

## ***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 Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Physical Location:

Peter Christensen Conference Room  
Trinchero Family Estates Building  
501 Hopkins Road, Davis, CA 95616 and via  
Web-conference and Teleconference.

### **PD/GWSS BOARD**

Members Present: Jeff Bitter\*, Greg Coleman, William Drayton\*, Rich Hammond,  
John "JD" Harkey\*, Randy Heinzen\*, Kendall Hoxsey-Onysko\*,  
Trey Irwin, Aaron Lange, Steve McIntyre, Dominic Rossini, Seth  
Schwebs, Dave Teuschler,

Members Absent: Bill Hammond, Jim Ledbetter

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Tracy Cleveland\*, Glenn Fankhauser\*, Kris Lowe, Martin Mochizuki,  
Todd Sanders\*, Beth Stone-Smith\*, Judy Zaninovich\*

Members Absent: Ruben Arroyo, Chris Bowland, Alyssa Houtby

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Camilla Ables\*, Deirdre Asay\*, John Bailey, Joseph Damiano, Abhaya Dandekar,  
Anna Ferrera, Leah Gayagas\*, David Gilchrist, Mark Harrington\*, Matthew Kaiser\*,  
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Jim Lincoln, Mark McLoughlin, Michael Miiller, David Morgan\*,  
Dylan Morris, Warren Nichols\*, Stacie Oswalt, Michelle Pham, Ted Rieger\*, Robin  
Schoen\*, Nicole Shorter, Youngsoo Son\*, Sean Veiling\*, Myrna Villegas, Anna  
Whitfield\*, Priscilla Yeane

\*Denotes attendance via web conference or teleconference.

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

PD/GWSS Board Treasurer and acting Chairperson Trey Irwin and PD Advisory Task Force  
Chairperson Judy Zaninovich called the joint meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

### **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**

Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich expressed her disappointment at not being  
able to attend the meeting in person. PDCP Statewide Coordinator Joseph Damiano  
welcomed everyone and stated that he had reached out to members of the Task Force  
and Board who had been routinely absent to try to increase their attendance. Also, due  
to a position change, Casey Creamer from California Citrus Mutual would be replacing

Alyssa Houtby as a representative of the citrus industry on the Task Force in the future.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anna Ferrera was introduced as the new Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at Wine Institute.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Monday, June 26, 2023, at CDFA Headquarters and will begin at 10:00 AM.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trey Irwin asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on January 26, 2023.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on January 26, 2023.

#### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion: Dominic Rossini    Second: Seth Schwebs  
In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Rich Hammond, Harkey, Heinzen, Hoxsey-  
Onysko, Irwin, Lange, McIntyre, Rossini, Schwebs, Teuschler,  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Drayton\*\*, Bill Hammond, Ledbetter

\*\*Not present for this action item

Judy Zaninovich asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on January 26, 2023.

- 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 January 26, 2023.

#### **Details of Task Force Vote**

Motion: Beth Stone-Smith    Second: Todd Sanders  
In Favor: Cleveland, Fankhauser, Lowe, Mochizuki, Sanders, Stone-Smith,  
Zaninovich  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Arroyo, Bowland, Houtby

### **FISCAL UPDATES**

Beth Stone-Smith provided a fiscal update from the USDA regarding federal funding. Stone-Smith stated that even though a federal budget was approved on December 29, 2022, allocations for many federally funded programs were still being determined, except for the GWSS program which had its full funded allocation. Stone-Smith was working with the CDFA to get it's full funding put into place which would be the same amount as the prior year. Todd Sanders then informed the Board of an appropriations request to increase funding for fighting GWSS.

Joseph Damiano provided an update regarding the PDCP budget for both fiscal years (FY) 21/22 and 22/23. Projected expenses for FY 22/23 were about \$21.5 million which included \$1.9 million in Board Funds and nearly \$20 million in other funds. Personal Services expenses were approximately \$3.7 million, Operating Expenses were \$2.2 million, County Work plan was approximately \$11 million, Area-Wide Program was \$2.5 million, Urban Rapid Response Treatments were \$2 million, and the Nursery Treatments was \$300,000 for a projected total expense of \$21.5 million.

