

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 Thursday, June 23, 2011
CDFA Auditorium at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Kevin Andrew*, Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake*, Drew Johnson*, Jim Ledbetter*, Steve McIntyre*, Dana Merrill*, Al Rossini, Steve Schafer*, Herb Schmidt*, Marilyn Wolf

Members Absent: Dennis Atkinson, David House, Brad Lange

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Kassim Al-Khatib*, Kevin Andrew*, Jim Cranney, Nat DiBuduo*, Ben Drake*, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson*, John Snyder*, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith

Members Absent: David House, Scott Hudson, Richard Mounts, Corky Roche, David Whitmer

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Aguirre, Alan Bennett, Lisa Correia, Michelle Dennis, Cecilia Chi-Ham, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Craig Hanes, Jan Leach*, Janet LeMasters, Greg Morris, Chuck Morse*, Stacie Oswald, Tom Schaffer*, Roger Spencer, Mark Szczerba, Jay Van Rein, Sean Veling, Maya Walker, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Acting Chairperson Greg Coleman called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.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. Bob then asked for introductions of other attendees and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Bob Wynn noted new appointments made by Governor Brown and Secretary Ross to the Department. Sandra Schubert is the new Undersecretary and Jim Houston the new Deputy Secretary for Legislation and Public Engagement. Bob also mentioned that Dan Webb, former Deputy Secretary of Legislation at CDFa, passed away on Saturday, June 18 after a lengthy illness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acting Chairperson Greg Coleman asked the Board for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 25, 2011.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 25, 2011.

Details of Board Vote

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

Greg Coleman next asked the Task Force for a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings held on January 24 and April 25, 2011.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Task Force to approve the minutes from meetings held on January 24 and April 25, 2011.

Details of Task Force Vote

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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board and Task Force was set for Wednesday, November 9, 2011, in Sacramento, and will begin at 10:00 am. It will be held either at CDFA headquarters at 1220 N Street, or at the PDCP's new office location at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive.

BOARD & ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Bob Wynn reported that Task Force member Joe MacIrvine, representing the almond industry, had resigned in March, and Board member Brad Lange will be resigning effective June 30.

PDCP FISCAL UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith reported on federal funding for the program. She said the allocation for federal fiscal year 2011 was \$22.937 million. For federal FY 2012, she anticipated the allocation would be \$20 million.

Roger Spencer provided financial updates for the PDCP and the PD/GWSS Board. He reported that for FY 2010-11, the expected revenues for the PDCP were \$19.8 million and the projected expenditures were \$18.3 million. For the PD/GWSS Board, the expected revenues were \$1.9 million and the projected expenditures were \$2.8 million.

Bob Wynn reported that the PDCP would face a reduction of \$1.117 million in state general fund support effective July 1, leaving it with \$3.07 million. He also said it's possible that all state general fund support for the PDCP could be eliminated.

REPORT BY SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING ON FISCAL ISSUES (SSPFI)

Roger Spencer first described the process followed by the SSPFI for developing a list of options for reducing costs or obtaining alternative funding in the event the PDCP experienced reduced revenues. He then reviewed the recommendations developed by the Subcommittee.

PD/GWSS BOARD BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12

- The Board decided to withhold recommending a budget for FY 2011-12 until the funding situation for the PDCP in FY 2011-12 was determined.
- The Board voted to recommend that the assessment rate for grapes harvested and crushed in 2011 be set at 75 cents per \$1,000 of value.
- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to recommend to the Secretary that the assessment rate for the 2011 harvest be \$0.75 (75 cents) per \$1,000 of value for winegrapes harvested and crushed in 2011.

Details of Board Vote

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

- Nancy Irelan informed the Board that the Rootstock Research Proposal submitted by Dr. Andrew Walker from UC Davis had been withdrawn.
- Tom Esser described the review process undertaken for an applied research proposal submitted by Drs. Daugherty and Redak at UC Riverside. The proposal involved determining the risk posed by common landscape plants of serving as sources of Pierce's disease to vineyards planted nearby. Tom reported that it was decided to not recommend funding the proposal, but instead ask PDCP staff to summarize what is already known about this topic.
- Kassim Al-Khatib talked about establishing a contract between CDFA and UC Davis to enable the University to assist CDFA with the RFP process. In prior years, UCD and CDFA issued a joint RFP for PD/GWSS research proposals, and then worked together on the review process. With the loss of federal funding for the UC-PD Research Grants Program, UCD's involvement in the RFP process will be coming to an end. After discussion, the PDCP was asked to contact Deborah Golino of the Unified Grant Program.
- Nancy Irelan discussed establishing an international consortium on grape plant transformation. The Board requested that she continue investigating this possibility.

