

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Meeting / Conference Call
of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force
Held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019
CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267, Sacramento, CA 95833

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Jeff Bitter, Pam Bond, Greg Coleman, Robert Crudup, William Drayton, Randy Heinzen, Keith Horn, Trey Irwin, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre

Members Absent: Bill Hammond, John "JD" Harkey, Domonic Rossini

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Deborah Golino, Jean-Marie Peltier, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Cathy Fisher, A. Humberto Izquierdo

OTHER ATTENDEES

Ruben Arroyo, Tyler Blackney, Chris Bock, Pete Downs, Tom Esser, Jim Farrar, Leah Gayagas, Paul Giboney, Marc Grijalva, Craig Hanes, Mark Harrington*, Aaron Lange, Michael Miiller, Stacie Oswald, Nicole Shorter, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Keith Horn called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Acting CDFA Statewide Coordinator Roger Spencer 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. Keith Horn then asked for introductions of other attendees and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Keith Horn asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on June 17, 2019.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on June 17, 2019.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Jim Ledbetter Second: Greg Coleman
In Favor: Bitter, Bond, Coleman, Crudup, Drayton, Heinzen, Horn,
Irwin, Ledbetter, McIntyre
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hammond, Harkey, Rossini

Keith Horn then asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on June 17, 2019.

- 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 June 17, 2019.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Beth Stone-Smith Second: Jean-Marie Peltier
In Favor: Golino, Peltier, Stone-Smith, Zaninovich
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Fisher, Izquierdo

Keith Horn then asked the Board members for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on August 29, 2019.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 29, 2019.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Greg Coleman Second: Jim Ledbetter
In Favor: Bitter, Bond, Coleman, Crudup, Drayton, Heinzen, Horn, Irwin,
Ledbetter, McIntyre
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hammond, Harkey, Rossini

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Monday, February 3, 2020, in Sacramento and will begin at 10:00 AM. It will be held at the CDFA Gateway Oaks office located at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive in Sacramento.

Later, CDFA Information Technology Services Application Development Customer Delivery Support Manager Marc Grijalva provided additional background information on ADA compliance. He discussed Assembly Bill 434 and how it requires the State to meet ADA accessibility requirements for websites and their content.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Research Screening Committee Chair Steve McIntyre reported that a combined meeting was held on October 14, 2019 of the Intellectual Property (IP) Committee and the Other Pest and Disease Designation Committee. He said that, regarding the research proposal from Dr. Goutam Gupta (New Mexico Consortium) to test products developed by the private company Innate Immunity LLC for control of Pierce's disease, the IP Committee recommended that it request a Letter of Intent from Innate Immunity to share royalty or similar revenue with the Board from profits associated with the products being tested. However, Tom Esser stated that PDCP had recently been advised that the Board cannot accept royalty income. After discussion, the Board voted to recommend going forward with establishing a grant for the research proposal "Field studies on the topical delivery of promising grape-derived peptides for the treatment of Pierce's disease" by Dr. Goutam Gupta at the New Mexico Consortium, in the amount of \$447,786 (total) over two years. Related to this, the Board requested that CDFA continue to seek a mechanism through which the Board can receive royalties or similar payments tied to funding of research.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed by the Board to move forward with establishing a grant for the research proposal "Field studies on the topical delivery of promising grape-derived peptides for the treatment of Pierce's disease" by Dr. Goutam Gupta at the New Mexico Consortium in the amount of \$447,786 (total) over two years.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Jim Ledbetter Second: Pam Bond

In Favor: Bond, Coleman, Crudup, Drayton, Heinzen, Horn, Irwin, Ledbetter, McIntyre

Against: Bitter

Abstain: None

Absent: Hammond, Harkey, Rossini

Steve then talked about additional charges which were being included in the budgets of research projects from an out-of-state university. The charges are being included as substitutes for indirect cost charges, which the Board is against paying. It was decided to maintain flexibility in this area for now.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY DESIGNATION

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Other Designated Pests and Diseases Committee, began the discussion about spotted lanternfly. He said the Committee had met jointly with the IP Committee on October 14 and recommended that serious consideration be given to designating spotted lanternfly as a serious pest of California winegrapes.

CDFA Primary Entomologist Kyle Beucke made a presentation on spotted lanternfly, including appearance, mobility characteristics, lifecycle, infested areas, inspection methods, history of detections in California, and quarantine efforts. Kyle mentioned that the National Plant Board is working on developing a harmonized exterior quarantine. The Board requested that PDCP contact other potentially affected commodity entities prior to taking further designation action and plans to resume related discussion during the February 3, 2020 Board meeting.

GRAPEVINE VIRUS DISEASES

University of California, Davis, Director of Foundation Plant Services (FPS) and Task Force member Deborah Golino provided background and statistical information on grapevine red blotch virus (GRBV) findings and infection rates at FPS's Russell Ranch and Classic Foundation vineyards. She said the number of infected grapevines increased significantly at Russell Ranch, for reasons that so far are unknown. She described current testing and treatment efforts and efforts underway to look into building a screen house to protect the grapevines.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CONTRACT AND RFP PROCESS

PDCP Environmental Program Manager I Craig Hanes reported that the contract with Brown-Miller Communications to provide grower outreach services will be ending in June 2020. He asked the Board if it would like PDCP to go forward with beginning the Request for Proposal process needed to establish a new outreach and education vendor contract, to become effective July 1, 2020. The Board said yes.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Brown-Miller Communications representative Nicole Shorter provided an update on outreach and education activities. This included distribution of the new PD/GWSS "Twenty Years of Progress" brochure, fall newsletter, monthly e-newsletter, grower survey, social media pages, and tradeshow. Nicole talked about ongoing efforts to upgrade the pdgwss.net website to ensure ADA accessibility compliance prior to the end of December 2019. She then showed a short video highlighting UC Berkeley researcher Dr. Steven Lindow's work on using a bacterial endophyte (*Paraburkholderia phytofirmans*) to protect grapevines from Pierce's disease.

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, insecticide treatments, and challenges in each program area. Beth said that, because of the potential for another impasse on the federal budget, there may not be funding available in time to make needed insecticide treatments in some of the area-wide programs. She said about \$736,610 would be needed. The Board agreed to make available, on a contingency basis, \$736,610 from its "Contingency for County Backfill" budget line item, in case the funds are needed to backfill federal funds used for area-wide treatments applied in December 2019 which otherwise would not be applied if a federal budget impasse occurs.

GWSS ATP PILOT PROGRAM REPORT

PDCP Senior Environmental Scientist Stacie Oswalt updated the Board and Task Force members on a pilot program that was conducted between June and September 2019 at a nursery in Ventura County to test the effect of raising the sharpshooter trap threshold in nurseries on the number of sharpshooter egg masses that were found on nursery stock. Unfortunately, lower than usual GWSS activity in the nursery led to insufficient data being collected to make any conclusions from the study. The PDCP would like to conduct another pilot study next summer in order to gather adequate data for this analysis.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Craig Hanes provided updates on recent program actions, including rapid response and treatment activities. Beth Stone-Smith suggested that background information on the PDCP, the Board, and the Task Force be provided to newer Board and Task Force members to help them become familiar with them. Roger Spencer agreed to distribute background information soon.

OTHER ITEMS

Roger Spencer said that at a recent meeting he was asked about setting up area-wide programs for other winegrape pests and diseases, such as vine mealybug and grapevine viruses. It may be an idea worth investigating.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Keith Horn adjourned the meeting for the Board at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted on December 26, 2019 by

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