Matt Kaiser provided an update of the Board's revenues and expenditures. There was approximately \$10 million carried over from FY 21/22. The assessment on the 2022 harvest was expected to produce about \$4.5 million in revenue for the Board. \$5.3 million in projected expenditures would leave the Board with a projected balance of \$9.3 million at the end of the year. Future obligations, which are previously approved expenditures for FYs 23/24 and 24/25, were expected to total \$2.3 million. The projected balance when considering all future year obligations into account was \$7 million when excluding all future revenue. Kaiser provided additional details of prior and current fiscal year budgeted, actual, and projected expenditures, including research, outreach, PDCP operations, administration, and other categories on the handout.

### **RESEARCH PROPOSAL DISCUSSION**

Matt Kaiser stated that of the research proposals that were submitted this year, there were seven that the Research Screening Committee (RSC) recommend be reviewed in this meeting as indicated on the handouts. Of these seven projects, three were related to the transgenic root stock field trials led by David Gilchrist and Abhaya Dandekar at UC Davis, one proposal submitted by Matthew Daugherty from UC Riverside regarding analysis of PDCP GWSS biocontrol activities, one proposal from Matthew Helmus regarding spotted lanternfly (SLF) spread modeling at Temple University, one from Summaira Riaz regarding selective grape breeding at USDA-ARS, and one from John Bailey regarding establishment of a research vineyard at Hopland Research and Extension Center. The seven projects up for discussion totaled \$1.96 million over three years as proposed. These proposals were discussed among funding recommendations as indicated below.

### **RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Kris Lowe and Matt Kaiser elaborated on the Request for Proposals (RFP) process by stating that they had received 31 proposals which was an increase by about 10 over what was submitted last year. The scientific review panels convened by Lowe met on March 14 and 15 in hybrid meetings to discuss and review the proposals in detail prior to the Research Screening Committee (RSC) meeting on March 27. In total, 14 proposals totaling \$2.3 million over three years were recommended by the RSC to received full or partial funding, while 10 were recommended to not receive funding.

Steve McIntyre thanked Lowe and Kaiser for their efforts and asked the Board for a motion to approve the 14 projects that were recommended for full or partial funding by the RSC totaling \$2.3 million.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend approval of the 14 projects recommended for full or partial funding by the Research Screening Committee totaling \$2.3 million.

#### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion: Seth Schwebs Second: Dominic Rossini

In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Rich Hammond, Harkey, Heinzen, Hoxsey-Onysko, Irwin, Lange, McIntyre, Rossini, Schwebs, Teuschler

Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Drayton\*\*, Bill Hammond, Ledbetter

\*\*Not present for this action item

A discussion of the remaining seven proposals followed. David Morgan shared a presentation and provided background on PDCP biological control activities included the goals and history of parasitic wasp releases, the subject of the Daugherty proposal. It was pointed out that biocontrol rearing and releases are funded through PDCP's federal agreement, but that complex analysis of release and monitoring data is not part of the program's regular work. Several members expressed support for these biological control efforts as part of PDCP's integrated pest management approach, but questioned the utility of additional analysis of data associated with past activities.

- It was moved, seconded, but not passed by the Board to recommend approval for the proposal from Daugherty. Motion did not carry.

#### Details of Board Vote

Motion: Greg Coleman Second: Seth Schwebs  
In Favor: Coleman, Drayton, Heinzen, Irwin, Schwebs  
Against: Bitter, Rich Hammond, Harkey, Lange, McIntyre, Rossini, Teuschler  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Bill Hammond, Hoxsey-Onesko\*\*, Ledbetter,

\*\*Not present for this action item

Lowe provided an overview of the Helmus proposal regarding spotted lanternfly (SLF) modeling. Beth Stone-Smith provided background information regarding federal activities related to SLF. A discussion of the work proposed in light of other funding priorities when SLF is not present in California ensued. There was no motion to recommend funding this proposal.

Lowe then provided overview of the Riaz proposal regarding PD resistance breeding. The project was scored highly by scientific reviewers but the RSC was unsure how much industry would benefit from additional PD resistant varieties. A discussion ensued regarding the adoption of new disease resistant grapevines. There was no motion to recommend funding this proposal.

Abhaya Dandekar shared a presentation and provided an overview of the history and proposed future work associated with his two proposals. One proposal was regarding field trials of transgenic rootstocks to determine resistance against PD in grafted plants, the other was associated with the management of federal permits required for the transgenic rootstock work. David Gilchrist then shared a presentation and provided an overview of the history and proposed work in his proposal, also concerning field trials of different transgenic rootstocks for PD resistance in grafted plants. In both cases, plants had already been planted in the field and inoculated with the disease and now needed to be evaluated for disease resistance. A discussion among Board and Task Force members regarding the history of these projects ensued, where it was pointed out that these projects had been supported by the Board for many years and that results were expected soon. McIntyre asked the Board for a motion to recommend approval for all three proposals from Dandekar and Gilchrist for one year each.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend approval for the three proposals from Dandekar and Gilchrist for one year each.

#### Details of Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre Second: Greg Coleman  
In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Drayton, Rich Hammond, Harkey, Heinzen, Irwin, Lange, McIntyre, Rossini, Schwebs, Teuschler  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Bill Hammond, Hoxsey-Onysko\*\*, Ledbetter

\*\*Not present for this action item

Lowe provided an overview of the proposal from Bailey regarding the creation of a vineyard in Hopland for studying grapevine pests and diseases in a controlled field setting. It was noted that this idea had been discussed at prior meetings and now a formal proposal had been received, and that there may be a need for continued support beyond the first three years for maintenance of the site. The choice of location was also discussed. There was no motion to recommend funding this proposal.

### **AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENOLOGY AND VITICULTURE CONFERENCE SESSION SPONSORSHIP**

Will Drayton provided a brief overview of a sponsorship opportunity for Board of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) National Conference. The overall cost would be \$5,000 and Drayton believed this would be an opportunity for the Board to showcase its efforts in the continued fight against PD and its vectors. Three Board-funded subject matter experts, Rodrigo Almeida, Akif Eskalen, and Peter Atkinson had agreed to speak about their research. In addition, Kris Lowe would act as the session moderator and would provide an overview of the Board's research activities. Drayton asked the Board for a motion to approve the ASEV conference sponsorship for \$5,000.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the ASEV conference sponsorship for \$5,000.

#### Details of Board Vote

Motion: Seth Schwebs Second: Rich Hammond  
In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Drayton, Rich Hammond, Harkey, Heinzen, Irwin, Lange\*, McIntyre, Rossini, Schwebs, Teuschler  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Bill Hammond, Hoxsey-Onysko\*\*, Ledbetter

\*\*Not present for this action item

### **RESEARCH COORDINATOR AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE REVIEW UPDATE**

Kris Lowe provided an update on the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) virus research review project. A committee of 12 scientists had been formed and a website had been created that explained the purpose of this project and its status. The committee will be providing a scientific review of all proposals submitted this year, evaluating the Board's

current RFP process, and reviewing current virus research and future research approach recommendations. They will be meeting and reviewing current proposals based on the Board's criteria and providing comments later this month.

Lowe pointed out that during the scientific review panel and Research Screening Committee meetings in March, the topic of regulatory considerations for the adoption of genetic tools for pest management had been raised. Lowe made contact with USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy, who may be able to provide more information about what regulations would apply to different genetic tools currently being researched. Joseph Damiano proposed having a presentation at the next Board meeting and if there was continued interest, then the Board could pursue the matter further.

## **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Nicole Shorter provided an update regarding the current outreach efforts by Brown-Miller. Shorter said that she will update the newsletter with the funding recommendations made during this meeting. The printed newsletter will go out to 7,000 interested parties and the E-Newsletter will go out to an additional 1,200 interested growers, farmers, industry stakeholders, and elected officials. Brown-Miller was at the WiVi Central Coast Tradeshow in March where their booth received a lot of interest concerning GWSS and SLF. There was an advertisement in Ag Alert for SLF for the month of April and additional advertisements to follow in the coming months. Recent Meta posts had reached over 140,000 people with over 5,000 post engagements to the likes, shares, comments, and then over 7,000 click on those ads for additional information.

## **AREA-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on area-wide containment efforts. GWSS movements had been relative light due to the time of year. New egg masses were starting to be detected as the weather heats up. Challenges associated with attracting and retaining trapping staff were noted, including potential impacts on activities if traps are not checked regularly. Stone-Smith stated that area-wide treatments are always changing and for the foreseeable future will be focused on citrus near vineyards and forgoing treatments of organic citrus in most cases. The strategy is to treat areas with high overall GWSS numbers with highest risk of impacting grapes. Martin Mochizuki asked what the USDA's plans for treatment were as imidacloprid use is increasingly regulated and may become unavailable. Stone-Smith said that imidacloprid has not been used recently for area-wide treatments and other products were more frequently used due to limited funding availability. Judy Zaninovich stated that there is an exemption in the regulations concerning imidacloprid for quarantine pests.

## **PDCP STAFF REPORTS**

Stacie Oswalt reported that GWSS activity had been suppressed statewide due to the cooler weather we were experiencing. From January 1, 2023, through February 28, 2023, there were 4,783 nursery stock shipments from the GWSS generally infested areas to non-infested areas of the state. This was down by about 1,200 from the same timeframe last year. One viable egg mass was found in February during incoming nursery stock inspections, resulting in a Notice of Rejection. County inspectors stopped three egg masses from moving in nursery stock shipments. In the Approved Treatment Program (ATP) between January 1, 2023, and February 28, 2023, there were 1,172 ATP shipments consisting of approximately 193,736 plants. No regulatory actions have been taken against any ATP nurseries for viable life stages.

Oswalt stated that the cooler weather and significant rainfall had delayed some urban treatment plans. Tulare County had begun urban treatments in the Tulare area. In Vacaville, Solano County, urban treatments were underway and an update on activities was provided during agenda item #16, Solano County Update.

### **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY UPDATE**

Mark McLaughlin of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services (PHPPS) provided an update on the status of spotted lanternfly (SLF). McLaughlin stated SLF has been detected in 14 states on the east coast and provided an update showing the rail lines, infrastructure, and transportation conduits on which SLF could spread throughout the country. PHPPS was coordinating with multiple states, agencies, and companies to identify key locations in California where SLF is most likely to be introduced. The week prior, PHPPS had a meeting with the Roseville rail yard going over strategies for pest inspection, trapping, and the elimination of host plants where SLF can reside. Continued coordination with rail can be expected in the future. PHPPS has a Strategic Action Plan for combating SLF if it arrives, but funding remains limited. Nursery shipments between the states remains a large and sensitive issue. He reiterated that continued collaboration and the free sharing of information is critical to meeting PHPPS primary goal, which is prevention of SLF.

### **SOLANO COUNTY UPDATE**

Priscilla Yeaney of the Solano County Agricultural Commissioner's office provided an update to the GWSS response in Solano County. In 2021, five GWSS were found north of I-80 and west of the 505 freeways. Shortly thereafter, the CDFA declared a Proclamation of Emergency Program. Trapping is ongoing and over 200 traps have been deployed and over 1,500 treatments have been applied since fall 2021. Many detections were in urban residential areas where approval from the residents is required for treatment and currently, consent was given on close to 85% of planned treatments. The county was planning on applying additional treatments by the end of the spring. The county expected to release additional parasitic wasps this season for biocontrol. Solano County was working diligently to prevent any expansion of the infested area. Solano had spent over \$1.1 million since October 2021 on pest eradication efforts with an average cost of \$466 per treatment. The County is also concerned about losing access to certain pesticide options.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

No further items were requested.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chairperson (Acting) Trey Irwin and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted on May 23, 2023 by  
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
California Department of Food and Agriculture