

**NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (NPSA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2005**

*Call to Order:*

Don Gilbert, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

*Present (for part or all of Conference Call):*

Don Bradley, Nancy Fitz, Don Gilbert, Allan Hovis, Greg Jackson, Rob Hofstetter, Joe Hoffman, Janice Oldemeyer, Lois Levitan, Don Mullins, Dan Schweitzer.

*Roll Call:*

Secretary Lois Levitan called roll of Board, Officers, and “Other” (administ, committee chairs, past president). Names of voting members of the Board are underlined. A quorum was present.

*Approvals:*

(i) Agenda and (ii) Board Minutes of the April 26, 2005 meeting were approved. Notice was given that (iii) Minutes of the Jan 28, 2005 Special Meeting and Mar 22, 2005 Board meeting were approved by email following the Apr 26 meeting and posted to the NPSA website.

*Treasurer’s Report:*

No report presented. Neither treasurer Kelby Neal nor Kathy Brooks were present on the call.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Membership Committee:*

Don Gilbert reported. As requested at the previous Board meeting, the committee drafted and circulated a proposed fee schedule, conference discount schedule, and membership renewal schedule. In the near future they will discuss use of database software to track memberships, reminders, etc. The Board unanimously **approved** the proposal (see below), with the caveat that item #2 should be reworded to clarify that new members joining after the annual conference will receive a \$50 discount on the fee for the following conference, but will not receive a second \$50 discount on the same conference when they renew membership for the following calendar year.

1. Prorated fee schedule for new members: January-April 1: full \$75 fee. April 1-Oct 1: \$50 through end of current calendar year; after Oct 1: full \$75 for membership through end of the following calendar year.
2. Conference discounts: New and renewing members who sign up prior to (or at) the February conference will receive a \$50 discount on conference registration. Anyone joining/renewing after the conference will receive a \$50 discount on the fee for the following conference (but will not receive a second \$50 discount on the same conference when they renew membership for the following calendar year).
3. Membership renewal notices: Renewal notices will be sent Nov 1, Dec 1, Feb 1. Delinquent members will be contacted by telephone starting Mar 1. Remaining delinquents will be dropped from the rolls Mar 31. Once dropped, should they wish to reestablish membership, they will be considered new members, subject to the prorated fee structure (item #1).

*International Relations:* Don Mullins/Nancy Fitz. Don and Jude Andreasen are beginning to prepare for Feb 2006 meeting. Funding is tight to bring people from abroad, so help is requested in seeking travel funds.

Nancy reported on a conference call held yesterday at request of EPA Region 9. EPA Region 9 asked for NPSA input on a pilot pesticide disposal project on the US-Mexican border, as part of their larger initiative to improve the environment at the border region. EPA Region 9 will now compile and circulate goals, as discussed on the call.

*Finance Committee:* Rob Hofstetter—nothing to report.

*Election and By-Laws:* Gail Amos—not present; no report.

*Communications:* Don Gilbert reported on behalf of Pat Hipkins, who has been in Africa.

(i) George Brooks has been given the go-ahead to create a "members only" section of the website that would be protected by a single password, to be changed annually. (ii) Dan Schweitzer and Don Gilbert gave Don Bradley the go-ahead to purchase a table-top Skyline display board system with hard case (expected cost: about \$600). It is anticipated that the boards and materials could be stored at a designated location and shipped via UPS when needed. Don Bradley is also taking lead on developing the display itself, working with Mirsky Printers in Yardley, PA. The goal is to have the display ready in time for the NAHMMA conference in September, but it may be ready in time for the PESP conference in mid-July. **Request:** Send good photo images to Dan, who will select about six for the display, to illustrate container recycling, pesticide collections, etc. Dan will send the chosen images to Don Bradley. Possible sources: Kelby (MSE)—photos of pesticide removal operations. Joe—photos of old chemical stockpiles.

Don proposed sending periodic email updates to the membership, in an attractive newsletter format. No formal decision was made, but the Board seemed to support the idea. We revisited previous discussions re: sending members an email when Board minutes are posted to the web, with a summary of meeting highlights. Lois (secretary) will develop text; Kathy will distribute.

*Conference Program:* Dan Schweitzer/Joe Hoffman. The committee has not met since the last Board meeting, but the call for presentation proposals went out in the interim, with Sept 15 deadline. Maria Mirsky Associates, Inc. (phone: 215/321-7970) has made large format postcards that will be distributed primarily to ACRC members. Nancy distributed an email to NPSA members, AAPCO, and Clean Sweep program managers. When Pat returns, Dan will work with her to distribute the call via the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) listserv, hosted at Virginia Tech. Several people have been contacted as possible keynote speakers, including EPA Director Steve Johnson; CropLife International Manager for Stewardship, Keith Jones; former Texas Governor, Ann Richards; current Texas governor and former Agriculture Commissioner, Rick Perry; and the current Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Susan Combs.

The session on IPM in communities/schools is close to finalized.

*Sponsorships:* Allan Hovis will be attending the CropLife Stewardship Committee meeting next week and plans to solicit sponsors.

*Stewardship Awards:* Janice Oldemeyer reported that the committee has not yet met, but will soon begin to gear up for the Feb 2006 meeting.

*Conference Arrangements 2006/2007:* Don Bradley reported that arrangements are in process for the 2006 meeting in Austin. San Diego and Las Vegas are the most likely venues for the 2007 conference. The committee is seeking to identify affordable locations, considering both room fee and cost of transportation from airport. The Board/officers asked the Committee to aim for a pre-tax ceiling of \$125 on the average room rate. Don Gilbert asked for a full report at the next Board meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

*ASAE Container Recycling Project Update:* Nancy Fitz/Don Gilbert. The goal of the project is to establish a national standard for pesticide container recycling, utilizing input from diverse constituencies. Committee formation is almost complete. Don Gilbert will represent NPSA. The group had an initial conference call last week and will have their first face-to-face meeting in Washington DC, June 20-21. A key issue for the June meeting is the scope of the standards, *i.e.*, whether to include only agriculture or other pesticide markets; and whether to include only agricultural pesticides or all ag chemicals (*e.g.*, the same containers are used for micronutrients as pesticides; once the container sleeve is removed, the containers are not distinguishable). Nancy is compiling a draft standard, based on the ACRC process, to use as a "strawman" for the committee to pick apart and improve upon. The plan is to complete the process by December. It was noted that this process is urgent because ACRC is in midst of a membership and financial crisis.

*PESP Strategy and Conference:* Lois Levitan/Nancy Fitz. Lois will draft a strategy document and circulate it by email for discussion and approval. Nancy has alerted EPA's new PESP coordinator that this is in the works and that NPSA is on board. Lois will likely attend the July 14-15 PESP conference in Washington DC to represent NPSA.

*Pesticide Disposal Pilot Project, Update on Phase II:* Nancy Fitz circulated a background document (*Strategic Plan for National Pesticide Disposal Pilot Project-Phase II*, attached to these Board minutes) and reported to the Board on behalf of Roger Springman, Bill McClelland and herself. In Phase I of this project, data were collected re: what state programs currently exist. Nancy expects to finalize the Phase I report by July. The objectives of Phase II are (i) develop a resource center/clearinghouse for pesticide disposal-related resources and issues; (ii) establish a consulting service; and (iii) develop audio-visual(s) that promote pesticide disposal and present an argument for supporting disposal programs. It is envisioned that this presentation could be taken to state offices and elsewhere to support requests for program funding. The committee has not yet reached consensus on the specific products/outputs and is continuing to discuss the format of the Phase II programs (the presentation, budget and clearinghouse).

