

**California Department of Food & Agriculture**

**Minutes**

of the Joint Meeting / Conference Call  
of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board  
and the Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on Monday, April 29, 2013

CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility Room 267 at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA

**PD/GWSS BOARD**

Members Present: Pam Bond, Greg Coleman, Nat DiBduo, Ben Drake\*, David House\*, Drew Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Dana Merrill, Al Rossini

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Dennis Atkinson, Bill Hammond, Steve McIntyre, Steve Schafer, Marilyn Wolf

**PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Jim Cranney, Nat DiBduo, Ben Drake\*, David House\*, Scott Hudson, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson, Richard Mounts\*, John Snyder, Beth Stone-Smith, Judy Zaninovich

Members Absent: Kassim Al-Khatib, Kevin Andrew, Corky Roche, David Whitmer

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

John Aguirre, Alex Camacho, Cecilia Chi-Ham, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Deborah Golino, Kapua Kahumoku, Paul Kronenberg, Mike Miller, Stacie Oswalt, Nicholas Podsakoff, Raj Randhawa, Ted Reiger, Karen Ross, Michael Sipiora, Roger Spencer, Myrna Villegas, Alan Wei, Bob Wynn

\*Denotes attendance via conference call

-----  
**CALL TO ORDER**

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Drew Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Wynn, CDFA Statewide Coordinator, 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. Drew Johnson then asked for introductions of other attendees and guests.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross welcomed all the members and public attendees. She spoke briefly about her recent trip to China.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Chairperson Drew Johnson asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 28, 2013.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2013 meeting.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Jim Ledbetter                      Second: Al Rossini  
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, DiBuduo, Drake\*, House\*, Johnson, Ledbetter, Rossini,  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, Hammond, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Wolf

Board Chairperson Drew Johnson (in Task Force Chairperson Kevin Andrew's absence) asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 28, 2013.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2013 meeting.

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Ben Drake                      Second: Scott Hudson  
In Favor: DiBuduo, Drake\*, House\*, Hudson, Irelan, Johnson, Mounts\*, Snyder,  
Stone-Smith, Whitmer, Zaninovich  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Al-Khatib, Andrew, Cranney, Roche, Whitmer

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Board and Task Force meeting was set for Friday, June 21, 2013, in Sacramento and will begin at 10:00 am. It will be held at the CDFA Gateway Oaks Facility located at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive in Sacramento.

**PD/GWSS BOARD AND CONTROL PROGRAM STATUTE SUNSET**

Board Chairperson Drew Johnson began the discussion of this topic by saying that the law authorizing the PD/GWSS Board and winegrape assessment is currently scheduled to sunset on March 1, 2016 and then deferred to Bob Wynn and Paul Kronenberg, President of Family Winemakers of California. Paul Kronenberg of Family Winemakers then talked about the timeline for introducing a bill to extend the sunset date and conduct a grower vote to affirm the extension.

**FISCAL UPDATE**

Statewide Coordinator Bob Wynn reported briefly regarding the federal sequestration and how it has affected the Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP). He said that the continuing resolution, which goes through the end of the year, means that the PDCP received the same allocation of federal funds as last year, minus the sequestration reduction. The reduction will amount to 7.8% overall. He said that we should know the final fiscal amounts by the next meeting.

USDA Acting Assistant State Plant Health Director Beth Stone-Smith reported briefly on the federal funding for the Program. She noted that area-wide program funding is now included with the overall funding provided to PCDP.

PDCP Branch Chief Roger Spencer provided the fiscal reports for the PDCP and the Board. He went over PDCP revenue and expenditures from fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13 along with projected total expenses. He also reviewed the current Board budget and projected spending.

## **OTHER DESIGNATED PESTS AND DISEASES OF WINEGRAPES – RED BLOTCH**

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Winegrape Pest and Disease Designation Committee, reported that the Committee had recently met twice to consider designating Red Blotch as a serious disease of California winegrapes. The Committee did not have a recommendation to present because a quorum was not present at the meetings, but the level of interest in bringing it to the Board was high. Roger Spencer then reviewed the scoring results, reporting that Red Blotch scored 11 out of 13 points on the designation checklist. During the discussion that followed, questions came up about CDFA's pest and disease rating for Red Blotch, what would be needed to get it rated if it isn't, and how quickly could Red Blotch research proposals be called for and reviewed. After discussion, the Board decided to defer voting on whether or not to recommend Red Botch as a designated disease of winegrapes until the next meeting, when recent research funding decisions of other organizations would be known.

## **RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Research Screening Committee Chairperson Steve McIntyre first thanked everyone who worked on the recent PD/GWSS research RFP process. He said there were seven proposals submitted and reviewed this year. The Committee recommended that five of them be funded, with two being partially funded.

The Board reviewed the recommendations submitted by the Committee and voted to accept the recommendation to fund five proposals totaling \$620,685 over the next two years.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend funding five research proposals.

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

Motion: Jim Ledbetter      Second: Greg Coleman  
In Favor: Bond, Coleman, DiBuduo, House\*, Johnson, Ledbetter, Rossini  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, Hammond, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Wolf

## **RESEARCH DIRECTOR REPORT**

Research Director Nancy Irelan discussed her recent activities, which included working with PIPRA, the Grapevine Field Trial Trait Evaluation Committee, the RSAP, and the review panels and screening committee for the recent PD/GWSS RFP process. Nancy offered to ask David Tricoli from the UC Davis Plant Transformation Facility to give a presentation at the next meeting about his grape tissue culture and transformation platform project, and was requested to do so.

## **PIPRA UPDATE AND NEW PIPRA CONTRACT**

Cecilia Chi-Ham from PIPRA (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture) reported on their recent activities, including monitoring the grapevine field trials, maintaining the website, and working on intellectual property issues. During her talk she presented the recommendations of the Grapevine Field Trail Trait Evaluation Committee, which included adjustments to the current conduct of the trials and suggestions to recruit and involve additional expertise.

## **OUTREACH & EDUCATION UPDATE**

Ken Freeze of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on their recent outreach and education activities. This included a video by Dr. Elaine Backus, an entomologist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service's San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Science Center in Parlier. She is learning how glassy-winged sharpshooters transfer Pierce's disease causing bacteria to

grapevines. This research may lead to important information for developing a defense against the disease.

**AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW & UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided updates on the area-wide programs in Fresno, Kern, Madera, Riverside, and Tulare counties. She also gave an update on the status of the treatment coordinators which had to go out for bid for a few of the areas.

**PDCP STAFF REPORTS**

**Nursery:** Stacie Oswald reported that from January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013, there were 12,754 nursery stock shipments from the GWSS generally-infested areas to non-infested areas of the state. This is up slightly (525 shipments) from the same time period last year. One regulatory action has been taken this year by a destination (receiving) county for a shipment that contained a viable GWSS life stage, compared to two regulatory actions taken last year. She also reported that from January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013, there were 2,716 Approved Treatment Program (ATP) shipments consisting of 657,122 plants. No viable GWSS life stages were found in any of the shipments. ATP shipments are slightly up from last year (87 shipments), while the total number of plants shipped is down by 48,309. Regarding the Nursery Treatment Contracts, Stacie reported that nurseries meeting the criteria for receiving a spring treatment will be contacted soon and treatments will take place between May and June.

**Rapid Response:** Sean Veling reported on recent GWSS rapid response activities. In Santa Clara County there have been no GWSS finds in the Capitol area of San Jose since November 2012. In San Luis Obispo County there have been no finds in the San Luis Obispo infested area since August 31, 2012. In Fresno County the PDCP continues to work closely with the County Agriculture Department to control urban and rural residential GWSS populations. So far this year, 1,015 properties have been treated by either the County Agriculture Department or a contracted pest control company.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126**

N/A

**RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

N/A

**OTHER ITEMS**

N/A

**CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Al Rossini was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jim Ledbetter. The meeting was then adjourned by Board Chairperson Drew Johnson at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 by

Kapua Kahumoku, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Pierce's Disease Control Program  
Department of Food and Agriculture