

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, October 25, 2022.

Physical Location:

Foundation Plant Services - Trinchero Family Estates Building
501 Hopkins Road, Davis, California, 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*,
Aaron Lange*, Steve McIntyre*, Dominic Rossini, Seth Schwebs,
David Teuschler

Members Absent: Bill Hammond, Trey Irwin, Jim Ledbetter

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

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

Members Absent: Ruben Arroyo, Alyssa Houtby

OTHER ATTENDEES

Maher Al Rwahnih, Chris Bowland*, Noelle Cremers, Leah Gayagas*, Mark
Harrington*, Matthew Kaiser, Giancarlo LaGiusa, Michael Miiller, David Morgan*,
Stacie Oswalt, Michelle Phillips, Nicole Shorter, Robert Sisson*, Sean Veling, Myrna
Villegas

*Denotes attendance via web-conference or teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board (Board) Chairperson William Drayton and PD Advisory Task Force (Task
Force) Chairperson Judy Zaninovich called the joint meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Acting PDCP Statewide Coordinator Matthew Kaiser conducted the roll call for the Board
and Task Force. Quorums were present for both the Board and Task Force.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

William Drayton and Judy Zaninovich welcomed everyone back for the Board and Task
Force meeting. No further comments were made at the time.

PD/GWSS BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Matthew Kaiser provided an update regarding Board and Task Force membership. There
were no new PD/GWSS Board members but there was one incoming member of the
Advisory Task Force, Chris Bowland, scheduled to start November 15th. Bowland is

Director of Viticulture of Williams Selyem Winery and had been involved in several PD-related research projects. Judy Zaninovich concurred with Kaiser's comments and commented that she very happy with the roster of the PD Advisory Task Force.

Additionally, Kaiser reminded attendees that a new PDCP Branch Chief and Statewide Coordinator, Joseph Damiano, was scheduled to start in mid-November, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William Drayton opened the meeting for public comment. Michael Miiller provided a public comment letter regarding modifications to DPR Regulation Number 22-001, Neonicotinoid Pesticide Exposure Protection. This letter emphasized the wine and winegrape industry's concern regarding how this proposal could possibly impact GWSS control efforts and have a detrimental effect to the industry. The letter requested that an exemption be made for treatments of GWSS by the CDFA. No further comments were made.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board and Task Force meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 26th, at 1:00 PM, to be held at CDFA headquarters, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA in the Auditorium.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE

William Drayton stated that he was nearing one year as Chairperson and asked if there were any thoughts regarding new Board officer nominations for next year. Dominic Rossini asked Drayton if he would be willing to stay on as Chairperson another year instead. Drayton asked if there were any objections to him staying on as Chairperson for a second year to which there was none, and no nomination committee was appointed. Matthew Kaiser informed the Board that without any formal action, all existing officers would stay in their current positions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Drayton asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the joint Board and Task Force meeting held on June 29th, 2022.

- 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 29th, 2022, as presented.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Domonic Rossini Second: Greg Coleman
In Favor: Bitter, Coleman, Drayton, Rich Hammond, Harkey, Heinzen,
Lange, McIntyre, Rossini, Schwebs, Teuschler
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Bill Hammond, Hoxsey-Onysko**, Irwin, 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 June 29th, 2022.

- 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 29th, 2022, as presented.

Details of Task Force Vote

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

FISCAL UPDATES

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update from USDA regarding the federal budget. The Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 began on October 1st, 2023, but there was not an approved federal budget yet. A stop-gap measure was put in place to keep the federal government running through December 16 which allows the PDCP to spend 21% of the original \$15 million budget or approximately \$3 million dollars. So far, she has not heard any information pertaining to any cuts nor increases in program funding for PD/GWSS. The Board asked about the potential for additional funding for FY 22/23 to which Stone-Smith responded that she did not expect any additional funds and stated the importance of industry lobbying efforts for the continuance of the program. Stone-Smith stated the effects that budget delays can have on treatment operations, especially regarding area-wide treatments. Stone-Smith concluded that even if additional funding was allocated for FY 22/23, the timeframes for these treatments would have passed making additional funding less impactful.

Michelle Phillips provided a fiscal breakdown to PD/GWSS program budget including past and present expenditures. For State FY 20/21, the overall budget was \$18.6 million which included \$16.3 million in Federal operating expenses, \$1.7 million in Board Funds, and \$541,000 for Other Funds. For FY 21/22, the Federal Funds expenditure stood at approximately \$16 million, State Reserve Fund was up to \$505,000 which included country agreements that needed to be redirected due to overages, Board Funds were at \$955,000 which included \$143,000 for the Solano eradication project in Vacaville, and \$376,000 in Other Funds for a grand total of \$17.8 million in total expenditures for FY 21/22. For FY 22/23, Phillips stated that the program anticipated \$17.4 million in Federal funds, \$100,000 in State Reserve expenses and \$1.8 million in Board Funds for a grand total of \$19.3 million in total anticipated charges. The actual figures for FY 20/21 had not changed since the last meeting and additional expenses were not expected. The FY 22/23 budget projections are based on past historical figures and \$19.27 million in expenses was anticipated.

Matthew Kaiser provided an update on projected revenues and expenditures from the Board's budget for FY 21/22 and FY 22/23. For FY 21/22, the previous assessment brought in \$3.65 million in revenue with a very small amount of interest and a carryover of \$10.5 million from the previous year. Budgeted assessment revenue for FY 22/23 included a projected 5% increase in crop value over last year as was suggested at the last meeting. Expenditures were anticipated to be approximately \$5.4 million, which leaves the board with a projected balance of \$9.7 million at the end of the year. Regarding future obligations, the board previously approved expenditures totaling \$2.36 million. When combining all current and future year obligations with no additional revenue, the projected balance was \$7.36 million.

Kaiser proceeded to go over expenses and research line items in detail. He noted that the National Academy of Sciences Review, which was budgeted for \$500,000 in expenses, was still pending receipt and approval of a formal proposal at this time. RFP Assistance, which in years past was an agreement with UC Davis to provide

support for a website that acts as a platform for proposal submission and review, was this year for a new CDFA grant submission portal.. Urban Treatments cost \$547,000 in FY 21/22 for Madera, Fresno, and Tulare Counties. This year's budgeted total of \$1.5 million also included an additional \$300,000 for Solano County. In FY 21/22, the Board approved up to \$150,000 to support the Vacaville Solano County response using the Contingency for County Backfill. Administration costs for last year were \$190,000, which was lower than expected due to decreased pro rata charges.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Matthew Kaiser provided an update regarding the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) which was scheduled to open December 1, 2022 and close January 31, 2023. The overall RFP will remain largely the same as previous years. As discussed at prior meetings, a new grants portal would be used which was being implemented for all CDFA grant programs. The previous system hosted by UC Davis was still operational and being used by partner organizations. There was a new landing page on the program's website containing cross advertised links to the former portal. Kaiser stated there will be a learning curve for the applicants and reviewers who are used to the UGMVE system, but the program will work to stay ahead of that with applicant and reviewer resources. Other CDFA grant programs were already using the new system for their own grants and by all accounts the rollout was proceeding reasonably smooth.

RESEARCH COORDINATOR UPDATE

Kristin Lowe gave an update on the projects she has been actively reviewing. Lowe made several site visits, including to New York where she met with Marc Fuchs of Cornell University to discuss projects concerning both red blotch and leafroll. She was also able to tour the UC Davis Plant Transformation facility in September where she discussed protoplast-mediated gene editing with David Tricoli. She also discussed experimental pesticides with Akif Eskalen and met with David Gilchrist regarding experimental rootstock trials intended to protect against Pierce's disease. She had an upcoming meeting scheduled with Abhaya Dandekar regarding his own resistant rootstock trials. Lowe then provided an update regarding a previously discussed research vineyard concept in Hopland and stated that a formal proposal was being considered and may be submitted in the future.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REVIEW UPDATE

Regarding the National Academy of Sciences review project, Kristin Lowe reported that a formal proposal was being developed by the National Academy of Sciences which was expected to be received soon. Lowe summarized a draft scope of the project as had been discussed at prior meetings, including its focus on red blotch and leafroll viruses. Pending approval by the Board after receipt of the proposal, the project's target start would be December 2022, taking two years to complete.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY UPDATE

Andrew Cline, Assistant Director for CDFA Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division (PHPPS), was unavailable to provide an update regarding the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) and Matthew Kaiser subsequently filled in on his behalf and provided an update. Kaiser reported that PHPPS was hosting a formal briefing for industry regarding SLF and CDFA's action plan. This meeting was scheduled for October 26 and would contain information regarding survey and treatment plans for SLF. PHPPS was also inspecting high risk areas including transportation hubs and rest areas where this pest could be potentially introduced. Additional updates could be found at the meeting to which Beth Stone-Smith emphasized the importance of attending.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Nicole Shorter of Brown-Miller Communications (BMC) provided an update regarding outreach and education activities for the Board. The current draft newsletter included updates regarding the recent retirement of Craig Hanes as well as the imminent hiring of a new Statewide Coordinator. This newsletter will be mailed out to over 7,000 recipients and will also be posted on the Board's website and Facebook page. Shorter also provided a copy of the Media Coverage Report which contained the news about the assessment rate, the new UC Davis Greenhouse, and national coverage of SLF and GWSS. BMC will be at the Tree and Vine Expo in Turlock in November and the WIN Expo in Santa Rosa in December. While there will not be a Pierce's Disease Research Symposium this year, there are plans to prepare a compilation document of all current research projects. Lowe stated that the advertising campaign stressing the importance of SLF had started and is being featured in several magazines. Michelle Phillips informed the Board that the contract with Brown-Miller Communications to provide grower outreach services will be ending soon and that a new outreach and education contract will need to be put into place.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on area-wide surveillance and suppression. Stone-Smith reiterated that they must prioritize certain treatments particularly near grapes as funding does not exist for all treatments. For example Kern County had \$1.5 million designated for GWSS treatments in 2022, a substantial decrease from early years of the program. She stated that the limited funding prevents the county from treating the area as she would like and can only be used to mitigate the spread of GWSS in high priority areas. Right now, the USDA is only conducting foliar treatments as opposed to foliar and systemic treatments due to budget constraints, which has contributed to higher GWSS counts in Kern County.

Stone-Smith stated that a meeting of scientists and other experts was held in July to determine best use of limited resources. The recommendations moving forward included not treating organic citrus in most cases and focusing on treatments in response to finds near grapes, finds greater than 1/2 mile outside of the infested area boundaries, and areas of high GWSS population levels.

Madera and Fresno County areawide treatments continue, but Stone-Smith emphasized that these regions have limited funding as well. Judy Zaninovich stated that in most cases, GWSS is appearing in organic citrus before spreading to conventional citrus and eventually making its way to grapes, to which Beth Stone-Smith agreed. In Fresno County, there were 1,167 GWSS trapped in 2021, with one traditionally hot spot area inadvertently left out of the trapping program. In 2022, Fresno County increased its trap deployment and trapped over 14,000 GWSS, a significant and concerning increase. In Tulare County, Stone-Smith stated that trap counts have increased from 18,490 GWSS in for 2021 to 52,822 in for 2022, another significant increase. She emphasized that more than half of the trap finds are in isolated pockets of organic citrus located in the south, and that past treatments have had limited effects. Judy Zaninovich followed up by stating that organic treatments have a limited effect on GWSS populations and are very expensive and likely not worth the effort. Kristin Lowe asked about the use of parasitic wasps in areas containing organic citrus to which Zaninovich stated that wasp releases are targeted in urban and residential areas and for various reasons do not have a substantial impact on GWSS populations in commercial citrus. Zaninovich then shared an example of an organic grower near a plant nursery that recently elected to transition to conventional production. She also gave an overview of some of the products used in the area-wide program and how the program coordinates with the citrus industry and CDFA for the control of citrus pests in addition to GWSS.

Aaron Lange asked whether there was a geographic threshold for GWSS spread in California where new resources and approaches would become necessary. Stone-Smith pointed out that at the federal level there is pressure to divert existing GWSS resources to other programs such as spotted lanternfly. Zaninovich reiterated to the Board that

continued lobbying from industry is likely the key solution for more resources. Greg Coleman stressed the importance of assistance from citrus growers to which Zaninovich responded that GWSS is not a pest of citrus in California, so their cooperation with the program is voluntary. Both Dominic Rossini and Stone-Smith discussed organic GWSS treatments for organic citrus growers but emphasized the limited effectiveness of organic treatments on GWSS.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Stacie Oswalt provided an overview of year-to-date nursery stock shipment statistics. During the timeframe of January 1, 2022, and August 31, 2022, nursery shipments were down about 1,750 compared to the same timeframe in 2021. Oswalt stated that despite high pest pressure in infested areas this year, only two viable GWSS life stages had been found during destination inspections of nursery stock year to date, highlighting the efforts of the county inspectors and shipping nurseries. During outgoing inspections, origin county inspectors stopped 76 egg masses, nine nymphs, and one adult from moving in nursery stock shipments. In the Approved Treatment Program (ATP) there were 7,379 ATP shipments consisting of 1.49 million plants shipped during the same timeframe. No regulatory actions have been taken in the ATP for viable life stages. Fourteen egg masses have been sleeved from ATP shipments by receiving counties year to date, with no successful GWSS emergencies.

Oswalt stated that in the Vacaville, Solano County eradication project, treatments have been conducted on 794 unique properties since the start of the eradication program. A total of 4,300 biological control agents (parasitic wasps) were released in 2022. Additional detections in the southern portion of the project area expanded the treatment area but have not required an expansion of the infested area boundaries that were established last fall. Delimitation trapping will continue through winter.

Oswalt stated that the PDCP continues to work closely with Fresno, Madera, and Tulare County Agricultural Commissioners' offices regarding treatment and delimitation activities. A public meeting is scheduled for Fresno County on November 17, 2022, and Madera County is also tentatively planning a public meeting this fall. In Tulare County, treatment and delimitation activities have occurred this year in Dinuba, Tulare, and Visalia. Through September 2022, 1,104 treatments were made in and around these areas of the county.

Oswalt reviewed this year's delimitations in high-risk nurseries and urban areas of non-infested counties. Nursery delimitations have been completed or are in progress in the following counties: Contra Costa (in progress), Kings (completed), Sacramento (one completed, one in progress), Santa Clara (one completed, one in progress). Oswalt also stated that an urban/rural residential delimitation is underway in Calipatria, Imperial County after one GWSS adult was found in a trap on September 22, 2022. Since the initial trap find, one GWSS nymph was found on a delimitation trap, and one old, non-viable egg mass was found. PDCP is monitoring the situation with Imperial County.

FOUNDATION PLANT SERVICES GREENHOUSE UPDATE

Maher Al Rwahnih provided an update regarding the developments in the Foundation Plant Services greenhouses. He stated that several project milestones have been met and the project is moving along as expected. The plans for construction have been approved and is now in the bidding process. The plant propagation is proceeding as well and samples of plant material have been collected and propagated. Currently, FPS is renting greenhouse space until the new greenhouses are built. Al Rwahnih offered to provide a tour of the facilities to anyone interested.

OTHER ITEMS

No further comments were issued at this time.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chairperson William Drayton and Task Force Chairperson Judy Zaninovich adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted on December 1st , 2022, by
Giancarlo LaGiusa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Pierce's Disease Control Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture