

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 25, 2010
CDFA Auditorium at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Kevin Andrew*, Dennis Atkinson, Greg Coleman, Ben Drake, David House*, Drew Johnson*, Brad Lange, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Dana Merrill, Al Rossini, Herb Schmidt, Steve Schafer

Members Absent: Pete Downs, Marilyn Wolf

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Kevin Andrew*, Ted Batkin*, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, David House*, Scott Hudson, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson*, Steve Nation*, Corky Roche, John Snyder*, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, Craig Weaver, David Whitmer

Members Absent: Larry Bezark, George Bruening, Joe MacIrvine, Richard Mounts, Robert Wample, David Wineman

OTHER ATTENDEES

Cecilia Chi-Ham, Kathy Diaz, Robert Dolezal, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Craig Hanes, Sue Ichiho, Secretary A.G. Kawamura, Eric Lauritzen, Janet LeMasters, Mike Miller, David Morgan, Greg Morris, Gabriel Paulino, David Pegos, Stacie Oswalt, Tasha Rassuli, Ted Rieger, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Al Rossini and Acting PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Ben Drake called the meeting to order at 1:08 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairpersons Al Rossini and Ben Drake welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Al Rossini thanked both the Board and Task Force for all their hard work this past year. USDA-GWSS Program Director Beth Stone-Smith presented Bob Wynn with a letter of appreciation signed by APHIS-PPQ Deputy Administrator Rebecca Bech recognizing Bob at his retirement for all his work on the Pierce's disease and glassy-winged sharpshooter programs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairpersons Al Rossini and Ben Drake asked the Board and Task Force members to review and vote to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 29, 2009.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board and Task Force to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2009 meeting.

Details of Board Vote

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

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Scott Hudson
Second: David Whitmer
In Favor: Andrew, Batkin, Drake, DiBuduo, House, Hudson, Irean, Johnson, Nation, Roche, Snyder, Stewart-Leslie, Stone-Smith, Weaver, Whitmer
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Bezark, Bruening, MacIvaine, Mounts, Wample, Wineman

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Wynn reported on behalf of the Nomination Committee. The following members were nominated to be considered as new officers for 2010: Greg Coleman as Chairperson, Dennis Atkinson as Vice Chairperson, and Steve McIntyre as Treasurer.

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

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

Details of Board Vote

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

After the election, Al Rossini turned the meeting over to Greg Coleman. Bob Wynn presented Al with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service. Al noted that it had been a tremendous honor to serve on the Board and work with such an outstanding group of people on both the Board and Task Force.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board and Task Force was set for Monday, April 19, 2010, at CDFA headquarters in Sacramento, and will begin at 1:00 pm.

FISCAL UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith reported on federal funding for the program and the request for FYs 2009 and 2010. The program request totaled \$19,679,324. Excess carryover money will be used to help backfill the program for this FY. Under the request detail, she noted a new line item for Fresno County for \$450,000. Sue Ichiho then gave the financial report for the PDCP and the revenues and expenditures report for the PD/GWSS Board.

REMARKS FROM THE SECRETARY

CDFA Secretary A.G. Kawamura stopped by to address the Board and Task Force. He recognized the members for their hard work and dedication at combating PD and GWSS, talked about various meetings he had recently attended in California and throughout the US, and stressed the importance of pest prevention.

WINEGRAPE PRODUCER REFERENDUM

Kathy Diaz with the CDFA Marketing Branch reported on preparations for the upcoming referendum vote on the PD/GWSS winegrape assessment. She said they are currently putting together the list of eligible voters. Under the present timeline, ballots will be mailed out around March 29. The target date for announcing the results of the vote is June 15, 2010. Ballots will be sent to all grower entities, so if someone represents multiple entities, they will receive (and should vote) multiple ballots. It was suggested that an advisory letter be sent by the Department to all grower entities advising them about the upcoming referendum, the possibility of receiving multiple ballots, and the opportunity to designate a preferred mailing address for ballots.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend that an advisory letter be sent to growers about the referendum, multiple ballots, and the opportunity to designate a preferred mailing address.

Details of Board Vote

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

A Board committee consisting of Greg Coleman, Jim Ledbetter, Dana Merrill, and Steve Schafer as well as representatives of winegrape associations was established to work on the letter. A question was asked about allowing observers to witness counting of the ballots. Kathy said this would be allowable.

PIPRA UPDATE AND FUNDING OF FIELD TRIALS

Research Director Nancy Ireland provided a brief review of the work that PIPRA (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture) had been doing to facilitate field testing of promising new plant materials. Cecelia Chi-Ham (PIPRA) then gave an update on the status of the field trial proposals and preparations. She reviewed the budget for the trials, which totaled \$285,000 over three years.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to allocate \$290,000 for three years to cover the costs of propagation, research, and field activities at the University of California (UC) Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC Riverside to field-test newly-developed plant materials.

Details of Board Vote

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

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Herb Schmidt reported that the Technology Transfer Subcommittee had been reviewing and considering the PIPRA field trial proposal and meeting via conference call. The Subcommittee recommended going forward with the proposal and conducting the trials in California.

RESEARCH PROGRAM REPORT

Research Director Nancy Irelan discussed targeted research objectives and projects (see handout from meeting). She said she has been looking at potential service providers and has compiled a list of researchers that have the capability to work on grape transformation. She also has a list of private entities who could also be potential service providers for the research community. Nancy suggested working with the Technology Transfer Subcommittee to discuss these providers. She also suggested establishing a short list of grape rootstocks and varieties that the research community should focus their work on. The Board concurred with these suggestions.

OUTREACH AND RESEARCH ON OTHER DESIGNATED PESTS AND DISEASES OF WINEGRAPES

Bob Wynn reported that Senate Bill 2 had expanded the allowable uses of the PD/GWSS winegrape assessment to include research and outreach programs on other designated pests and diseases of winegrapes, under specified conditions. Tom Esser discussed a checklist that had been drafted to formalize the designation process, and said he had contacted the American Vineyard Foundation to look into ways to coordinate the efforts of the two programs.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Craig Hanes reported on outreach and education activities. He said the new RFP for outreach and education proposed a two-year contract with an optional one-year renewal. The current contract expires April 20, 2010. Ken Freeze of Brown Miller Communications talked about the various activities and functions they had been involved in or were planning, including trade shows, speaking engagements, news clips, and articles.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith gave updates on the area-wide programs in Riverside, Kern, Tulare, and Fresno counties. In Riverside County, 6,121 GWSS were trapped in Temecula and 93 were trapped in the Coachella Valley. In Kern County, there were 35,467 GWSS trapped in the General Beale area. In Tulare County, 1,817 GWSS were trapped, and in Fresno County, three GWSS were trapped.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Rapid Response: Craig Hanes discussed Fresno County's urban and residential treatment program, and said that a Pest Control Operator would be hired and would work under Fresno County's supervision. He said that two eradications had been declared in 2009: Foothill Farms in Sacramento County (December 7, 2009) and the Blossom Hill area of San Jose in Santa Clara County (December 21, 2009). GWSS is now only present in 12 California counties.

Biological Control: David Morgan reported that over 174,000 tiny parasitic wasps had been released against GWSS in 2009. He discussed parasite recoveries, recovery efficiency, GWSS

egg mass abundance, monthly patterns of field oviposition, and the impact biocontrol agents are having on GWSS.

Nursery: Greg Morris provided an update on the Nursery Regulatory Program and on the Approved Treatment Program (ATP). He said that the success rate for the regulatory program in 2009 was 99.96%, and that there were 7,739 ATP shipments to 39 counties in 2009.

European Grapevine Moth (EGVM): Roger Spencer gave an update on the EGVM. He said that EGVM has been found in southern Europe, Chile, Japan, and now the U.S., in Napa County. A pest advisory working group has been formed and recommended a statewide survey be conducted. EGVM affects all variety of grapes and attacks and damages the flower clusters and berries. Napa Agricultural Commissioner Dave Whitmer handed out informational materials on EGVM and discussed activities conducted and planned in Napa County.

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 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on March 8, 2010 by

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