*NPSA/NAHMMA Partnership Ideas:* Janice Oldemeyer presented the concept and specific ideas for supporting a partnership between NPSA and NAHMMA (the North American Hazardous Materials Managers Association, a group dedicated to pollution prevention and reducing hazardous components entering municipal waste streams from households, small businesses and other entities). **Background:** NAHMMA and SWANA (Solid Waste Associations of North America) used to partner on a conference. NPSA was founded because pesticide issues were not served by this consortium. There were some bad feelings, but consensus is that this is "water under the bridge." NAHMMA has now also broken off from SWANA. Janice is current

president of NAHMMA. Several members noted that a partnership between NPSA and NAHMMA is timely because many clean sweep programs are partnering with household hazardous waste collections, a trend that is likely to continue once backlogs of agricultural chemicals are collected.

The Board **supported the concept** of a partnership, and agreed with the NAHMMA proposal that the arrangement be formalized in a letter of agreement. Janice reviewed specific ideas proposed by NAHMMA. The NPSA Board supported all but one in concept.<sup>1</sup> Janice will draft a revised document, incorporating feedback from the NPSA Board, and will circulate this revision. **The Board is asked to review the draft**, sending comments to her, Dan and Don no later than Tuesday, Jun 7, so that they can be presented to the NAHMMA Board for their June 9 meeting. Janice will update the NPSA Board at the next meeting.

*Earth 911:* Joe Hoffman reported that he and the Earth 911 programming team have taken a hiatus from this project for the past several very busy months. Now that Spring collections are over, Joe will again give this his attention. He expects that by the time of the February 2006 NPSA conference, the Earth 911 website will be live for the three pilot states and that we can have a live demo at the conference. The Earth 911 group is looking for financial sponsorship / assistance from the pesticide sector to enable them to provide long-term service for all state and local programs. Development work can continue, but other \$\$ is needed for the long haul.

*International Pesticide Disposals:* Joe brought to the group's attention that there has been significant media coverage over the past several weeks re: pesticide stockpiles and disposal in South America (see, for example <<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2005/2005-05-31-02.asp>>). Joe does not know what in particular is prompting this attention, but the articles have noted that the situation is more critical than previously thought and that Mark Davis, FAO, has said that FAO does not have sufficient funds to tackle the problem.

*Next Meeting:* Tuesday June 28, 10-12. Call 202-275-0166, Access Code 7566#

*Meeting adjourned:* 11:45am EST.

Draft submitted by Lois Levitan, Jun 2, 2005 (rev June 27; approved June 28, 2005)

Attachment: Strategic Plan for National Pesticide Disposal Pilot Project-Phase II

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<sup>1</sup> **Agreed without change:**

1. Exchange Free Booth space at each organization's annual conference, including one free membership.
2. Maintain links on each organization's website.
8. Provide opportunity to present on pertinent topics at each organization's annual conference.

**Agreed in concept, details to be worked out:**

4. Provide discounted conference registration for each other's members.
5. Provide a complementary copy of the organization's newsletter. [NPSA does not have a newsletter, but expects to have a listserv and to begin to send periodic email newsletters to the membership that could be cc'd also to NAHMMA representatives. NAHMMA could cc its electronic newsletter to NPSA Board/membership. NAHMMA does not have a listserv, because there are a number of haz mat listservs, but envisions itself as a clearinghouse for information that appears on these listservs.]
6. Exchange information on pertinent policies/issues [Perhaps give NAHMMA members access to the member only section of the NPSA website, where such policies are discussed and archived.]
7. Communicate information to membership about the other organization's conference. [NAHMMA was asked to put the NPSA call for papers in upcoming newsletters/email updates. Suggested that NPSA would put information about the September NAHMMA conference on its website and include it in a forthcoming email to the NPSA membership.]

**Not agreed due to complexity of administration:** 3. Provide discounted membership fees

## **Strategic Plan for National Pesticide Disposal Pilot Project-Phase II**

### Background

In the fall of 2003, NPSA presented information on the status of pesticide disposal programs in America at its annual conference. This information painted a bleak and uncertain future for state disposal programs and suggested that proactive actions would be needed to turn the situation around. In cooperation with the EPA, CropLife America offered NPSA funding to take an in-depth look at state pesticide disposal programs, their status, funding, reasons for sustainability, and operational characteristics.

Work on this Phase I work was completed in late fall 2004 and presented at NPSA's annual conference. The core finding of this investigation was that while some pesticide disposal programs have languished in recent years, states with clear commitments to pesticide disposal have found ways to work around budget and policy changes. This finding suggests that the tools and ideas needed to sustain pesticide disposal are likely here, but they need to be promoted and states need to become more flexible in their administration of disposal programs.

Discussions at the 2004 conference revealed strong support for state disposal programs and a recognition that more resources must be made available to support state efforts. These resources not only include money, but technical and promotional support. Two recommendations emanated from these discussions: 1) the need for an awareness and promotional a/v product on the important role that disposal programs play in America and 2) a resource repository or "help center" to provide states with current information on operating and maintaining pesticide disposal programs. These recommendations anchor NPSA's Phase II Strategy discussed below.

### Approach

Recognizing that many state pesticide disposal programs will either languish or terminate service if additional resources are not made available, NPSA needs to undertake those steps necessary to change the status quo. Foremost among these steps is the providing of core leadership to assemble a partnership team that has shown historic interest in pesticide disposal. This partnership team could include CropLife America, the Agricultural Retailers Association, Farm Bureau, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Agriculture, Ag Container Recycling Council, Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators, and representatives of the hazardous waste disposal industry. This partnership could be established as a NPSA standing committee or advisory council.

Beyond providing policy guidance for a Phase II project, a steering committee or advisory council provides a very important sounding board for the development and review of products such as videos, DVDs, or PowerPoint programs. Early buy-in also improves the chances of successful distribution and implementation. Finally, a multi-organization partnership also make it easier to not only find monetary support for project

activities, but subsidized or gratis graphic production resources which can replace monetary contributions.

NPSA could not play the above role without first deciding if it wants to be **the** recognized resource on pesticide disposal in America. Phase I findings made clear that there needs to be a centralized location where state and local agencies, agricultural and environmental organizations, the crop protection industry, and those people making funding decisions on state pesticide programs can go for the necessary assistance. NPSA with its diverse membership and wide expertise, offers the most logical choice to full this role. From its founding in 2000, promotion and strengthening state pesticide disposal programs has been a constant theme.

Finally, NPSA would also need to mobilize creative energy and talents into preparing proposals and plans for Phase II and otherwise locating necessary resources. It is expected that a comprehensive, Phase II pesticide disposal project will be more complex, expensive, and demanding than those undertakings associated with Phase I. While a diverse partnership team will help facilitate this task, key NPSA individual and organizational members will undoubtedly need to play critical roles on many assignments from start to finish.

As presently envisioned, three major products or activities will result from Phase II work: 1) a clearinghouse or resource center on pesticide disposal-related issues. Products or materials located at the center would likely be identified in an on-line bibliography and some made available as down-loadable files, 2) consulting services to provide state program managers and others with practical and immediate information on disposal program improvement and problem solving, and 3) the development of a/v products and programs, (e.g. PowerPoints, DVDs, or videos) which both provide promotional information on the importance of pesticide disposal services and technical information on how to improve and sustain disposal programs. The technical information a/v products would be prepared based on Phase I findings and a secondary survey of state disposal program technical needs.

Creating high quality products within a national distribution/clearinghouse system will take a considerable amount of effort and require sustained leadership by NPSA and its partnership team. If internally provided resources were not located, upwards of \$100,000 could be required for this effort, depending on the a/v products that are developed. To the extent that outside funding may be needed to supplement some Phase II activities, NPSA will likely have to provide the horsepower to prepare proposals and manage any resulting contracts. It is hoped that member and partner organizations can provide key roles under the leadership of a NPSA coordinating team.