

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force
Held on Monday, January 26, 2009
CDFA Auditorium, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Dennis Atkinson, Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake, Drew Johnson, Bradford Lange, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Dana Merrill, Steve Schafer, Herb Schmidt, Marilyn Wolf

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Al Rossini

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: George Bruening, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, Davis House, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson, Steve Nation, Corky Roche, John Snyder, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, David Whitmer

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Scott Hudson, Joe MacIrvine, Richard Mounts, Robert Wample, Craig Weaver, David Wineman

OTHER ATTENDEES

Alan Bennett, Cecilia Chi-Ham, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Craig Hanes, Sue Ichiho, Kyle Jensen, Camron King, Eric Lauritzen, Pam Marrone, Greg Morris, Stacie Oswald, Gabriel Paulino, Tasha Rassuli, Ted Rieger, Roger Spencer, Greg Van Wassenhove, Sean Veling, Myrna Villegas, Eric Wylde, Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Herb Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (ATF). A quorum was present for both the Board and the ATF. Ben Drake served as Acting Chair in Kevin Andrew's absence. Herb introduced Will Brown, CDFAs new Undersecretary. Later in the meeting, Camron King with the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), Mike Falasco with the Wine Institute, and Agricultural Commissioners Eric Lauritzen (Monterey) and Greg Van Wassenhove (Santa Clara) were introduced.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Herb Schmidt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bob Wynn spoke briefly about the legislative sunset date of March 2011, and SB 2 which was introduced by Senator Wiggins to extend the sunset another five years. He also talked about a comprehensive program review which he, Beth Stone-Smith, and Nancy Irelan had recently presented to the Wine Institute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board and ATF to approve the minutes from the October 29-30, 2008 meeting.

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, and Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Rossini

Details of ATF Vote

In Favor: George Bruening, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, Davis House, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson, Steve Nation, Corky Roche, John Snyder, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, David Whitmer
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Batkin, Bezark, Hudson, MacIrvine, Mounts, Wample, Weaver, and Wineman

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Wynn reported for the Committee. He said the Committee nominated Al Rossini for Chairperson, Greg Coleman for Vice Chairperson, and Dennis Atkinson for Treasurer.

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend that Al Rossini be appointed Chairperson, Greg Coleman be appointed Vice Chairperson, and Dennis Atkinson be appointed Treasurer.

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, and Wolf
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Rossini

NEXT MEETING

The next joint Board and ATF meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2009, in Napa, California.

FISCAL UPDATE

Bob Wynn discussed the current situation with the state budget and how it was affecting CDFA and the PDCP. Sue Ichiho then presented the fiscal updates for the PDCP and the Board, followed by Beth Stone-Smith, who gave the update for the USDA.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY GWSS INFESTATION UPDATE AND RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM UPDATE

County Supervising Biologist Eric Wylde discussed the five GWSS infestations found in Santa Clara County over the past eight years and the eradication efforts conducted against them. Agricultural Commissioner Greg Van Wassenhove then discussed the concerns associated with the infestations, and the desirability of having better detection capability. A general discussion about detection technology and research followed. Craig Hanes then gave an overview of rapid response activities.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR REPORT

Nancy Irelan reported on her recent activities as Research Director. This included helping plan and participating in the PD Research Symposium, participating in the presentation to the Wine

Institute, and working on developing a standardized regulatory framework for research projects. She has also been working with PIPRA in support of the regulatory work, and with the RSAP on issues such as recruitment and rotation of panel members.

BIOPESTICIDES AS EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR IPM PROGRAMS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR CONTROLLING EXOTIC PESTS

Pam Marrone, Founder/CEO of Marrone Organic Innovations, Inc., addressed the Board about her experiences with development of biopesticides and also about the regulatory registration process.

PIPRA UPDATE

Alan Bennett gave an update on PIPRA's PD/GWSS activities. He discussed the three objectives they are working on: developing and recommending an Intellectual Property (IP) policy, developing a regulatory strategy for high-potential projects, and research management tools they have been developing on their website piercesdisease.org.

NURSERY UPDATE AND APPROVED NURSERY TREATMENT PROGRAM

David House, Chair of the GWSS Nursery Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, provided an update on the activities of the subcommittee. This included reviewing the approved treatment program (ATP) and how CDFA monitored and implemented the new program with the county agriculture departments, and looking at improving the protocol and reducing costs to administer the program. He said the subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 12 in Irvine. At that time, the subcommittee will review the 12-month results of the ATP.

Greg Morris reported on the nursery regulatory program. He said that in 2008 there were 62,597 shipments and 37 rejections, yielding a success rate of 99.94%. In 2007, there were 73,100 shipments and 46 rejections, yielding a very similar compliance rate.

Greg next discussed the six-month review of the ATP, covering topics such as shipments, treatment, training, trapping, documentation, pesticide residue testing, workload, and adjustments to the protocol.

Greg also reported that we are in the process of evaluating more pesticides for use in the ATP. The work would be done by Dr. Rick Redak, who did the earlier study leading to identification of the two materials (carbaryl and fenprothrin) currently used in the ATP.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Craig Hanes reported that the PD/GWSS Outreach Advisory Subcommittee met on January 16. One of the key topics was the presentation made recently to the Wine Institute, and how it would be good to make similar presentations to other groups. Brown-Miller plans to create a four-page brochure to hand out at the presentations. He said the PDCP continues to work with Brown-Miller on e-blasts, newsletters and reports.

Ken Freeze introduced Tasha Rassuli, the newest staff member of Brown-Miller. He reported that staff from Brown-Miller had attended many events since the last joint Board-ATF meeting, including the Napa Viticulture Fair, Lodi Grape Expo, Monterey Sustainable Ag Expo, Central Valley Grape and Raisin Expo, Central Coast Grape Expo, San Joaquin Valley Winegrape Agr-Business Summit, and in the Wine Country Alliance meeting in Paso Robles. The fall newsletter had gone out after the October meeting, and monthly e-blasts continue to be sent out. He said a grower survey would be mailed out this week.

CONTRACT FOR BROWN-MILLER COMMUNICATIONS

Roger Spencer reported that the outreach contract with Brown-Miller Communications will expire on April 20, 2009. The contract includes an option to renew it for one year. The contract amount is \$198,000. Action is needed from the Board to continue the contract. PDCP would like to recommend continuing the contract and adding about \$20,000 to cover costs to plan and conduct additional grower outreach presentations and design and print a brochure to be handed out at the presentations.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend to the Secretary that the contract with Brown-Miller Communications for public outreach and education activities be renewed for another year, and \$20,000 be added to the contract amount for planning and conducting grower outreach presentations and designing and printing a brochure to be handed out at the presentations. The total amount of the contract for FY 2009-10 would be \$218,170.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, and Wolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andrew, Rossini

BULK GRAPE REGULATIONS

Roger Spencer discussed the bulk grape program and regulations. He said the program was conducted for five shipping seasons, starting in the year 2000. No GWSS were found in any bulk grape shipments during that time, so it was decided to discontinue the program. However, the regulations are still on the books, and the PDCP would appreciate input from the ATF on retaining or repealing the regulations. Discussion followed.

AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith gave an update on the areawide programs. She discussed past and current trapping and treatment in Temecula, the Coachella Valley, and Fresno, Kern, and Tulare counties.

PIERCE'S DISEASE SYMPOSIUM

Tom Esser stated that the Eighth Annual PD Research Symposium was held in San Diego on December 15-17, 2008, at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel. Tom thanked the Board for paying the printing costs for the proceedings, all those who helped with the planning and conduct of the meeting, and all those who attended.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 pm.