

NPSA Regular Meeting Minutes July 15, 2004

Present: Gail Amos, Kathy Brooks, Nancy Fitz, Mary Grodner, Pat Hipkins, Joe Hoffman, Allan Hovis, Rob Hofstetter.

Quorum Status: Not In Quorum (Three BOD members present; names underlined above.)
Meeting called to order by Board Chair Mary Grodner at 2:05 p.m. EDT.

Minutes:

There were no further corrections to the revised version of the previous meeting's minutes (06/18/04). However, they could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report:

Rob Hofstetter reported that the treasury balance as of 06/28/04 was \$19,621.96. Expenses for the month were \$1,114.06 -- for administrative salary / Arrowchase (\$640.00), office space rent (\$224.06), and travel expenses for Theresa Dellinger (hired to handle Pilot Project Tasks 1 and 4 – attended the SFIREG Water Quality and Disposal Meeting). Since no income was taken in this month, this represents a net decline of \$1,114.06. Kathy Brooks noted that NPSA received several dues payments right at the end of the month, which were recorded as income in July. As was the case with the minutes, the treasurer's report could not be accepted due to lack of a quorum.

Old Business:

#1: 2004 Conference Plans:

Nancy Fitz reported that the planning committee will have a conference call soon. This year's conference theme is Pesticides and the Environment. Nancy distributed a list of potential topics, based on feedback received to date and discussions during board meetings. The group identified some "extra" topics, in addition to traditional NPSA "core" topics:

- Funding stewardship programs (disposal, container management, other)
- International stewardship [Andreasen/Mullins]
- Earth 911/NPSA pilot project [Hoffman/Springman] – what's new?
- Box stores/retail and homeowner education – demos of existing SLA or ES programs, product producer and/or retailer efforts, other?
- Update on EPA's pesticide container and containment rule and impact on pesticide stewardship; waste minimization [Fitz; Bradley]

- Misuse issues and environmental stewardship – what, how, how to avoid (ex. animal baiting, offsite use) – Fish and Wildlife educators as presenters?
- Ag plastics – waste to energy?!

The group discussed registration fees. (Some institutional members (mostly Extension) find them to be high.) Kathy Brooks noted that 1/4 - 1/3 of meeting participants are institutional members. It was agreed to use this fee schedule in 2004:

- \$325 Full conference registration
- \$375 Late conference registration (after October 7)
- \$125 One-day "walk up" registration
- \$200 Partial conference registration fee for ACRC members

Kathy and Nancy agreed to “crunch some numbers” regarding how much NPSA needs to charge in registration, for future reference.

Gail and Kathy calculated that NPSA needs 87 people for three nights to meet cost obligations in the contract with this year’s conference hotel. The contract will specify that conference participants that arrive early or stay after the conference ends can pay the conference room rate for their rooms.

#2: 2003 Conference / Tucson Marriott:

Gail Amos informed the BOD that on July 12, 2004, he received a letter dated and post marked July 6, 2004 from Brent D. Green, attorney at law with Evans & Green LLP, Springfield, MO, representing John Q. Hammons Hotels, Inc. dba Tucson Marriott, requesting payment of \$23, 619.84 within seven days. On July 12, 2004, Gail faxed the letter to Kellie Newton, NPSA’s legal counsel. Kellie is checking AZ law and the settlement agreement. In the meantime, Gail Amos asked the NPSA Board of Directors – ASAP* – to give him the authority to give Kellie Newton the authority to negotiate with Green on NPSA’s behalf. Gail’s suggestion is to make an offer of \$5,000.00, payable immediately, and work out a payment schedule if the collection attorney insists on full payment of the alleged debt. If neither option is acceptable, he asks that Kellie be given the authority to negotiate other options, and work out the best deal possible for NPSA. Kellie needs to make an offer on Friday, July 16, 04. Mary Grodner will e-mail the NPSA BOD and ask for negotiating authority for Kellie. (Mary did, and promptly received four positive votes authorizing Kellie to proceed.)