PROTOCOL FOR OTHER DESIGNATED PESTS & DISEASES OF WINEGRAPES

Roger Spencer pointed out that one of the findings that must be made when designating a pest or disease is that expenditures on it would not, to a substantial degree, diminish expenditures on PD/GWSS. He said that due diligence will be exercised to ensure this requirement is properly considered when evaluating future designation requests.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC PESTS TO BE DESIGNATED

Roger Spencer reported that no new requests had been received to designate another pest or disease of winegrapes.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR UPDATE

Research Director Nancy Ireland reported on her activities. This included working on the Rootstock Research Proposal by Dr. Andrew Walker and the international consortium on grape plant transformation, working with PIPRA on the progress of the field trials, developing modified language for the annual PD/GWSS RFP, and commercialization of research deliverables and tools. She also reported that the RSAP has three new members, and she will be looking for two more to replace members who will soon be rotating off.

NEW PIPRA CONTRACT & UPDATE

Cecilia Chi-Ham from PIPRA (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture) provided a brief review of their activities since they began working with the Board back in 2005. She indicated they will be submitting a proposal soon to continue assisting the Board with research, development, and intellectual property issues. The budget for the new proposal is estimated to total about \$200,000 over two years.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CONTRACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-13

Craig Hanes reported that the current contract with Brown-Miller Communications to conduct outreach and education activities will expire in April 2012, and suggested this would be a good time to begin work on the RFP process for a FY 2012-13 contract. After discussion, the Board asked the PDCP to start work on a new RFP for an outreach and education contract lasting two years, and with the possibility of a one year extension.

Lisa Correia, Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner, described to the Board and Task Force the benefits that have been realized from the Board-funded European grapevine moth (EGVM) outreach coordinator in Sonoma County. She said this position has become a valuable resource and that grower response has been very positive.

Chuck Morse of Mendocino County also reported very positively on the benefits and contributions of the Board-funded EGVM outreach coordinator in his county. He said it has been very helpful at keeping growers and the community informed and up-to-date.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION UPDATE

Ken Freeze of Brown-Miller Communications provided an update on their outreach and education activities. This included attendance at meetings, preparation and mailing of newsletters and brochures, and publishing of articles.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW & UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith reported on recent trapping and treatment activities in the area-wide programs in Riverside, Kern, Tulare, and Fresno counties. In Temecula, 139 GWSS have been trapped this year and 750 acres treated with imidacloprid. In Coachella, 70 GWSS were trapped and 1,600 acres treated so far. In Kern County, 6,696 GWSS were trapped on the east side. The General Beale area is still a problem, while the Highway 65 area has had very little activity. The Western Zone has been quiet. In Tulare County, 180 GWSS have been trapped to date; a full foliar treatment is scheduled for the fall. In Fresno, there were only two finds in grapes, one in May and one in June, that were probably spill-overs from the urban area. They are ready to do treatments if needed.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Nursery: Greg Morris provided an update on the Nursery Regulatory Program and the Approved Treatment Program (ATP). From January through May there were 22,343 nursery stock shipments, with only two regulatory actions necessary. In the ATP, there were 4,309 shipments consisting of 1,456,220 plants, with no viable stages of GWSS found.

Rapid Response: Craig Hanes reported on GWSS rapid response activities. In San Luis Obispo County, seven adult GWSS and three nymphs were trapped last year. This spring, a total of 90 properties were treated with imidacloprid. Since then, no additional GWSS have been found. In Madera County, one adult GWSS was found on June 15 in a trap outside the infested area in the City of Madera. Additional traps have been deployed and visual surveys are scheduled. Today, another suspect GWSS was trapped in Madera County outside of the known infested area. A delimitation survey will be conducted if it is confirmed to be GWSS.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

Bob Wynn presented Greg Coleman with a Certificate of Appreciation for his invaluable service to the PD/GWSS Board as Chair for 2010.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Pete Downs was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting then adjourned by Acting Chairperson Greg Coleman at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 by

Janet LeMasters, Administrative Assistant
Pierce's Disease Control Program
Department of Food and Agriculture