

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 Wednesday, May 31, 2017
CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Pam Bond, Greg Coleman, John Crossland, Nat DiBudo, Ben Drake, Drew Johnson, Steve McIntyre, Domonic Rossini, Steve Schafer

Members Absent: Dennis Atkinson, Robert Crudup, Bill Hammond, Keith Horn, Jim Ledbetter, Ryan Metzler

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Greg Clark, Nat DiBudo, Ben Drake, Deborah Golino, Cathy Fisher, David House*, Drew Johnson, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Jim Cranney, Richard Mounts

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Aguirre, Monica Cooper, Pete Downs, Sandy Elles, Tom Esser, Ken Freeze, Craig Hanes, Kapua Kahumoku, David Morgan, Stacie Oswald, Secretary Karen Ross, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (PD/GWSS) Board Chair Pam Bond called the meeting to order at 10:08 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). Quorums were present for the Board and the Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

None.

FISCAL FORECASTS AND STRATEGIES

PDCP Statewide Coordinator Bob Wynn gave a brief synopsis of the PDCP's history and financial situation. He said the PDCP relies upon federal funding and the PD/GWSS wine grape assessment to fund program operations and research. The program is a cooperative partnership among state, federal, and county agencies, research institutions, and private entities and stakeholders that together have built a viable and successful program.

PDCP Environmental Program Manager (EPM) II Roger Spencer then described how the PDCP had recently worked with the county agricultural commissioners to evaluate and develop ideas for

dealing with potential funding shortfalls this year and in the future. A handout was provided showing the approximate cost of each program activity and its relative priority in helping achieve the program goal and strategy of minimizing the impact of Pierce’s disease in California by preventing the spread of glassy-winged sharpshooter to new areas.

PDCP staff then presented and answered questions on each of the five program elements. These components are Contain the Spread, Statewide Survey and Detection, Rapid Response, Outreach, and Research. Presentations were also made on Biological Control and Area-wide Programs.

Discussion following the presentations covered cost control measures, the status and prospects of efforts to procure \$5 million in state general funds for the PDCP, approaching the State Board of Food and Agriculture for support on program issues, and a possible trip to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressional and USDA officials.

VISIT FROM SECRETARY ROSS

Secretary Karen Ross thanked the Board and Task Force members for serving on their respective groups, and for their continued dedication and efforts to finding solutions to Pierce’s disease and other pests and diseases of winegrapes. She then talked about current topics of interest, including the ongoing efforts to reach agreement with the University of California on indirect cost charges.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Research Screening Committee (RSC), began by reporting on the Grapevine Virus Meeting that was held during the week of May 8. He thanked everyone who contributed to and participated in the meeting and said that statements made at the meeting were encouraging in terms of finding solutions to grapevine virus diseases. Steve then presented and discussed the RSC’s research funding recommendations. There were a total of 24 research proposals received this year, and the RSC had grouped them into an “A” list, “B” list, “Discussion” list, “Contingency” list, and “Not Recommended for Funding” list. Following discussion, the Board voted to recommend funding 11 of the proposals, but not pay indirect cost charges. It was also decided to reconsider two of the proposals after the researchers had seen the comments of the reviewers and revised and resubmitted them.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend funding 11 research projects totaling \$1,988,428 over the next three fiscal years.

Details of Board Vote

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

Associated with this recommendation was a statement from the Board expressing its appreciation and support for the ongoing discussions between CDFA and UC regarding indirect cost charges and the efforts to exempt the Board and similar grower-funded entities from paying indirect cost charges to UC for research and other services.

Lastly, Steve McIntyre presented a proposal from UC to provide internet support and scientific reviews during the next request for research proposals cycle. The Board voted to recommend funding the proposal, but without indirect cost charges.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend establishing a contract with the University of California to support the Board's annual request for and review of research proposals in fiscal year 2017-18. The total amount of the contract would be \$77,633.

Details of Board Vote

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

VITICULTURE CONSULTANT

EPM I Tom Esser said the PDCP was appreciative of the services provided by Dr. Mark Greenspan as the Viticulture Consultant, but a more cost-effective alternative had been identified for providing viticultural support for the field trials. Consequently, the Board may wish to consider discontinuing the current viticulture consulting contract. Steve McIntyre added that the field trial researchers anticipated no new plantings until spring 2018, so not much is happening now. Following discussion, the Board voted to recommend canceling the viticulture consulting contract.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend discontinuing the current viticulture consulting contract.

Details of Board Vote

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

OTHER ITEMS

Tom Esser said the list of Board-funded field trial grants which was requested at the last meeting had been emailed out after the meeting, and a copy was available in the packets for today's meeting. He also said the Board members had been surveyed on the estimated size and value of this year's winegrape crop, with estimates ranging from 0% change from last year to 2%, 5%, or 15% higher. Board members indicated the survey may have been done too early, and requested it be repeated.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Pam Bond adjourned the meeting for both the Board and the Task Force at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on June 15, 2017 by

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