

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 Thursday, January 26, 2023.

Physical Location:

California Department of Food and Agriculture Auditorium
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 and via
Web-conference and Teleconference.

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Jeff Bitter, William Drayton, John "JD" Harkey, Randy Heinzen,
Trey Irwin, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre*, Dominic Rossini, Seth
Schwebs, David Teuschler*

Members Absent: Greg Coleman, Bill Hammond, Rich Hammond, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko,
Aaron Lange

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Chris Bowland*, Tracy Cleveland*, Glenn Fankhauser, Kristin Lowe,
Martin Mochizuki, Judy Zaninovich*

Members Absent: Ruben Arroyo, Alyssa Houtby, Todd Sanders, Beth Stone-Smith

OTHER ATTENDEES

Deirdre Asay*, Noelle Cremers, Mark Harrington*, Matthew Kaiser, Giancarlo LaGiusa, Jason
Leathers*, Steve Lyle, Mark McLoughlin, Michael Miiller, Mike Miller, David Morgan*, Stacie
Oswalt, Michelle Pham, Secretary Karen Ross, Nicole Shorter, Robert Sisson, Youngsoo
Son*, Kerana Todorov*, Sean Veiling, Myrna Villegas*

*Denotes attendance via web-conference or teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Will Drayton and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson
Judy Zaninovich called the joint meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

PDCP Statewide Coordinator Joseph Damiano 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.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross was present during opening remarks to thank existing
Board and Task Force members for their continued service and to introduce the new

Branch Chief and Statewide Coordinator for the PDCP, Joseph Damiano.

Damiano provided a brief introduction of himself and background, including work experience with several state and county agencies as well as the winegrape industry. Damiano stated that his current position at PDCP provides him with a unique opportunity to use his viticulture degree in a manner helpful to the winegrape industry and was very excited to be aboard.

Judy Zaninovich introduced Chris Bowland as a new member of the Advisory Task Force. Bowland introduced himself as a CalPoly graduate who specialized in the growing of organic vegetables then moved on to working in viticulture. Bowland now works for Williams Selyem Winery as Director of Viticulture, has collaborated on several research projects, and was looking forward to participating.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, and will begin at 10:00 AM. The Research Screening Committee will meet March 27, 2023, at Foundation Plant Services in Davis, CA.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Will Drayton asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meetings held on October 25 and December 19, 2022.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meetings held on October 25 and December 19, 2022.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Jeff Bitter Second: Dominic Rossini
In Favor: Jeff Bitter, William Drayton, John "JD" Harkey, Randy Heinzen,
Trey Irwin, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Dominic Rossini, Seth
Schwebs, David Teuschler
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Greg Coleman, Bill Hammond, Rich Hammond, Kendall Hoxsey-
Onysko, Aaron Lange

Judy Zaninovich asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meetings held on October 25 and December 19, 2022.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meetings held on October 25 and December 19, 2022.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Martin Mochizuki Second: Glenn Fankhauser
In Favor: Chris Bowland, Tracy Cleveland, Glenn Fankhauser, Kris Lowe,
Martin Mochizuki, Judy Zaninovich
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ruben Arroyo, Alyssa Houtby, Todd Sanders, Beth Stone-Smith

FISCAL UPDATES

Beth Stone-Smith was unavailable, so Joseph Damiano provided an update on her behalf in addition to his program operations update. Damiano stated that the federal budget had been appropriated by congress but the dispersion of funding within APHIS to the PDCP was still pending.

The overall funding amount for FY 22/23 for the program was expected to remain the same, remaining around \$20 million including federal, state, Board and emergency fund sources. Currently, PDCP was projected to spend approximately \$19.8 million on operations in FY 22/23.

Matt Kaiser then provided an update of the Board's fiscal display. The overall net balance carryover from FY 21/22 to FY 22/23 was approximately \$10.3 million. along with a projected \$4.6 million in assessments and interest for a total carryover plus revenue of approximately \$15 million. Projected expenditures for FY 22/23 were anticipated to be \$5.28 million leaving a projected remaining balance of \$9.68 million for FY 22/23. Kaiser stated that Future Fiscal Year Obligations, which are expenses approved by the Board in prior meetings that extend beyond current FY 22/23, include the 3rd year of the Research Coordinator contract and the 2nd year of National Academy of Sciences (NAS) review as well as several research projects. The projected balance after future obligations beyond FY 22/23 was expected to be approximately \$7.3 million.

