities for the entirety of calendar year 2020 to include nursery stock shipment numbers, nursery stock approved treatment program numbers, detection and rapid response delimitation updates.

Stacie reported that, from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, there were 40,800 nursery stock shipments from the GWSS generally infested areas to non-infested areas of the state. Five Notices of Rejection (NORs) were issued by receiving counties due to a viable life stage in a shipment. Throughout the year, origin county inspectors stopped 55 egg masses, 6 nymphs and 7 adults from moving in nursery stock shipments.

Stacie said that, from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, there were 10,945 nursery stock approved treatment program (ATP) shipments consisting of approximately 2.62 million plants. In comparison, the total number of ATP shipments and plants in 2019 was 10,786 and 2.78 million, respectively. No regulatory actions were taken in 2020 against any ATP nurseries for viable life stages.

Stacie reported that, in 2020, one new GWSS infestation was found and one existing infested area was expanded. An infestation in the Trimmer Springs area of Fresno County was found in 2020. Also, the existing infested area in Madera County expanded to now include the Rolling Hills area. These changes were in addition to ongoing eradication or suppression efforts in the existing infested portions of Fresno, Madera, and Tulare Counties. Statewide, GWSS were found on approximately 1,067 properties in these partially-infested counties. In response, approximately 5,951 properties (infested plus adjacents) were treated.

OTHER ITEMS

Craig Hanes said that he was informed by CAWG President John Aguirre that CDFA is working with the USDA Climate Hub to develop a survey of winegrape growers.

Craig introduced CDFA's Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis Environmental Scientist Emily Zakowski to provide additional information on the survey project.

Emily stated that she is working on a project designed to investigate the impact of wildfire on winegrape production in California. The project is being conducted as a fellowship with the Farm Foundation and in collaboration with Emily's colleagues at the USDA California Climate Hub located at UC Davis. The project aims to better understand the entire range of wildfire impact on winegrape production in California and help determine potential priorities for resource allocation. As part of the project, an online hosted statewide survey of winegrape growers will be conducted to learn more about the impacts, experiences, and resources needed as a result of direct fire or smoke exposure. Emily encouraged winegrape growers, producers, and affected industry stakeholders to participate in completion of the brief online survey. Plans are in place to publish project findings which could be used as a resource guide for policy makers and other decision makers. The survey should be prepared for distribution within approximately one month with a request for responses to be submitted by mid-spring. Emily mentioned plans to include project and survey access information within an upcoming PD/GWSS Board newsletter and e-newsletter, as well as via other channels.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice Chairperson Will Drayton and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 12:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted on April 10, 2021 by
Christopher Bock, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Pierce's Disease Control Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture