

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting / Conference Call
of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force
Held on Monday, January 23, 2012
CDFA Auditorium at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Kevin Andrew, Dennis Atkinson, Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake, David House*, Drew Johnson, Steve McIntyre*, Dana Merrill, Marilyn Wolf

Members Absent: Jim Ledbetter, Al Rossini, Steve Schafer, Herb Schmidt

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Kevin Andrew, Nat DiBuduo*, Ben Drake, David House*, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson, Richard Mounts, Corky Roche, John Snyder*, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, David Whitmer

Members Absent: Kassim Al-Khatib, Jim Cranney, Scott Hudson

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Aguirre*, Lisa Correia, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Deborah Golino, Craig Hanes, Kapua Kahumoku, Vicki Klaassen, Paul Kronenberg, Mike Miller, Greg Morris, Matt Myers, Stacie Oswald, Ted Rieger, Karen Ross, Roger Spencer, Mark Szczerba, Jay Van Rein, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Dennis Atkinson and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Kevin Andrew called the joint meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (Task Force). A quorum was present for both the Board and the Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Bob Wynn thanked Greg Coleman for his leadership as Board Chairperson during 2010 and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation signed by CDFA Secretary Karen Ross.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dennis Atkinson asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings held on June 23, 2011 (Board and Task Force), July 15, 2011 (Board), and September 29, 2011 (Board).

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2011, July 15, 2011, and September 29, 2011 meetings.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake Second: Pete Downs
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, McIntyre, Merrill, Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ledbetter, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt

Chairperson Andrew asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 23, 2011.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2011 meeting.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Ben Drake Second: Kevin Andrew
In Favor: Andrew, DiBudo, Drake, House, Irelan, Johnson, Mounts, Roche, Snyder,
 Stewart-Leslie, Stone-Smith, Whitmer
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Al-Khatib, Cranney, Hudson

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Wynn reported on behalf of the Nomination Committee. The following members were nominated as new officers for 2012: Steve McIntyre as Chairperson, Jim Ledbetter as Vice Chairperson, and Drew Johnson as Treasurer.

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend that Steve McIntyre be appointed Chairperson, Jim Ledbetter be appointed Vice Chairperson, and Drew Johnson be appointed Treasurer.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Kevin Andrew Second: Greg Coleman
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, McIntyre, Merrill,
 Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ledbetter, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt

After the election, Bob presented Dennis Atkinson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his leadership and invaluable service as the Board Chair. Dennis offered to preside as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board and Task Force was set for Monday, April 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at CDFA headquarters in Sacramento, or the CDFA Gateway Oaks location (to be determined).

PD/GWSS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Bob Wynn reported on the vacant Board position previously held by Brad Lange. A notice was sent out in December to solicit nominations for the position, which is for a producer in the North Valley region. No nominations have been received to date. Additional outreach efforts will be made to solicit nominations for the position.

BUDGET & FISCAL UPDATE

Bob Wynn started the discussion with an update on the budget situation facing the Department. In fiscal year 2011-12, the Department took a \$19 million reduction, a portion of which was accomplished by administering new fees. A handout was distributed outlining the Department's efforts to reduce the reliance on State General Funds by \$12 million during the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2012. A major proposed reduction in the Department's budget is a decrease in General Funds for operations at Border Protection Stations by \$4,382,000. This will be accomplished through personnel reductions and other methods based on a risk assessment of each station.

Beth Stone-Smith reported on federal funding for the Program. Due to the reduced federal budget in FY 2012 and CDFA's budget reductions, \$3.2 million was moved to the CDFA Cooperative Agreement prior to the end of federal FY 2011. Beth reported that the Texas Pierce's Disease Research Program had been eliminated from the federal budget.

Roger Spencer then gave the financial report for the PDCP and the revenues and expenditures report for the PD/GWSS Board. He thanked the fiscal subcommittee and the agricultural commissioners for their assistance in determining where reductions could be made. There is still about \$3.1 million in reserve in the Pierce's Disease Management account that came from the General Fund. Half of that can be used if needed for program activities, but the other half must be kept in reserve to cover program shut-down costs should that ever occur. Roger reported significant PDCP personnel reductions, with the elimination of four full-time permanent positions and seven part-time positions. The PDCP will be consolidating services wherever possible.

Secretary Karen Ross talked about the Department's budget situation and its 30% reduction in General Fund support. The vast majority of the cuts have been in the Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services. CDFA will continue to look for ways to trim expenses. Secretary Ross announced an initiative with the Agricultural Commissioners' High Risk Pest Exclusion Advisory Committee to reexamine and address high risk pest pathways.

WALKER GRAPEVINE ROOTSTOCK BREEDING PROJECT

Tom Esser provided an update on Dr. Andy Walker's Grapevine Rootstock Breeding Project. This project was originally introduced by Hal Huffsmith at an earlier meeting. Tom said that the Walker Rootstock Breeding Advisory Board met on December 7, 2011 and was updated on Andy Walker's laboratory activities and sources of support. However, a multiyear comprehensive scope of work and financial plan are not yet available. During the meeting Hal mentioned that he may request the Board consider designating ring nematode as a serious pest of winegrapes, which would allow the Board to fund Dr. Walker's rootstock work on that pest. After discussion, the Board requested that Tom contact Hal to see if he is going to be requesting that ring nematode be designated as a serious pest of winegrapes.

LANDSCAPE HOSTS OF *Xf* AND GWSS

Tom Esser also gave an update on the effort to identify and determine alternate hosts and sources of *Xylella fastidiosa* and the glassy-winged sharpshooter. This was triggered by a research proposal submitted last year by Dr. Matt Daugherty and Dr. Rick Redak to identify vineyard ornamentals that contribute to Pierce's disease spread. The proposal was not funded because it was felt the information was already available. Tom provided the Board and Task Force with two draft reports which summarized the available information on known host plants of *Xylella fastidiosa* and GWSS. Nancy Irelan reported on her discussions with RSAP members regarding the list of reported host plants. She said the RSAP would like to look at how risk is assigned and defined. Ben Drake proposed looking at the project with three criteria in mind: 1) Whether the insect would feed and oviposit on the plant, 2) Whether the plant would harbor *Xylella fastidiosa*, and 3) Whether it would be easy to transmit *Xylella fastidiosa* from the plant to grapevines. A joint committee coordinated by Tom Esser was established to work further on this.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS UPDATE

Dr. Deborah Golino from the UC Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology (UGMVE) program discussed the progress being made in moving the Board's annual research proposal submission process onto the UGMVE website. She said the scientific review panels will meet in March to review the submitted proposals.

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

Tom Esser reported that approximately 100 people attended the 2011 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium, held in mid-December at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. Overall there was a good mix of oral presentations and posters, offering opportunities for people to share progress and ideas with each other.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) UPDATE

Tom Esser reported that the contractors are currently preparing the fourth draft of the risk assessment for the EIR. When it is completed, it will be sent to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for their review. An earlier draft of the risk assessment was reviewed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR PROGRAM REPORT

Research Director Nancy Ireland discussed her recent activities. She talked about the UC / Chilean Research Collaboration and commercialization of research deliverables, and introduced the concept of a seed grant program to help researchers develop preliminary information that will assist them with pursuing larger-scale research projects. She reported that collaboration with researchers in Chile has greatly increased the rate of tissue culture generation and suggested that the Board explore the concept of contracting with a facilitator to pursue deregulation of successful new technologies.

ONE-YEAR EXTENSION TO RESEARCH DIRECTOR CONTRACT

Tom Esser reported that the research director contract was currently scheduled to end June 30, 2012. The contract included an option to extend it for an additional year, at a cost of \$156,652. Tom asked the Board if they would like to exercise that option.

After discussion, the Board voted and passed the following motion:

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend that the Department request a one-year extension to the research director contract.

Details of Board Vote

Motion:	Greg Coleman	Second:	Pete Downs
In Favor:	Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, McIntyre, Merrill, Wolf		
Against:	None		
Abstain:	None		
Absent:	Ledbetter, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt		

OUTREACH & EDUCATION UPDATE

Craig Hanes reported that the existing Outreach and Education contract with Brown Miller Communications will expire on April 20, 2012, and everything is on schedule to have a new contract in place by May 1, 2012. Next, Ken Freeze of Brown Miller Communications discussed European grapevine moth (EGVM) outreach activities. Last year a concern was voiced that home winemakers might be unknowingly spreading EGVM. As a result, 14,000 fliers were developed and distributed to educate the home winemaking community. Brown Miller Communications attended four trade shows in the fall where they showed videos of the current PD/GWSS grapevine field trials, generating a lot of interest from attendees. Ken also reported that two members of the wine media attended the 2011 PD Research Symposium, resulting in three articles being published. He is currently working on the grower survey which is mailed out every two years.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided updates on the area-wide programs in Riverside, Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and Madera counties. She said that in Temecula, nine GWSS have been trapped in 2012. Last year 762 acres were treated in Temecula. Beth reported that since there is no longer funding for the Coachella Valley trapping program, GWSS populations in Coachella will be monitored using Citrus Research Board data collected from the yellow panel traps deployed in citrus for Asian citrus psyllid. The Table Grape Commission has expressed interest in the continued treatment in this area and has agreed to pay for a treatment coordinator. Approximately 1,600 acres of citrus were treated in the Coachella Valley last year. In Kern County, 12,538 GWSS have been trapped this year. Beth attributed this spike to delayed spring treatments due to rain during the last two years. This year the goal is to apply treatments prior to April 15th. The Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape and Pest Disease Control District is exploring doing windbreak tree-injection treatments to help reduce the GWSS pest population in the General Beale area. In Tulare County, 28 GWSS have been trapped this year. Last year in Tulare, 2,572 GWSS were trapped and approximately 9,000 acres of citrus received a fall foliar treatment. In Fresno County, approximately 500 acres of citrus were treated in 2011 and there have been zero area-wide trap finds so far in 2012. In Madera County, no GWSS have been trapped year to date.

EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith delivered an overview of the EGVM program. During 2011, just over 160 moths were trapped, compared to over 100,000 trapped in 2010. The EGVM Technical Working Group convened in December and recommended four counties for deregulation (Fresno, Mendocino, Merced, and San Joaquin). Also recommended was a reduction of the EGVM quarantine buffer area from five to three miles.

These recommendations will not be finalized until February. Roger Spencer presented a letter addressed to the Board, written by Chuck Morse, Interim Agricultural Commissioner of Mendocino County. This letter highlighted the success of the Outreach Coordinator in Mendocino County and expressed gratitude to the Board for funding the EGVM Coordinator positions. Lisa Correia, Sonoma County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, reported on the EGVM Outreach Coordinator activities in Sonoma County and requested the Board support similar assistance in the coming year.

After discussion, the Board voted and passed the following motion:

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend renewing the contract for the European Grapevine Moth Outreach Coordinator for Sonoma County. The total amount of the contract is \$48,000 for calendar year 2012.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Greg Coleman Second: Ben Drake
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, McIntyre, Merrill, Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ledbetter, Rossini, Schafer, Schmidt

PIPRA UPDATE AND FIELD TRIALS UPDATE

Mark Szczerba, Research Scientist with PIPRA (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture), provided an update on the field trials in Solano and Riverside counties. Mark reported that the wild-type plants at the Riverside site are showing signs of PD. In Solano County, the initial inoculation was too low, therefore a stronger inoculation and possibly multiple inoculations are scheduled for 2012.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Nursery: Greg Morris presented an update on the Nursery Regulatory Program and the Approved Treatment Program (ATP). For the regulatory program in 2011, there were approximately 44,500 nursery stock shipments with only four rejections. This is the lowest rejection rate since the inception of the program. Also in 2011, there were 8,986 ATP shipments with over 2.8 million plants shipped. Greg reported that there are seven nurseries currently in the ATP, and that Norman's Nursery in Ventura County would be bringing on two yards; one in Fillmore and one in Piru. It is anticipated they will begin shipping under the ATP sometime in February. Greg also reported that the 2011 ATP Annual Review Report is being drafted and will be presented to the CACASA GWSS Advisory Group and Nursery Subcommittee upon its completion. Corky Roche and Dave Whitmer thanked all of those involved with the Nursery Subcommittee and highlighted the progress the group has made. Bob Wynn announced that Greg will be retiring on April 1, 2012. Bob thanked Greg for over 38 years of service at CDFA.

Rapid Response: Craig Hanes discussed the urban rapid response GWSS treatments conducted in 2011 in Fresno, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, and Tulare counties. In Fresno County, 5,437 properties were treated; 102 properties in Madera County; 114 properties in San Luis Obispo County; 16 properties in Santa Clara County; and 81 properties in Tulare County. In Santa Clara County, only one GWSS was detected in 2011.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

Bob Wynn announced that CDFA is developing video conferencing capability for meetings held at its headquarters location in Sacramento and its satellite office at Gateway Oaks. Bob will invite the Department's Information Officer to the next meeting to give an update on the status of video conferencing at CDFA. Dana Merrill requested that reminders be sent out to the Board members when their respective terms are ending.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Monday, January 30, 2012 by

Stacie Oswald, Senior Agricultural Biologist
Pierce's Disease Control Program
Department of Food and Agriculture