

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting / Conference Call
of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force
Held on Monday, April 18, 2016
CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Pam Bond, Greg Coleman, John Crossland, Robert Crudup, Nat DiBuduo, Keith Horn, Steve McIntyre, Ryan Metzler

Members Absent: Dennis Atkinson, Ben Drake, Bill Hammond, Drew Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Domonic Rossini, Steve Schafer

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Greg Clark, Nat DiBuduo, Deborah Golino, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Jim Cranney, Ben Drake, David House, Drew Johnson, Richard Mounts, John Snyder

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Aguirre, Jonathan Bash, Tyler Blackney, John Duarte, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Jim Farrar, Ken Freeze, Paul Giboney, Mark Greenspan, Craig Hanes, Kapua Kahumoku, Kathleen Nave, Stacie Oswald, Raj Randhawa, Ted Rieger, Karen Ross, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas, Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (PD/GWSS) Board Chair Nat DiBuduo called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn, CDFA Statewide Coordinator, conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (Task Force). A quorum was present for the Board but not the Task Force. Board Chair Nat DiBuduo then introduced special guests Karen Ross, Secretary of CDFA, Kathleen Nave, President of the California Table Grape Commission, and Paul Giboney, Chair of the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Secretary Karen Ross discussed current issues at CDFA and thanked the Board and Task Force members for their continuing efforts and support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Chair Nat DiBuduo asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 25, 2016.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 25, 2016.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: John Crossland Second: Keith Horn
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, Crossland, Crudup, DiBuduo, Horn, McIntyre, Metzler
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Atkinson, Drake, Hammond, Johnson, Ledbetter, Rossini, Schafer

The Task Force did not have a quorum present at the meeting, so did not vote on the minutes.

NEXT MEETING

PDCP was asked to poll the Board and Task Force members after the meeting to determine the date, location, and time for the next meeting. [Note: The poll resulted in the meeting being set for Tuesday June 21, 2016 at the CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA at 10:00 am.]

PDCP FISCAL UPDATE

USDA Program Director Beth Stone-Smith reported on the federal funding for the Program. She said that the federal budget for the PDCP for federal fiscal year 2016 is \$15,574,754. This is the same amount as in the previous fiscal year. During the discussion questions were asked about USDA overhead and carryover amounts.

PDCP Statewide Coordinator Bob Wynn presented the financial update for the PDCP. He went over PDCP revenues and expenditures from state fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16 along with projected total expenses. He mentioned that the program spent approximately \$660,000 less in FY 2014-15. PDCP Environmental Program Manager (EPM) Craig Hanes then gave an update on the area-wide contracts with Kern, Madera, Fresno and Tulare counties.

PDCP EPM Tom Esser then presented the fiscal update for the Board. He reported that the Board's reserve of uncommitted funds will decrease this year because of reduced revenue from the assessment and increased expenses.

LEGISLATION AND FUNDING UPDATE

Board Chair Nat DiBuduo and PDCP Statewide Coordinator Bob Wynn provided an update on their efforts to pursue funding from other industry groups and CDFA for the PD/GWSS problem in Kern County. Bob started by providing the Board and Task Force members with a brief history of the funding for the program, in particular, the area-wide programs. He said that at the last Board and Task Force meeting there was a discussion on using up to \$500,000 in Board assessment funds for county backfill funding. This would free up that amount of federal funds so they could be used to cover the additional costs anticipated for this year's area-wide program in Kern County. This arrangement is necessary because environmental compliance restrictions mean that Board funds cannot be used to fund treatments in area-wide programs, but they can be used to fund county GWSS containment activities. Bob then discussed the partnerships that the PDCP has cultivated not only with CDFA, the Universities, and Counties, but also the Citrus, Nursery, and

Table Grape industries over the years. These partnerships have been critical to the success of the program.

Citrus Industry

The Citrus industry has been involved in supporting this program since it first began. Every year representatives from the citrus industry have traveled to Washington D.C. as part of a delegation seeking continued support for the program. They participated in these efforts even though Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter were not pests of citrus, and even though they did not agree with the PD/GWSS assessment which had been established by California's winegrape growers. As it turns out, this is now the standard way of doing business with an industry/government partnership. So even though treating citrus trees for glassy-winged sharpshooter is not high on the priority list of citrus growers, the citrus industry continues to work with the program to help manage GWSS in infested areas.

Nursery Industry

Robert Crudup, President and COO of Valley Crest Tree Company and current PD/GWSS Board member, along with Stuart Sperber, the co-founder of Valley Crest Tree Company, were key participants in the initial meetings of the program, urging CDFA to put the Nursery industry higher on its priority list. Thanks to their efforts and the efforts of others from the nursery industry, CDFA did that. In the beginning, it was costing the nursery industry approximately \$10 million a year to comply with the program's nursery stock shipping requirements.

Table Grape Industry

The Table Grape industry has also participated on trips to Washington, D.C., and has worked with us to find additional funding for the program. The Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District was formed because of this program, and over the last 10 years they have raised an average of \$340,000/year for the fight against Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter. Our partnership with them is critical to the program.

Nat then spoke about his meetings with Kathleen Nave, President of the California Table Grape Commission (CTGC), and Barry Bedwell, President of the California Fresh Fruit Association. Kathleen Nave then talked about the table grape industry's history with the PDCP and the Board. Paul Giboney, Chair of the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District, also spoke about table grape growers in Kern County and the impacts they are experiencing from PD/GWSS.

Legislation Update

Tyler Blackney of the California Association of Winegrape Growers then provided an update on Assembly Bill 2714, which would provide additional funding for Pierce's disease. He said the bill was introduced by Assembly Member Jim Cooper and co-authored by Senators Lois Wolk and Jeff Stone and Assembly Member Devon Mathis. The bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the Pierce's Disease Management Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund. Tyler said the bill was with the Assembly Agriculture Committee and would be moving to Appropriations.

RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Research Screening Committee (RSC), took a moment to thank Deborah Golino and all the other people who helped with the most recent call for research proposals. Deborah said this will be the last year she will manage the research review process for the PD/GWSS Board, since she and her staff would like to submit research proposals for funding consideration by the Board and she wants to avoid any potential for a conflict of interest. Her likely replacement will be Dr. Jim Farrar, Director of UC's Statewide IPM Program. Steve then discussed the RSC's research funding recommendations. Tom Esser reported that the University

of California (UC) announced it would start charging for indirect costs starting in 2016. The rate for indirect costs would start at 25% and rise to 40% by July 2019. Bob Wynn said that CDFA is currently in discussions with UC to see if they will waive this requirement for the PD/GWSS Board and other programs at CDFA.

- After discussions, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve funding 15 research projects over the next three fiscal years, at a total funding amount of \$2,638,106 (\$3,253,435 if indirect cost charges are included).

Details of Board Vote

Motion: John Crossland Second: Keith Horn
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, Crossland, Crudup, DiBudo, Horn, McIntyre, Metzler
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Atkinson, Drake, Hammond, Johnson, Ledbetter, Rossini, Schafer

Steve also discussed his idea of starting a grapevine virus research effort to find solutions to problems like leafroll and red blotch. He said he will arrange a meeting of the Product Development Committee to further explore this idea.

VITICULTURE CONSULTANT UPDATE

Mark Greenspan, Viticulture Consultant, provided an update on his recent activities. This included the status and plans for the grapevine field trials.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016-2018

Craig Hanes reported that Brown-Miller Communications was the winning bidder for the next Outreach and Education contract. The contract will have a start date of May 1, 2016 and will be for \$425,000.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION UPDATE

Ken Freeze of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on outreach and education activities. He first showed a short video featuring researchers involved in finding solutions to Pierce's disease. He then spoke about the newsletter, wine tastings, and ideas for changing the PD/GWSS Board's logo. Nat DiBudo and Kathleen Nave asked about the mailing list for the newsletter and said they could post the newsletter on their websites to make it available to their members. John Crossland said a recent press release about finding a vector of red blotch caught him by surprise and was wondering if the Board and Task Force members could be kept apprised of any newsworthy developments.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided updates on the area-wide programs in Fresno, Madera, Kern, Riverside, and Tulare counties. This included information on trap catches and insecticide treatments in each program area. During the discussion, a question was asked about how the reimbursement rate for treatments in citrus was set.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

PDCP Staff provided updates on recent program activities, including the nursery program and rapid response and treatment activities.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

N/A

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Nat DiBuduo adjourned the meeting for both the Board and the Task Force at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on May 26, 2016 by

Kapua Kahumoku, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
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Department of Food and Agriculture