

NPSA Regular Meeting Minutes February 18, 2004

Present: Gail Amos, Don Bradley, Kathy Brooks, Rob Denny, Nancy Fitz, Mary Grodner, Pat Hipkins, Joe Hoffman, Rob Hofstetter, Allan Hovis, Janice Oldemeyr, Virginia Prest, Dan Schweitzer, and Roger Springman.

Quorum Status: In Quorum

Meeting called to order by Board Chair Mary Grodner at 1:05 p.m. EST.

Minutes:

Previous meeting's minutes (01/14/04) approved with one correction. (Item #13: New Topics; section b: listserv discussion -- second sentence deleted.)

Treasurer's Report:

Rob Hofstetter reported no income and payments of \$1,584.00 during that month for website maintenance and office services in January. The treasury balance as of January 26 was #13,021.44. The report was accepted as reported.

Old Business:

#1. Pilot Project:

Roger Springman reported that a proposed contract (agreement) is prepared, and people are lined up to do the work. The next step is to make modifications to the contract and get people who will do the Pilot Project tasks under contract. There was some discussion of the contract, which is written in standard form but rather complex for the situation/project and does not make it clear that the project output (data collected) belongs to NPSA as well as to CropLife. After discussion, the group decided that Roger (with Nancy Fitz and Dan Schweitzer) should work with CropLife to review and modify the contract; issues are:

- name a start date and end date, and
- make it clear that data will be shared.

This charge to Roger (et al.) was so moved by Joe Hoffman, seconded by Don Bradley; no objections; motion carried; accepted by BOD Chair Mary Grodner.

#2: 2003 Conference in Tucson:

Kathy Brooks reported that she had no further information from the Tucson Marriott regarding the 2003 conference. Alan Hovis will work through Bayer channels (corporate

conference planner) to interact with Marriott at the corporate level to resolve the matter of overcharges.

#3: 2004 Conference in Orlando:

Nancy Fitz circulated three documents regarding planning:

- a spreadsheet listing previous conference participants by affiliation,
- one listing proposed topics/themes (from a poll of NPSA's Advisory Committee and comments gleaned from 2003 conference evaluations, and
- a draft survey seeking comments regarding conference format and content.

Nancy asked for comments regarding the draft survey (within the next week or two); she plans to send it to people who attended previous conferences ASAP. She stated that the conference planning committee will start meeting w/in the coming two weeks via conference calls.

Rob Denny is still working on an IPM tour as part of the conference. If he is not able to set up something workable with the Disney facility in the very near future, he will pursue other sites and options.

Gail Amos mentioned the importance of financial support for conferences and suggested the need for ties with the Ag Retailers Association.

#4. Electronic Communication:

Ginny Prest reported that everything is A-OK with the website; things are being posted as received in a timely fashion. Nancy Fitz reported that the listserv should be working soon. (At the start, it will reach members, including the BOD and officers, and conference participants.) There was a short discussion of the pros and cons of putting member names and affiliations (perhaps with contact information) on the website. As part of a discussion about recruiting new members and encouraging existing members to maintain membership status, Gail Amos, Alan Hovis, and others asked that a list of current members be sent to the Board of Directors and Officers. (See committee reports.)

#5. Advisory Committee:

Dan Schweitzer reported that the Advisory Committee met for the first time in January '04 by e-mail. Four members are "on board"; Toby Jones will name an AAPCO liaison. In this first meeting, the AC made conference topics suggestions, and supported the proposal to move the NPSA annual meeting to winter. They agreed to continue meeting by e-mail unless the issue at hand warranted a discussion, in which case they would prefer meeting by conference call.

#6. Annual Conference Timing:

Gail Amos expressed concern that holding the annual NPSA conference in winter would reduce the number of educator/Extension participants. Pat Hipkins assured him that she polled AAPSE, and made a specific query to Carol Ramsay in person, regarding winter vs. autumn. While winter is indeed a busy time, it is better than fall for this group; given adequate notice, Carol Ramsay and other Extension educators preferred winter to fall for NPSA annual meetings. It was generally agreed that, after 2004, NPSA should hold its annual conference in late February (3rd or 4th week). Joe Hoffman so moved, Nancy Fitz seconded; no one was opposed; motion carried; accepted by BOD Chair Mary Grodner.

The 5th annual conference is slated for November 07-10, 2004 in Orlando, FL. There will not be a conference in 2005. The target date range for the 6th conference is February 26-March 1, 2006.

#7. Pilot Project with Earth 911:

Joe Hoffman reported that there will be no public announcement until all three states are “on board”; he plans to post an announcement on the NPSA website when all is OK. WA and now NC are “in”; he is waiting for PA Department of Ag sign off; a conference call between Earth 911, the three states, and ACRC is in the planning stages; Joe hopes to have more information soon.

#8. Committee Reports:

International Relations - no report; this committee was overlooked when chairs were appointed and committees were formed for 2004. The need for this committee, given the stewardship challenges faced in the US was questioned; however, the group felt that it should exist because many members are involved in stewardship both here in the US and abroad, the US could learn from some international efforts (specifically those in Canada and South America), and because proactive stewardship programs may prevent problems in other parts of the 3rd world. Mary Grodner asked Pat Hipkins to approach Don Mullins about chairing this committee. Nancy Fitz was asked to invite Jude Andreasen to be a member. Other names suggested for membership included Bill McClelland, P. K. Shetty, Keith Moore, Pat Hipkins, Margaret Jones; conference participants from FAO (Mark Davis), South America, and South Africa. It was agreed to pass these suggestions on to the 2004 chair.

Finance - Ginny Prest noted that, in her opinion, not having a conference in 2005 will not adversely affect NPSA’s financial status.

Communications - Nancy Fitz and Don Bradley will promote the 2004 conference as details become available.

Elections/By-Laws - Dan Schweitzer noted that the proposed By-Law amendments must -- and will -- be explained to all members in writing no later than September 22, 2004, so they can be acted on at the annual meeting in Orlando.

Stewardship/Awards - Gail Amos reported that this committee will “gear up” in the next few weeks, and will put flyers on the website.

Membership - Kathy Brooks will get membership information to the membership committee chair, Allan Hovis. She will also send updated / new and renewal information to Ginny Prest, who will, in turn, convert the file to Excel and distribute it to the BOD and Officers. Gail Amos challenged those present to help NPSA’s membership grow by making contacts w/ in our respective states and circles. Many of those present agreed to contact organizations and/or individuals and invite/exhort them to join NPSA. Prospective members discussed included Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), state aerial applicators’ associations, and individual AAPSE members. Members are asked to send information about meetings (ex. regional Pesticide Safety Education Program meetings) to Allan

(allen.hovis@bayercropscience.com) so that NPSA can send a representative or ask a member who will be in attendance to recruit new members, and circulate copies of the membership brochure.

New Business:

#1: During the discussion regarding conference planning, Rob Denny proposed a self-certifying stewardship program; he noted that Cornell has such a program for NY farmers. Mary Grodner reported that Louisiana has a master farmer program that involves many things, including good stewardship practices.

Next Meeting:

The next teleconference date is Thursday, March 18; time TBA. As soon as her schedule firms up, Janice Oldemeyr will contact Nancy Fitz; Nancy will contact everyone regarding the meeting time ASAP. (Nancy will also circulate telephone access information when available.)

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. EST.

Transcribed 22 February 2004; PAH