Research project line items were projected to be fully expended. The NAS review had only recently been executed and was expected to cost \$449,000 the first year. Other research budget items related to the RFP process and the Research Coordinator were summarized. Nursery treatments totaled \$144,000 so far this year. The FPS Greenhouse Support agreement had started but no invoices had been received yet this year. The reserve for new projects remained untouched, the public outreach contract with Brown-Miller had incurred \$132,000 in expenses. This year, Urban Rapid Response Treatments had incurred \$267,000 in expenses but additional expenses were anticipated which would bring the total projected costs to \$1.2 million. Contingency for County Backfill pertains to expenses for Solano County that occurred last year, but no expenses were expected to be incurred this year. No expenses for agricultural supplies or Task Force travel had been incurred so far but \$267,000 in expenses for Administration costs were projected. Overall, the PD/GWSS Board was projected to see approximately \$5.3 million in expenditures for FY 22/23 with \$1.3 million having been incurred year to date.

Will Drayton stated that there may be an opportunity to sponsor a conference with the American Society of Enology and Viticulture using funds from the symposium and conference support line, and may discuss further at a future meeting.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Matthew Kaiser provided an update regarding the research program. The agreement for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) review, which was recommended for approval at the December 19, 2022, meeting, has been executed with a start date of January 1, 2023. The RFP opened on schedule December 1, 2022, using the new CDFA AmpliFund grant submission website portal with some proposals having already been submitted. Will Drayton commented that it appeared the new system is working properly to which Kaiser agreed and expected additional submissions to follow. Formal proposal reviews will occur in February through March 2023, followed by the Research Screening Committee meeting in April 2023 where funding recommendations will be made.

Kaiser then provided an update regarding recently updated guidelines for progress reports for research projects. Awarded proposals would now be expected to submit two progress reports every year as opposed to the previous three reports per year. Kris Lowe asked about the deadlines for submissions of reports, Kaiser responded that end of January and July would be the target in the future, with end of February 2023 this year to accommodate the recently changed guidelines.

RESEARCH COODINATOR UPDATE

Kris Lowe provided an update regarding the scientific review panels she was currently putting together. Lowe had reached out to 50 scientists throughout the country, of which 12 had responded with interest, six of which were entomologists and the other six being plant pathologists. Lowe intended to split these reviewers into three separate panels, specifically for insects, viruses, and Pierce's disease. The scientific review panels will be meeting on March 14th and 15th at Foundation Plant Services (FPS) in Davis and via Zoom. Trey Irwin asked if any of the applicants submitting proposals will also be reviewing proposals to which Lowe responded that was not an option. Lowe further elaborated stating that it was rather difficult to acquire reviewers as it was a great deal of work but so far, she's been quite lucky at finding reviewers.

SPOTTED LANTERFLY UPDATE

Andrew Cline, the Assistant Director of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services (PHPPS), was not available to provide an update but Jason Leathers of PHPPS was available in his place. There was a spotted lanternfly (SLF) survey done this year by PHPPS for the 3rd year in a row and over 600 high risk sites were inspected. This year, transportation import locations were the primary focus including deep water ports as well as campgrounds and highway rest sites. PHPPS identified over 482 locations capable of supporting SLF but luckily, none of those sites were observed to contain SLF in any of its life stages.

There were also nine counties that participated in these inspections and conducted 582 individual inspections, none of which detected any signs of SLF. PHPPS routinely check incoming aircraft for Japanese beetle and have found dead SLF during those inspections. Leathers stated that aircraft are a relatively low risk pathway for infestation as SLF struggle to survive most international flights. The Border Stations are continuing their monitoring efforts including additional training by inspectors and staff. This year, the Border Stations identified two SLF egg masses during routine agricultural inspections. Leathers stated SLF does not appear to be widening its distribution in the Eastern United States and most of the local quarantines being used on the eastern seaboard appear to be mitigating the spread of SLF. Dominic Rossini asked who was responsible for the recent roadside billboards advertising SLF awareness to which Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications briefly

