

NPSA Regular Meeting Minutes April 12, 2004

Present: Gail Amos, Don Bradley, Kathy Brooks, Nancy Fitz, Mary Grodner, Pat Hipkins, Joe Hoffman, Rob Hofstetter, Dan Schweitzer, and Roger Springman

Quorum Status: Not In Quorum (Four BOD members present; names underlined above.)
Meeting called to order by Board Chair Mary Grodner at 1:35 p.m. EST.

Special / Emergency Business:

The group discussed resignation of Ginny Prest and the implications her resignation has on quorum status. (Quorum = of voting members, majority + 1.) Options for replacing Ginny discussed included:

- check election records to see who finished second to Ginny in the last vote and ask him/her to serve,
- hold a special election,
- review those eligible (members in end user category) and ask one of them to serve, based on interest/aptitude.

Considering that the number of eligible persons is small, the BOD asked Kathy Brooks to circulate list of end user members so they may discuss these candidates via e-mail and select a person to approach about filling Ginny's unexpired term. The goal is to have a person "on board" in time for him/her to participate in the May conference call.

Minutes:

There were no corrections for the previous meeting's minutes (03/18/04). They could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report:

Rob Hofstetter reported that the treasury balance as of 03/30/04 was \$12,046.46. Total income for the month was \$1260.00 (from membership dues). Expenses were \$1,339.04 -- for administrative salary / Arrowchase (\$940.00), office space rent (\$250.00), telephone and fax (\$84.65), credit card machine rental (\$44.79), and credit card service (\$35.00). This represents a net decline of \$94.44. Kathy Brooks noted that NPSA sent an invoice to ACRC for \$5,000. Dan Schweitzer reported that CARE Environmental agreed to contribute the same amount, and will request an invoice from NPSA in the near future. As was the case with the minutes, the treasurer's report could not be accepted due to lack of a quorum.

Old Business:

#1: Conference Plans:

2004: Nancy Fitz reported that she received 39 responses to the conference planning survey, and has compiled 26 of them to date. The good news – she received many good suggestions for program content. The bad news – a relatively small number of respondents are definitely planning to attend the 2004 conference (because of budget considerations, job changes, etc.) Nancy will compile a list of suggested topics ASAP, and send them to the BOD with a request that members prioritize the topics and suggest speakers.

Pat Hipkins reported that she had several inquiries from AAPSE members (and one other NPSA member) regarding information being circulated (Gail Amos' e-mail via Kathy Brooks and a short note in Pesticide and Toxic Chemical News) about cut-off dates for making lodging reservations. Specifically, people called the hotel and were told a block of rooms would be held until October 9 (vs. April 10, as stated in Gail's note.) Also, some of the contacts expressed concern about being asked to reserve a room so far in advance, without information about meeting content. Gail and Kathy explained that they had a large number of rooms on hold at present, but planned to drop down to a "bare bones" number (+/-250) ASAP to avoid the kind of problem experienced in Tucson. Gail said his note was intended to "test the waters" and allow him to gauge interest / estimate attendance. Kathy noted that people may cancel reservations with no penalty as late as 6:00 p.m. on the day of arrival. Roger Springman suggested that conference planners route some preliminary meeting information to Pat, who will send a "pre-announcement" to the AAPSE listserv (including a reference to reserving early and the fact people can cancel up to the last minute without penalty.)

Rob Denny was able to work out a pest management tour at DisneyWorld. Details (time, specific site(s), cost) are still TBA.

At a later time in the meeting, Joe Hoffman noted that Tom Hall worked with Scott McKinnie, Far West Agribusiness Association, to encourage people to participate in the Seattle meeting in 2002. Joe suggested that conference planners ask Tom to do the same thing, working with his contacts in the southeast and/or Florida, for the 2004 meeting in Orlando.

2003: Gail Amos reviewed the difficulties encountered with the Marriott in Tucson (hotel personnel and their recordkeeping). The Tucson Marriott is owned by John Q. Hammond Hotel Resorts and thus not (directly) under the control of Marriott Corporate. This may complicate the proposed plan (on the advice of Bayer and Marriott Corporate) to settle NPSA's dispute with this venue by booking the 2007 conference there. Officials at JQH and the person Gail spoke with at Marriott Corporate were not aware of – and may not agree to – the terms negotiated with someone at Marriott with the help of Allan Hovis through Bayer's contacts; specifically, that the hotel would forgive the alleged debt if NPSA booked another conference at the Tucson Marriott in 2007. Gail will continue his efforts to bring all the parties involved at Marriott Corporate, Bayer, John Q. Hammond Hotel Resorts, and NPSA together to resolve the issue. Pat Hipkins suggested that the conference planners investigate what holdings, if any, John Q. Hammond Hotel Resorts has in the DC/metro area. If there is a suitable venue in Northern VA, perhaps the 2006 conference could be booked there to settle the dispute.

#2: Pilot Project Update:

Roger Springman reported that the draft contract was ok-ed by CropLife, and the organization's treasurer will sign it and send it to Kathy Brooks in the very near future. In the meantime, Roger will work on service agreements defining tasks and expectations w/ VT (Department of Entomology) for Theresa Dellinger and with Bill McClelland. Roger noted that this is an excellent opportunity to foster a good cooperative relationship with CropLife and to produce a product both organizations can use. He is working on a joint press release with Karen Reardon, CropLife America's director of communications. This notice will be passed along to the media and posted on the NPSA website. In addition, a letter will be sent to the states, providing an overview of NPSA's Pilot Project (what, why, how, when), and introducing the NPSA representatives (Theresa, Bill) who will be contacting state container recycling and "clean sweep"/pesticide collection program coordinators, product registration staff, and others. The Orlando meeting will involve sessions dealing with the Pilot Project, and state waste disposal program staff will be encouraged to attend.

Nancy Fitz noted that Theresa Dellinger (tasks #1 and #4) will be paid by the Department of Entomology with funds donated by NPSA; in addition to the MOU/service agreement, Nancy will draft a letter to accompany the donation so NPSA's check can be deposited into the department's foundation account. Nancy reported that she met with Theresa on April 2 in Blacksburg to discuss plans and review data collection spreadsheet templates Theresa developed. The meeting was productive; Theresa has "done her homework" and is ready to go.

Nancy reported that the Pilot Project is on the agenda of the SFIREG Water Quality and Disposal Working Committee Meeting later this month. Nancy, Dan, Bill, and Theresa will make presentations and discuss the project with this group. Nancy noted that Tom Hall will very likely be present, and can add comments to the discussion from the CropLife partner.

#3. NPSA Comments/Input for EPA's Label Review Manual Revision: Pesticide Disposal Language Updates and New Challenges:

Dan Schweitzer reported that the SFIREG Water Quality and Disposal Working Committee's draft issue paper will be finalized at the April meeting, and considered by the full SFIREG in late June (28-29). Through Dan, NPSA's comments have been incorporated into the issue paper. Dan recommends that a letter of support from NPSA be attached to the issue paper when it moves to the full SFIREG. He suggested that this letter not only support the draft, but make suggestions regarding how (and why) to further strengthen label disposal directions. NPSA's position is that labels must have clear statements prohibiting on-site disposal and open burning, and giving end-users practical and legal directions for proper disposal. The issue paper will be prioritized by the full SFIREG and then, once given to EPA, prioritized by the agency. Strong letters of support may influence the priority ranking given to this issue by both the full SFIREG and EPA. Gail Amos remarked that EPA needs to get people within the agency who deal with the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and FIFRA all working together. After the April WQ&D Working Committee meeting, Dan will draft a letter of support from NPSA, with the goal of having it finalized by the end of June, so it will accompany the issue paper to the full SFIREG. Dan will seek comments from the NPSA BOD and officers, and also from NPSA's Advisory Council.

#4. Advisory Council Update:

Dan Schweitzer reported that the Advisory Council did not meet in March – April.

#5. Earth 911 Update:

Joe Hoffman reported that he was able to schedule a conference call meeting involving selected state disposal coordinators, ACRC, and Earth 911 for May 17. 1-2:00 p.m. EDT. He asked if Nancy Fitz would be able to join the call. (Rob Denny is not available.) Earth 911 is currently working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to move beyond household hazardous waste (HHW) and post disposal information for businesses (solvents, etc.). Earth 911 will work with NPSA and three states (NC, PA, WA) to develop and pilot posting ag product container recycling and unusable pesticide collection information. Contacts to date have been very positive. Each of the three states involved with the pilot will send program event information (sites/dates/schedules) to Anne Reichman, Earth 911's Director. The group will work on logistics re: what and how to post. Joe plans to have a demonstration ready for the 2004 Orlando meeting: access to ag program (collection, container recycling) information for NC, PA, and WA by zip code. Joe envisions that some day in the near future, ag pest management products could list Earth 911's toll-free number (and website), as some household/consumer products now do.

Project Participants:

Tim Gormley	Earth 911	President
Anne Richmond	Earth 911	Director
Vance Wagner	PA	Clean Sweep Project Coordinator
Don Gilbert	PA	Container Recycling Project Coordinator
Royce Batts	NC	Pesticide Disposal Project Coordinator (former)
Derek Bell	NC	Pesticide Disposal Project Coordinator (current)
Colleen Hudak-Wise	NC	Container Recycling Project Coordinator
Joe Hoffman	WA	Clean Sweep Coordinator
Rob Denny	ACRC	Executive Director

#6. Committee Reports:

Finance – Position vacant
No report.

Communications – Nancy Fitz and Don Bradley
Nancy is working on the website. Pat obtained information regarding website security and protecting e-mails from the AAPSE Webmaster, which she will pass along to Nancy. Joe noted that several states have policies prohibiting posting contact information on any website other than that of the home state; as a result,

several entries in the “Links” / State Program Contacts for Unusable Agricultural Pesticide Collections section of the website must be removed.

Stewardship/Awards – Gail Amos

Gail Amos reported that he will be presenting at three meetings/events in WA where he will be able to promote NPSA and discuss the organization’s activities:

- Earth Day
- WA State Pesticide Advisory Board
- Western Regional C&T Meeting

Membership – Allan Hovis

No report.

International Relations – Jude Andreasen and Don Mullins

Pat Hipkins reported that Don Mullins and Jude Andreasen agreed to be co-chairs. Don and Jude asked for guidance regarding program expectations and suggestions for international sessions for the Orlando meeting in November 2004. They also asked if there was a budget for speakers, etc.

Elections/By-Laws – Dan Schweitzer

Nothing to report.

Conference – Nancy Fitz and Norman Nesheim

See *Old Business* section #1.

Other / New Business:

No items raised for discussion.

Next Meeting:

No discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. EDT.