#3: Pilot Project Update:

Nancy Fitz reported a great deal of progress on tasks 2 (*Identify the Political Context and Working Protocols of Successful, Long-Term Pesticide Collection Programs*) and 3 (*Identify Potential Funding Sources for State Pesticide Disposal Programs*); a survey document is nearly done; data gathering will start in July and be completed by the end of September. Tasks 2 and 3 will focus on 14 states. Tasks 1 (*Determine the Status of State Disposal Programs*) and 4 (*Identify Current Use of State Pesticide Registration Fees*) are somewhat behind schedule, because by the time funding was procured, the VT postdoc who was identified to handle them had other commitments. Bill McClelland will handle task 1 for 14 states when he contacts them regarding tasks 2 and 3. (In fact, program status played a role in selection of the 14 states to survey and study their program in depth, so Nancy Fitz, Roger

Springman, and Bill have some task 1 data in hand.) Jude Andreasen, Nancy Fitz, Pat Hipkins, and Roger Springman will volunteer to collect task 1 data for the remaining 36 states and task 4 data for all states.

#4. Advisory Council Update:

Dan Schweitzer was not able to participate; Pat Hipkins (AC member) reported that the Advisory Council did not meet or discuss any issues in June or July.

#5. Earth 911 Update:

Joe Hoffman reported that the organizational conference call originally scheduled for May 17 was postponed until July 26. Joe hopes to have more information by the August meeting; the group plans to begin “the big push” to look at state information and formulate an action plan for displaying and disseminating it.

#6: NPSA Comments/Input for EPA’s Label Review Manual’s Revision:

Mary Grodner reported that the Label Review Manual Revisions were presented to the full SFIREG. Water Quality and Disposal Working Committee chair Jeff Comstock was very complimentary of and expressed his appreciation for NPSA’s input. In fact, NPSA’s comments and letter of support were discussed at the full SFIREG, and held up as an example of how to operate and how and why to get stakeholder input “up front”.

#7. Committee Reports:

Finance – Position vacant (?)
No report.

Communications – Nancy Fitz and Don Bradley
Nancy Fitz had no report or new information.

Stewardship/Awards – Gail Amos
Gail Amos is working on categories and guidelines.

Membership – Allan Hovis

Alan Hovis is sorting through databases, wants to send an e-mail to everyone. Memberships (new and renewal) go to Kathy Brooks, who enters member information into a FilemakerPro database. Alan will contact Kathy to get the latest member list. Alan plans to send reminders to former members who have not renewed. He also discussed printing more membership brochures; Joe Hoffman will send Alan an electronic copy of the PageMaker file. Alan noted that the link from the NPSA website to the brochure does not work. Nancy Fitz said she will look into it and get it fixed. The comment was made that we need to increase membership in two areas: Environmental/Public Health and End User.

International Relations – Jude Andreasen and Don Mullins

Nancy Fitz reported for Don Mullins and Jude Andreasen. They had several questions about soliciting speakers; specifically, about defraying expenses. One suggestion was that a sponsor could be sought. Another was to ask the BOD to waive the registration fee for keynote speakers. (Mary put this to the BOD via e-mail; she received four positive votes, which authorizes Don and Jude to offer this incentive/support to prospective keynote speakers.) Jude will rough out a request letter, which may be used to ask for sponsorships if/as needed. Nancy asked that we put several issues on the table for future discussion:

- changing the organization name from NPSA to IPSA or PSA (changing National to International or dropping the first word of the current name);
- renaming the meeting;
- establishing a national and an international branch of NPSA.

Gene Amos commented that we have enough to do here in the US without “taking on the world.” Other comments discussed the difficulties that might be involved in trying to branch out and/or change identities while NPSA is still a relatively young/new and growing organization.

Elections/By-Laws – Dan Schweitzer

No report.

Conference – Nancy Fitz and Norman Nesheim

See *Old Business* section #1.

Other / New Business:

No items raised for discussion.

Next Meeting:

July meeting participants were hesitant to schedule an August meeting call because so few BOD members and others were able to compare schedules; ideally, we will have a quorum so the group can make decisions and move ahead. Thus, Nancy Fitz agreed to poll those BOD members that were not able to participate in July and offer a selection of dates that were suitable for those present:

- Monday, August 23
- Tuesday, August 24 (late afternoon East and Central time)
- Monday, August 30.

(After the meeting, Nancy announced that the August meeting will be on Monday, August 30, from 2-4:00 p.m. EDT.)

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. EDT.

Addendum:

Contacts regarding dispute with the Tucson Marriott, for the NPSA record, from Gail Amos:

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