explained the recent outreach efforts include billboards. Randy Heinzen asked if there was a model for when SLF is expected to arrive in California to which Leathers stated the PHPPS had not published any models predicting SLF arrival, but a new SLF strategic plan outlining CDFA's response if it arrives has been completed.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications provided a draft newsletter which contained articles about a research field day at UC Davis in September 2022, as well as an update on the NAS review, and brief introduction of the new Statewide Coordinator for PDCP, Joseph Damiano. These newsletters go out to over 7,000 interest parties and growers along with the monthly e-blasts which go to approximately 1,200 recipients. Brown-Miller will be at the Central Coast tradeshow in March 2023 providing in-person outreach to various growers and members of the general public. Shorter stated that they were continuing with the print advertising campaign in Wine Business Monthly, Ag Alert, and American Vineyard Magazine in the coming months. These advertisements will be displaying the different stages of SLF with a different life stage being displayed each month in chronological order. Matthew Kaiser stated he attended the Sustainable Ag Expo in San Luis Obispo in November 2022 to provide an overview of the program and share outreach materials.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith was unavailable to provide an update on this topic, so Judy Zaninovich provided one in her place. Zaninovich stated that everything was moving along as previously planned. Regarding recent area-wide treatments, Southern Kern County was conducting a treatment in December and they're currently assessing and planning for Spring 2023 treatments.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Joseph Damiano provided a brief Solano County GWSS eradication project update. Solano County received approximately \$889,000 from the CDFA Emergency Fund which will allow them to continue with survey and delimitation activities, as well as urban treatments, both foliar and systemic, through FY 23/24. Soil treatments were expected to resume in late January 2023.

A question was raised by Jim Ledbetter regarding the rapid response funding for Solano County. Matthew Kaiser clarified that about \$300,000 was allocated in the Board's budget for Solano County treatments within the urban rapid response treatment line, in addition to the CDFA Emergency Funds. There was a discussion about the level of funding going to Solano County compared to Fresno and Tulare counties, and the difference in funding an eradication program versus control/suppression programs. Stacie Oswalt provided additional information on the project as well as past comparable eradication projects such as Santa Clara County. Judy Zaninovich stated that the recent cold weather could contribute to GWSS mortality. The PDCP will be inviting Solano County to the next Board meeting to provide a more comprehensive update.

Damiano also reported that Pierce's Disease was detected for the first time in Humboldt County in the fall of 2022 and although there is not a large amount of grape acreage in Humboldt County, the County Agricultural Commissioner's office was taking a very proactive stance. The county will be working with Chris Chen, Integrated Vineyard Systems Advisor for Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma Counties from UC Cooperative Extension.

Although GWSS is not known to occur in Humboldt County, other vectors are likely present. The county will be monitoring for vectors this spring and conducting outreach with growers. Kristin Lowe suggested that the PDCP connect Humboldt County with Rodrigo Almeida, UC Berkeley, who would be interested in this northern record.

Oswalt reported that in calendar year 2022, there were 37,200 nursery stock shipments from the GWSS generally infested areas to non-infested areas of the state. Shipments were down by 2,600 compared to 2021. Viable GWSS life stages were found twice by destination county inspectors during incoming nursery stock inspections, resulting in two Notices of Rejection. Origin county inspectors stopped four adults, 11 nymphs, and 91 egg masses from moving in nursery stock shipments. In the Approved Treatment Program (ATP), there were 9,846 ATP shipments consisting of approximately 1.94 million plants. The total number of ATP shipments and plants in 2021 was 10,968 and 2.22 million, respectively. No regulatory actions were taken against any ATP nurseries for viable life stages. Fourteen egg masses were sleeved and monitored by destination counties from ATP shipments, yielding no viable emergences.

Oswalt stated that although there was high pest pressure in 2022, no new GWSS infestations were found. Ongoing monitoring, eradication or suppression efforts continued in the existing infested portions of Fresno, Madera, Solano, and Tulare Counties. In Solano County, 828 unique properties have been treated since the beginning of the eradication project in fall of 2021. The county continued to monitor the area with traps overwinter. In Tulare County, treatment and delimitation activities occurred in Dinuba, Tulare, and Visalia. A total of 1,104 treatments were made in and around these areas of the county in 2022.

Oswalt also reported that a public meeting is scheduled for Madera County on Thursday, February 2, 2023. Following the meeting treatments could occur in and around GWSS finds in the Madera Ranchos area of Madera County. In Fresno County, the PDCP and Fresno County scheduled a public meeting for Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Following the meeting treatments could occur in and around GWSS finds in the areas of Kerman, Highway 41, Selma-Kingsburg and rural western Fresno County.

Domonic Rossi asked for more information about other grapevine pests that might have temperature thresholds similar to GWSS. Zaninovich outlined that many aspects of insect biology are affected by temperature thresholds such as reproduction and feeding. There was a discussion of how past pest and weather data could be compared to look for patterns, as well as the status of degree day models for GWSS.

OTHER ITEMS

None.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chairperson Will Drayton and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted on March 10, 2023 by
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Pierce's Disease Control Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture