

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Meeting / Conference Call
of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
Held on Thursday, August 29, 2019
CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Pam Bond*, John "JD" Harkey*, Randy Heinzen*, Trey Irwin*,
Steve McIntyre*, Jim Ledbetter, Domonic Rossini

Members Absent: Jeff Bitter, Greg Coleman, Robert Crudup, Will Drayton,
Bill Hammond, Keith Horn

OTHER ATTENDEES

Tyler Blackney*, Chris Bock, Pete Downs*, Tom Esser, Mark Harrington, Humberto
Izquierdo, Michael Miiller, Stacie Oswalt, Ted Rieger, Nicole Shorter, Roger Spencer,
Beth Stone-Smith, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas, Judy Zaninovich*

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Vice-Chairperson Domonic Rossini called the meeting to order at 10:00
a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roger Spencer, Acting CDFA Statewide Coordinator, conducted the roll call for the
PD/GWSS Board (Board). A quorum was present for the Board. Vice-Chairperson
Domonic Rossini then asked for introductions of other attendees and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Miiller, with the California Association of Winegrape Growers, provided an
update on Senate Bill 449. He said it cleared the Senate and Assembly and was
referred to the Committee on Appropriations, which will be meeting on August 30th,
2019 to decide if the bill will move forward. This bill would extend the sunset dates for
the Pierce's Disease Control Program, the Board and Task Force, and the PD/GWSS
winegrape assessment. He also said the bill was amended to remove the provision
prohibiting the University of California (UC) from charging indirect costs to the Board,
since UC recently agreed to not charge indirect costs to the Board or other
commodity groups.

Pete Downs commented on the submission of the out-of-cycle research proposal by
the New Mexico Consortium (NMC). He said they had encouraging results from a
recent small field trial study and requested off-cycle funding consideration to expedite
progress on developing this promising approach for managing Pierce's disease. He
said the proposal includes refining the application rates, determining its effective life,
and searching for additional peptides to combine with those already available which
offer high efficacy rates.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

None

RESEARCH FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Board's Research Screening Committee, opened the discussion on research funding considerations associated with funding research at private companies. Tom Esser, Pierce's Disease Control Program Environmental Program Manager (EPM) I, talked about the requirement that public benefit must accrue from using public funds such as the assessment. While public benefit is presumably assumed when establishing grants with public research institutions, the situation with private companies is less clear, and may require sharing of intellectual property rights and related income, such as royalties. Regarding royalties, Tom reported that verbiage in the PDCP law and Board law allows the Board to receive income from "other sources." Recent discussions concluded this would include royalties.

Tom said that if the Board decided to go forward with funding research at a private company, the PDCP would work with the CDFA Grants and Legal offices to develop a grant agreement which meets all requirements and restrictions.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Steve McIntyre presented the following three research proposals for funding consideration by the Board

- "Field studies on the topical delivery of the promising grape-derived peptides for the treatment of Pierce's disease" by Dr. Goutam Gupta at the New Mexico Consortium (NMC)
- "High-throughput screen for small molecules targeting bifunctional catalase/oxidase (KatG) in *Xylella fastidiosa*" by Dr. Dean Gabriel at Integrated Plant Genetics, Inc.
- "Maintaining transgenic grapevines expressing CAP and PGIP proteins" by Dr. David Gilchrist at UC Davis.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend funding "Field studies on the topical delivery of the promising grape-derived peptides for the treatment of Pierce's disease" totaling \$447,786 (total) over two years, contingent upon an agreement being reached on sharing of intellectual property (IP) rights and/or royalties. The Board directed that a committee look into the IP issues associated with this grant.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre Second: Jim Ledbetter

In Favor: Bond*, Harkey*, Heinzen*, Irwin*, Ledbetter, McIntyre*, Rossini

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bitter, Coleman, Crudup, Drayton, Hammond, Horn

*Denotes vote via conference call.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend funding "Maintaining transgenic grapevines expressing CAP and PGIP proteins" totaling \$10,400 (total) over three years.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre Second: Jim Ledbetter

In Favor: Bond*, Harkey*, Heinzen*, Irwin*, Ledbetter, McIntyre*, Rossini

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bitter, Coleman, Crudup, Drayton, Hammond, Horn

*Denotes vote via conference call.

The Board requested that more information be provided at the next meeting regarding Dr. Gabriel's proposal and his willingness to share the intellectual property rights and/or royalties associated with his project.

OTHER ITEMS

Humberto Izquierdo asked about the Board funding research and outreach efforts on spotted lantern fly (SLF). Roger Spencer said the Board would first have to recommend it be designated as a serious pest of California winegrapes, and mentioned that dead SLFs had recently been found in aircraft arriving in California from back east. The Board asked for more information about these finds, and asked that SLF be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

PD/GWSS Board Vice-Chairperson Domonic Rossini adjourned the meeting for the Board at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on September 16, 2019 by

Christopher Bock, Staff Services Analyst
Pierce's Disease Control Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture