

**NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (NPSA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 28, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Don Gilbert, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

*Present (for part or all of Conference Call):* Gail Amos, Don Bradley, Kathy Brooks, Nancy Fitz, Don Gilbert, Pat Hipkins, Rob Hofstetter, Lois Levitan, Don Mullins, Kelby Neal, Janice Oldemeyer, Dan Schweitzer, Roger Springman, Rob Denny

**ROLL CALL:**

Secretary Lois Levitan called roll. Names of voting members of the Board are underlined. A quorum was present.

**APPROVALS:**

(i) Agenda and (ii) Board Minutes of the June 2, 2005 meeting were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Kelby Neal reported that, as of June 23, 2005, the checking account balance = \$17,919.77. Since the previous report, deposits = \$5,500 have been received (\$5000 from Bayer Crop Science, \$150 from VA Tech Pesticides, \$75 from NC State Univ., and \$200 from BASF) and nine payments totaling \$2447.69 have been made to AT&T, Global Pay, Arrowchase, NDPS-credit card machine, Douglas Corcy & Assoc., and American Express. The Treasurer's report was circulated via email on June 27.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Membership Committee:* Don Gilbert reported that Greg Jackson will take over as committee chair.

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

*Election and By-Laws:* Gail Amos—no report.

*Communications:* Pat Hipkins reported. She had circulated an email on Monday, June 27, with background and updates on the issues discussed. Pat has now convened a 3-person committee including Chuck Cubbage, Mary Grodner, and Liza Fleeson.

Website: The NPSA site has been hacked into more than once. George Brooks, webmaster, has patched the security gap. We should be vigilant and alert Pat and George if we see evidence of hackers, e.g., pop up windows, etc.

Board members were also asked to review and suggest additions to the list of links on the website as well as current news bits. Out-of-date news will be archived.

Members-Only Section of the Website. George has made significant progress in developing this section, including the following functions:

- (i) a site map to help the Board decide what types of documents belong in which sections;
- (ii) a two-password system for accessing the members-only section. A new password will be used

during each membership/calendar year, but the previous year's password will also work during the 3-month grace period. People accessing the site using the old password will be reminded to renew.

BOD members and officers are encouraged to test the member-only log-in feature and provide feedback.

Pat asked for input on the structure of the members-only section: specifically, should it be a unique set of webpages or should it simply enable members to see an expanded menu of options. Since the latter would provide context and easier access back and forth between public and restricted access documents, the **Board recommended the expanded menu option.**

Listserve: Considerable discussion ensued re: various strategies for administering the listserve(s) and whether other modes of communication might supplant the need for listserve(s). Summary of points:

- listserve software and maintenance can be costly unless run through a university or similar institution
- as NPSA activists change, affiliations with specific universities do also and there may be difficulty in the future if the listserve(s) are hosted at an institution where there is no longer a strong NPSA presence
- listserve administration and moderation can be quite time-consuming and may not be the most time- and cost-efficient means for communication among members (and others interested in the topic)
- since we have recently established the policy and practice of sending monthly emails to alert the membership when Board minutes are posted, and these emails already contain a short "meeting highlights" blurb, it is just a small step to developing a regular email newsletter which could possibly supplant some/all of the purposes envisioned for the listserve(s)
- other objectives of the listserve(s) may be met with web-based bulletin boards, which may be a less costly alternative to the listserve(s) and more appropriate for the anticipated level of use
- an advantage of the listserve is that it is "in your face" and does not require individual initiative to look for information on the web site
- George may be able to institute some of these additional functionalities on the website, but is not interested in administering the listserve(s) as well as the website

Pat was asked to **convene a focus group** to look into the technical issues involved in setting up the listserve(s) and to make a recommendation at the next NPSA Board meeting (Focus group members: Nancy, Janice, Lois, Roger, George). The focus group will consider financial and other cost/benefits of various options and **propose a communication strategy**. As part of their mandate, the focus group will develop a plan for the email newsletter (*i.e.*, its "look"/format/content categories).

The Communications Committee will be asked to review the NPSA website and site map and to make recommendations re: what sections should be accessible to all vs. to members only. It is anticipated that the redesigned website will be launched by early fall.

*Conference/Program*: Dan Schweitzer reported. The committee met June 15. Letters of invitation were sent to potential keynote speakers: Steve Johnson, EPA, and former Texas Governor Ann Richards. Rob Denny will be following up with Keith Jones, CropLife International Manager for Stewardship. Sam Gibson will be contacting Rick Perry, the current governor of Texas. It was noted

that letters of invitation typically receive some response and follow-up calls are usually made only when it is thought that the letter did not reach its destination. The Call for Papers is out and has now been sent to all past NPSA Conference participants, as well as to the groups noted at the previous Board meeting. Joe is sending the Call to Extension Associations in Texas and surrounding states. The Committee has not yet gotten a big response to the Call, but it was noted that the deadline is not until mid-September and that a bigger response is likely as that date draws near. Input and ideas were requested from the Board re: panels, presentations. The Conference theme is *Increasing Awareness: Public and private initiatives to promote proper pesticide stewardship*.

*Sponsorships:* Allan Hovis was not present. The Board is eager for his report following the CropLife Stewardship Committee meeting in early June, where he planned to solicit sponsorships.

*International Relations:* Nancy Fitz reported that she and Jude Andreason have been talking with Mary Grisier, EPA Region 9, about the initiative to improve pesticide stewardship at the Mexico-US border. Jose Camelich, who holds a position with the Mexican government in Sonora, is available to meet July 12 with the group. Nancy did a quick survey of NPSA participants: She, Dan, and Don Mullins are able to participate at that time; Roger cannot. Roger asked if CropLife Mexico was involved with this project and with the Austin Conference. Rob Denny was able to report that they are very aware of the Conference and many members of CropLife Latin America will be attending the international container stewardship conference in Austin in February.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL NAME CHANGE.**

Rob Denny also reported that Mark Davis, FAO, had "said many wonderful things about NPSA" at international meetings about the collection of obsolete pesticides, recently held in Bulgaria. Mark noted, however, that the word "National" in NPSA's name creates a barrier for greater international participation, particularly in getting travel approvals and funding. These comments (re)opened the door for discussion of an organizational name change.

Don Bradley noted that the discussion is timely as we are in process of developing graphics for our new display. [Don B noted in subsequent email correspondence that the segments of the display containing the name will be separate from other parts and thus quite easily replaceable.] Don was asked to go ahead in developing the display with the current name, but to add a sub-title something like: "Serving National and International Stewardship."

A **motion** was made and passed **to create a committee** to investigate steps and considerations in a name change (*e.g.*, legal and other costs of the change, issues relating to the NPSA charter, find an available URL, setting up auto forwarding from the old URL) as well as what the new name/acronym should be. *I.e.*, do we simply drop the word "National" or add a new leading word or new name altogether (*e.g.*, Pesticide Stewards). Rob Denny/Kathy will chair the Committee, which will also include Don M and a representative from the Communication Committee.

Rob Denny noted that the biennial international meeting on pesticide container stewardship will be in Bremen in September, providing opportunity to generate interest in NPSA and the conference, and incentive to move quickly on the name change. Rob noted that NPSA may be at an important decision-point in its evolution as an organization: it could "build down," developing a more local focus like NAHMMA, or build out, internationally and laterally.

Don M noted that the international relations committee will want to give thought to the implications of a possible evolution towards becoming more of an international organization. Roger suggested developing an international section of the website.

Costs of a name change. It was noted that there is an annual fee of \$35 to point to a new URL from an old URL. Stationary, letterhead, business cards, etc. cost about \$500. It may be necessary to re-design the logo, but a simple letter substitution may be possible. While Kelly may be doing legal work for free, there will likely be recording costs. Kathy was asked to put together a package re: costs and to advise the Board.

Nancy noted that Jude Andreason listened in to the portion of the meeting during which the name change was discussed.

**CONFERENCE 2006 REPORT:** Kathy Brooks reported that organization is proceeding and that they are working through various options vis-à-vis a poster session.

**CONFERENCE 2007 REPORT:** Don Bradley/Kathy Brooks reported that they have been looking into venues, as requested by the Board. They learned: (i) The Marriott in San Diego's Mission Valley charges a \$149 corporate rate and \$129 government rate, which is above the cap set at previous Board discussions, and that the Harbor area is even more expensive. (ii) While downtown Las Vegas appears to be affordable, the hotel(s) they contacted will not give price quotes more than one year into the future. Current hotel prices are about \$89. Prices in Reno are about the same, but the Board had previously worried about weather there in February. A quick survey showed that most of those on the call are not looking for a warm vacation spot for the conference, so Kathy and Don will pursue the Reno option. Kathy has received correspondence from the Tradewinds in St Petersburg, Florida, site of an earlier NPSA conference. They are soliciting NPSA business and Kathy will follow-up. NAHMMA conferences are typically held at venues charging in range of \$100-125.

[**NPSA LOGO USAGE POLICY UPDATE.** This agenda item was not addressed.]

**ASAE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROJECT UPDATE:** Nancy Fitz reported that a face-to-face meeting was held last week, during which two-thirds of the "strawman" document was reviewed, with agreement on many issues. A subgroup of those who are easily able to get to Washington DC will meet next week to continue the review. The entire committee will meet again in September to finalize the document before it goes through several months of technical review by ASAE (American Society of Agricultural Engineers). The project is on target for completion in December.

**PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PILOT PROJECT UPDATE:** Roger Springman reviewed the strategy document that was distributed for the June 2 Board meeting (and attached to the June 2 meeting minutes). The core issue requiring Board discussion is whether NPSA wants to take the lead on Phase II activities, e.g., to institutionalize the role NPSA is now playing *ad hoc* in conversations with EPA Region 9 about the Mexico border initiative. Funding seems to be the critical issue. Roger noted that NPSA was lucky that CropLife offered to fund Phase I of the project, but Phase II is more involved. Outcome of Allan Hovis' solicitation of new sponsors is critical and of broad interest because current funding is only able to support the current level of programming. Roger is optimistic about funding, based on earlier conversations with hazardous waste disposal companies. It was **suggested**

that Roger work with Allan Hovis to develop a strategy for approaching potential company sponsors. Further discussion of this initiative should be scheduled for another meeting.

**PESP STRATEGY AND CONFERENCE:** Lois Levitan reported that she is prepared to attend the EPA PESP conference in July as NPSA representative, bringing brochures and NPSA display materials. She requested Board feedback and approval on the PESP Strategy that she circulated by email on Monday (revised from the first draft to reflect feedback from Nancy and Dan). Don G requested that specific mention be made of NPSA's role in the ASAE Container Recycling Project. With this caveat, a **motion was passed** to accept the NPSA PESP Strategy 2005-2006 (attached to these minutes). Next step is to submit the strategy to Diana Horne, the point person at EPA.

Discussion ensued re: handling of display materials because Pat would like to take them to the APSE meetings in August prior to the NAHMMA meetings in September. Nancy took responsibility for shipping them to Pat following the PESP conference.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

*NAHMMA Conference and NPSA/NAHMMA Patnership Agreement.* Janice reported that the NAHMMA Operations Committee is reviewing the draft 1-year partnership agreement with NPSA and will soon have it ready for review by Dan and Don G. Janice reminded us—per this agreement—to include information about the Sept NAHMMA Conference in NPSA correspondence with membership.

Also per terms of the partnership agreement, registration at the NAHMMA conference is gratis for one NPSA representative. It was **decided** that Gail Amos would attend as NPSA's official representative since he is willing and able to attend the entirety and coordinate among other NPSA members who will be at the conference in staffing our display table (*e.g.*, Joe can be there Wednesday-Thursday).

*ACRC Financial Crisis.* Gail raised the issue that this situation may be a defining moment for NPSA. In response to his question re: what EPA is doing about this crisis, Nancy noted that she and Jude are spending a lot of time on the ASAE pesticide container recycling agreement. Gail suggested that NPSA write an official letter to EPA Administrator Steve Johnson to demand that agricultural plastics be collected and recycled. Gail noted that ACRC has put a cap on the quantities that recycling contractors can handle. Don suggested that he and Dan plan for a follow-up call on this topic, prior to the next NPSA Board meeting. Janice asked that NAHMMA be brought into the discussion.

*Next Meeting:* Following the meeting, Nancy surveyed the Board and made arrangements for a conference call on Tuesday July 26, 10-12. Call 202-275-0170. Access code: 6866#

*Meeting adjourned:* noon.

*Draft submitted by Lois Levitan July 1, 2005 (rev July 6). Accepted July 26, 2005.*

## **National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (NPSA): PESP Strategy 2005-2006**

### **STRATEGIC APPROACH**

The National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (NPSA) promotes and supports pesticide stewardship in local, national and international arenas. Pesticide waste management and recycling programs were the initial foci of the organization, but NPSA now works to improve stewardship throughout the pesticide life-cycle—from product manufacture and formulation, through commerce, storage and use, and ultimately the final disposition of unwanted products and emptied containers.

NPSA fosters interaction and communication among pesticide stewardship professionals from diverse sectors. This membership diversity is integral to the mission of the organization, and is furthered by the NPSA By-Laws, which stipulate that each of the following affiliation areas should be represented on the Board of Directors:

- (i) United States Environmental Protection Agency (non-voting).
- (ii) Other Government Agency.
- (iii) Pesticide Industry—including *private sector companies* that manufacture, formulate or distribute pesticides, pesticide containers, or other products/equipment utilized in any aspect of pesticide manufacture, commerce, packaging, transport, application, use, and storage; *private sector consultants/advisors* on any of the aforementioned processes; as well as any *tax exempt organizations sponsored and funded by the pesticide industry*.
- (iv) Waste Management Industry—including *private sector companies* that identify, package, recycle or transport waste pesticides, pesticide residues, and/or pesticide equipment or containers; as well as any *tax exempt organizations sponsored and funded by the waste management industry*.
- (v) Pesticide Container Management Industry—including *private sector companies* that are involved in any aspect of pesticide container management, as well as any *tax exempt organizations sponsored and funded by the pesticide container management industry*.
- (vi) Tax-Exempt Institutions involved with research, teaching or extension in area(s) of pesticide stewardship.
- (vii) End Users—including individuals or businesses that use or apply pesticides, as well as organizations, trade associations or commodity groups that represent end-users or applicators.
- (viii) Public or Environmental Health—including individuals and tax-exempt organizations involved with environmental and natural resource protection, recycling, pollution prevention or other conservation or ecological issues.

## ACTIVITY 1

Foster interaction and communication among diverse groups of pesticide stewardship professionals by means of (i) an annual conference; (ii) organization website; (iii) listserv(s); (iv) monthly discussions during meetings of the NPSA Board of Directors; and (v) participation on related external advisory groups, committees, etc.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual NPSA Conference will be held in Austin, Texas, Feb 12-16, 2006. The website continues development. One or more email announcement/discussion groups are slated to begin in 2005-2006. Although the by-laws mandate just two annual Board meetings, the Board typically meets via a monthly conference call, with an annual face-to-face meeting at the national conference.

### **HOW DOES THIS ACTIVITY REDUCE PESTICIDE RISK?**

Personal interaction and the exchange of technical information build capacity and increase multi-stakeholder engagement and commitment to pesticide stewardship and risk reduction.

### **HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE RISK REDUCTION GAINED FROM THIS ACTIVITY?**

Surrogate measures will be used to assess risk reduction resulting from interaction, communication, and organization-building activities.

- Organization-building will be assessed by attendance at the annual conference and by membership numbers and sectoral diversity.
- Conference evaluations will be used to identify effective formats and themes.
- Interest in specific conference presentations will be tracked both through conference evaluations and also by monitoring "hits" on the web-postings of conference proceedings.
- Development of the website as an organization-building activity will be assessed both in terms of the completion of additional web sections and functionalities as well as by monitoring usage of the website as an informational clearinghouse. New sections planned in 2005 include a "members only" section and pages specific to NPSA Special Projects.
- NPSA's role as the premier pesticide stewardship organization will be assessed in part by monitoring NPSA's ranking on relevancy-based search engines. *E.g.*, using the search term "pesticide stewardship," the search engine Google returned the URL for NPSA as the first of 177,000 hits. The Yahoo search engine returned the NPSA URL as the 4<sup>th</sup> of 126,000 hits (accessed June 2005).
- Listservs: it is a priority of the Board to implement one or more email announcement or discussion groups with the multiple objectives of serving as an electronic newsletter for the organization, engaging the membership throughout the year, and ongoing technical information transfer. Success will be measured by implementation and activity level on the listserv(s).
- Substantive discussions at the monthly Board meetings are an indicator of multi-stakeholder interaction. Indicators of success include Board attendance (numbers and representation). Content analysis of the Minutes are a means for assessing frequency and value of substantive discussion re: pesticide stewardship and risk reduction.

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## ACTIVITY 2

Support efforts to collect and safely dispose of obsolete, hazardous pesticides and clean-up pesticide storage sites. This activity has been a key objective since NPSA's inception. In 2004

NPSA conducted the first phase of a national pilot project by identifying factors that are most likely to assure the success and sustainability of state collection/disposal programs. NPSA will be a catalyst for proposed phase II activities, which include (i) developing a resource center/clearinghouse for pesticide disposal-related resources and issues; (ii) establishing a consulting service; and (iii) developing 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).

#### **HOW DOES THIS ACTIVITY REDUCE PESTICIDE RISK?**

The storage of obsolete hazardous pesticides presents a serious risk to human health and the environment. As old pesticide containers degrade, these chemicals leach into soil and water, are windswept or volatilized into the air, and may be ingested by people and other non-target biota. Many of the older, obsolete pesticides persist for long periods and bio-accumulate. The collection and disposal of these hazardous chemicals by knowledgeable and properly equipped hazardous waste contractors is critical for risk reduction. While many states have conducted "Clean Sweep" programs, as they are often called, the programs have had differing rates of success and some have fallen on hard financial times. NPSA has been an information clearinghouse and cheering squad, encouraging continued implementation of Clean Sweep programs, and assessing which approaches are the most efficient and effective.

#### **HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE RISK REDUCTION GAINED FROM THIS ACTIVITY?**

Direct measure of risk reduction can be made by tallying pounds of pesticides collected. (However, it should be noted that full credit for these collections does not rest with NPSA, and that the toxic equivalent of pesticides is both unequal and also somewhat subjective.) Surrogate measures include: (i) tracking the number of successful programs, (ii) evaluating NPSA contact hours with program officials, (iii) tracking new NPSA memberships of people associated with Clean Sweep programs, (iv) success in implementing phase II activities, (v) number of presentations of the phase II audio-visual, and (vi) outcomes of these presentations.

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### **ACTIVITY 3**

Support efforts to collect, recycle, or safely dispose of pesticide containers and other agricultural plastics. NPSA contributes to these efforts by promoting them in organizational literature and events, by facilitating multi-stakeholder interaction and discussion, by participating in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers committee to develop a national consensus standard for pesticide container recycling, and by creating forums for exchanging ideas and expertise, all of which strengthen these recycling programs.

#### **HOW DOES THIS ACTIVITY REDUCE PESTICIDE RISK?**

When not collected for recycling, plastic pesticide containers and other agricultural plastics are often burned in open fires on-the-farm, exposing nearby residents, wildlife, and the food chain to toxic emissions from both the pesticide residues and from the burning plastic. Promoting best management practices in handling of containers (such as triple-rinsing pesticide containers and removal of non-recyclable components) and their removal from the waste stream reduces risks to all biota.



#### **HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE RISK REDUCTION GAINED FROM THIS ACTIVITY?**

Estimates of pollution prevention can be calculated from the quantity of containers removed from the waste stream and recycled rather than burned in open fires. However, NPSA's role in this process is indirect. Surrogate means of measuring NPSA's impact on reducing risk by promoting recycling include (i) tracking NPSA contact hours with recycling program officials, (ii) tracking new NPSA memberships of people associated with container recycling programs, and (iii) tracking the number, depth and success of sessions dedicated to this topic at NPSA conferences.

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#### **ACTIVITY 4**

Support improvement of pesticide label language, including the incorporation of label requirements and instructions for container management and product disposal, and the adoption of clear and understandable language, for both agricultural and consumer pesticide products. It is anticipated that at least one session at the 2006 NPSA Conference will be devoted to this theme.

#### **HOW DOES THIS ACTIVITY REDUCE PESTICIDE RISK?**

Improved understanding of pesticide risks by users, as well as by all persons involved in supply chain management of pest control products, will lead to safer practices in choosing and handling of pesticides.

#### **HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE RISK REDUCTION GAINED FROM THIS ACTIVITY?**

Surrogate measures will be used, *e.g.*, successful sessions relating to this activity at the national meeting.

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#### **ACTIVITY 5**

Support development of the pesticides section of the Earth 911 website (<http://www.earth911.org/master.asp>). NPSA has partnered with Earth 911 to provide web-available information re: state-sponsored pesticide disposal and container recycling programs. It is anticipated that information for three pilot states will be active in time for the NPSA meetings in February 2006, and that information relevant to users anywhere in the US will be posted in the coming years.

#### **HOW DOES THIS ACTIVITY REDUCE PESTICIDE RISK?**

Knowing who to call and how to handle a pesticide spill or similar emergency can avert disaster. Similarly, increasing the accessibility and convenience of obtaining information about pesticide collections and container recycling programs will increase the likelihood that pesticides and containers will be disposed at designated collection/recycling sites, rather than dumped in the trash or burned in an open fire.

#### **HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE RISK REDUCTION GAINED FROM THIS ACTIVITY?**

Indicators of success include:

- reaching the goal of posting information pertinent to the 3 pilot states by Feb 2006

- making progress towards posting of information pertinent to additional states
- achieving success in raising funds to continue maintenance of the Earth911 pesticide site

Utility of the site can be assessed in part by number of “hits” and calls to the listed hazardous materials contractors.

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## **ACTIVITY 6**

Encourage international pesticide stewardship by sponsoring international participation at the NPSA Conference.

### **HOW DOES THIS ACTIVITY REDUCE PESTICIDE RISK?**

International programs broaden the reach of stewardship activities and interactions, benefiting all by the sharing of experience and expertise.

### **HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE RISK REDUCTION GAINED FROM THIS ACTIVITY?**

(i) Continued attendance of international collaborators at the NPSA conference, (ii) implementation of joint programs and activities.

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## **Progress**

NPSA joined as a PESP Supporter on April 25, 2001 and submitted just one Strategy Report, for 2002. The 2002 Strategy describes two activities to foster communication and technical information exchange—the annual conference and development of a website. A website now exists and continues to be developed; a national conference has been held annually since the first in 2000 (because the conference will be moved from Fall to Winter, there will not be a conference in 2005); and conference proceedings have been posted to the website. In the interim since the 2002 Strategy document was submitted to PESP, NPSA has become the premier organization focusing on reducing risks from handling and storage of obsolete pesticides, and on disposal of pesticide containers. It has also developed initiatives to oversee disposal of other agricultural plastics, outreach to retail and consumer sectors, and pilot projects to work on development of a pesticides section of the Earth 911 website and on an assessment of state disposal programs. These topics are featured during the annual conferences.

## **Background Documents**

### **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE**

(Source: <http://npsalliance.org/mission.html>)

#### **Introduction**

The National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (NPSA), founded in 2000, is an organization of federal, state and local governmental agencies, educational and research institutions, public organizations, private corporations and individuals that are actively involved in different aspects of pesticide stewardship. Stewardship, by definition includes any activity that has a positive impact on the safety and efficacy of pesticides from manufacture, marketing and commerce, through storage and use, and ultimately disposal of unwanted or unusable products and the management of emptied containers. NPSA will serve as a forum to facilitate cooperation among all interested individuals, organizations, agencies and companies.

The goals of NPSA are to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and longevity of various pesticide stewardship efforts. NPSA will utilize education, training, outreach and other activities to accomplish its stewardship objectives and will be involved in the local, national and international arenas.

#### *Objectives*

- hold an annual conference for exchanging ideas and technical information, and discussing the impacts of emerging issues and other concerns among the membership;
- develop a newsletter and website that will facilitate timely communication among the membership;
- serve as a clearing house for technical information, data and expertise concerning pesticide stewardship programs and issues;
- provide a mechanism to concentrate technical expertise in finding solutions to nationwide problems impacting pesticide stewardship programs;
- promote pesticide stewardship efforts through the use of achievement awards that will honor innovative and creative efforts of individual programs, persons, organizations, government agencies and industry.

#### *Members*

- governmental agencies that a) operate hazardous or solid waste regulatory programs, or b) manage programs that handle pesticide wastes or c) are involved with other hazardous and solid waste management concerns; or d) are involved with pesticide or pest management programs;
- corporations which transport, dispose or recycle solid or hazardous wastes;
- industries that manufacture, formulate or distribute pesticide products;
- organizations, institutions and individuals that are involved with hazardous or solid waste management, pest management, pollution prevention and environmental protection issues;
- agricultural and forestry growers and producers; and various commodity groups.

#### **Background**

In recent years, various public opinion and survey polls have found that citizens are concerned about environmental quality issues and expect government agencies, universities, and industry to protect the nation's natural resources. Over the past two decades, this has resulted in new programs, regulations and initiatives dealing with the many different pesticide products in use.

One of the more important initiatives that began in the early 1980s is the management of pesticide wastes, which includes both unwanted pesticides and emptied pesticide containers, through collection, disposal and recycling programs.

Today, nearly 25 states operate ongoing programs for the collection of unwanted pesticides. Plastic pesticide containers are collected and recycled in most of the continental 48 states through the industry sponsored, Agricultural Container Research Council (ACRC). Since 1980, it is estimated that more than 100 million pounds of pesticides and nearly 40 million pounds of containers have been handled through these widespread efforts. Individual product recall initiatives, often working with pesticide disposal assistance programs, have been conducted throughout the U.S. as a result of the EPA's RPAR program. Locally sponsored household hazardous waste (HHW) collection programs, operating in many cities and counties, are also an important mechanism for the collection and disposal of pesticides and other products from homes, institutions and businesses.

While these accomplishments are indeed significant, there is still need for improvement. Disposal and recycling programs for pesticides and their containers are not available in all areas. Some state pesticide management programs are in their infancy and others are operating under moderate to severe funding limitations. In addition, complexities with hazardous waste regulations and various economic constraints have resulted in the fact that viable disposal options do not exist for some pesticide formulations within the U.S. Furthermore, millions of pounds of containers, both rinsed and not properly rinsed, are still being disposed of within the nation's solid waste landfills.

Dealing with the above listed deficiencies will require a unified and concerted effort by many entities, both public and private. NPSA can and will provide a valuable mechanism for concentrating and coordinating the technical, organizational and economic resources that will be required to develop workable solutions for these ongoing problems.

#### **Future Efforts**

While NPSA was established in order to foster pesticide waste management and recycling programs, future efforts of this organization will encompass many other aspects of pesticide stewardship. Cooperation among pesticide manufactures, product users, regulatory agencies, research institutions and interested private and public organizations is absolutely necessary to ensure that pesticides will be available, effective and safe tools to protect human health, our food supply and the earth's natural resources. It is for these purposes that NPSA was founded and for these reasons that it will play a key role in the nation's pesticide stewardship programs.