

**NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (NPSA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

Secretary Lois Levitan called roll. Names of voting members of the Board are underlined. Five voting members (a quorum) were present.

Present: Gail Amos, Don Bradley, Kathy Brooks, Nancy Fitz, Don Gilbert, Joe Hoffman, Allan Hovis, Lois Levitan, Don Mullins, Janice Oldemeyer, Dan Schweitzer

APPROVALS:

(i) Agenda and (ii) Board Minutes of the June 28, 2005 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Kelby Neal reported via email July 25: as of June 28, 2005 checking account balance = \$17,476.26. Since the previous report there has been a deposit of \$75 from Gail Amos for membership and three payments totaling \$482.15 (AT&T \$56.01; Arrowchase, \$38.64; George Brooks, \$387.50 for website updates).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee: Greg Jackson—not present; no report.

Finance Committee: Rob Hofstetter—not present; no report.

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

Communications: Pat Hipkins emailed her report to Don Gilbert this morning and he circulated it to the Board during the call. None of the issues required urgent discussion this month, but Pat requested 15 minutes during the next Board meeting. Changes on the website since the last call: (i) the “NewsBits” section has been updated. Board and other members are asked to continue to submit news items. During the call, several people reported difficulty accessing the members only section of the NPSA site. (ii) Information about the NAHMMA meeting in September has been posted, with a link to the NAHMMA website. Janice Oldemeyer reported that there is now also a link to NPSA from the NAHMMA site.

Conference/Program: Dan Schweitzer reported on behalf of M L Robinson, Conference Program Co-Chair. They have received very few abstracts for presentations, but were assured that many more will likely come in just before the Sept 15 deadline. At that time the Committee will assess how proactive they need to be to round out the program. Mary Grodner has suggested involving the IPM group at Texas A&M. Don Mullins will follow-up on this by contacting Michael Merchant at Texas A&M, who works on School IPM and is well connected with others in the IPM group. Lois suggested involving the Texas Imported Fireant Program, which is also at Texas A&M (<http://fireant.tamu.edu>). The EPA Team (Nancy, Jude and Margaret) have proposed organizing a panel on the burning of pesticide containers. Next meeting of the program committee is September 27, after the abstract submission deadline so that the Program can be reviewed. Kathy reported for Rob Denny that Keith Jones, CropLife International Manager for Stewardship, agreed to be a

keynote speaker. Everyone was thrilled with this “hot off the press” news. The Committee is still waiting to hear from former Texas Governor Ann Richard and EPA Administrator Steve Johnson, both of whom were also invited to give keynote addresses.

Conference publicity: Lois mentioned that she drafted a blurb about the conference/call for papers for distribution to the New York State Extension system (called Cornell Cooperative Extension or CCE). Because most readers won't know about the organization, the paragraph begins by describing NPSA. She was asked to circulate the paragraph to the Board, for possible use in advertising through other State Extension systems.¹

Sponsorships: Allan Hovis reported on his outreach efforts at the CropLife Stewardship Committee meeting in early June where he gave a pitch for corporate memberships and sponsorships, distributed brochures, spoke with some attendees personally, got a number of promises to renew memberships at the corporate rate of \$200, but did not get commitments for sponsorships at larger dollar amounts. Allan will follow up with personal calls. He mentioned that retailers and distributors were also at the Stewardship Committee meeting, but that NPSA has made scant inroads into these communities. The Board expressed interest in reaching out to these groups. Kathy will distribute information about who are or have been corporate members.

International Relations: Don Mullins—nothing new to report, except for issues reported under separate headings (NPSA name change; EPA Region 9 pesticide clean-up project with Mexico).

Name Change Committee: Kathy reported that the Committee will be meeting this coming Friday, Jul 29. They have received ideas from several people and will send an interim report following the meeting so that the Board has background for discussion at the August meeting. There is **general agreement** that a decision should be made and publicized by early Fall. The Committee was asked to consider whether to trademark the name and logo. The current name and logo do not have a TM.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pesticide Stewardship at the US-Mexico Border Region (EPA Region 9): Nancy Fitz reported that the group met by conference call July 11. Those present included representatives from EPA Region 9, Jose Camelich from the Mexican government, NPSA representatives Don Mullins, Dan Schweitzer, and Nancy Fitz (Roger Springman could not make the call), and Jude Andreason and Nancy representing EPA. Nancy is (cautiously) optimistic because of involvement of Mexican government and because EPA Region 9 will likely be able to put \$70-100K into the project. CropLife Latin America will be involved. An RfA will soon be circulated to the hazardous waste collection community. Plans are to widely circulate information about the collections to growers in the Sonora and surrounding areas. Nancy and Jude recommend having a NPSA representative

¹ NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE: CALL FOR PAPERS

The National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (NPSA) is a young organization with a mission that relates closely to the work of many CCE Associates and Educators. As an integral part of its mission, NPSA fosters interaction and communication among pesticide stewardship professionals from diverse sectors. While the initial focus of the organization was pesticide waste management (Clean Sweep) and pesticide container recycling programs, 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 has issued a Call for Papers and Posters for its 6th annual meeting, which will be held in Austin, Texas Feb 12-15, 2006 on the theme Increasing Awareness: Public and Private Initiatives to Promote Proper Pesticide Stewardship. For more information see <www.npsalliance.org> or contact Lois Levitan, who is currently NPSA Secretary <lcl3@cornell.edu>.

experienced with obsolete pesticide collections on the ground at time of collection and perhaps also to contribute to earlier communications to the grower community.

Conference 2007 Report: The Tradewinds Hotel in St Petersburg, Florida, which had contacted Kathy to solicit return business from NPSA, offered a disappointingly high rate of \$179/night in February without any discounted government rate. Therefore the Committee recommends going to Reno. The committee is in process of tracking down contact information through the agricultural aviation group that has met there. It was noted that the Silver Legacy Hotel offers a free shuttle from the airport. Kathy will follow-up and report to the group via an interim email.²

Discussion of ACRC Situation: Following discussion at the June 28 Board meeting, Dan Schweitzer and Don Gilbert sent a letter to EPA Administrator Steve Johnson expressing concern on behalf of NPSA that there is insufficient funding to continue pesticide container recycling at its current and expanding levels (see attachment). Nancy Fitz reported that a response from EPA is working its way through official channels and will soon be sent.

Don Bradley gave an update on the situation: Because of funding shortfall, container collection and recycling programs cannot expand into new areas or grow to meet increased demand for recycling. ACRC lost two members this year, so has a budget shortfall. Because of the cap on funding, Western Ag Plastics has had to cease collections in California. The sentiment is that there is no chance of increasing contributions from current members until membership increases to include some of the approximately 40 pesticide registrants that are non-members (there are about 30 members of ACRC). It was noted that ACRC formed when there was fear of impending regulation; without this stick it is difficult to draw new members. Attempts to embarrass non-members into joining have not been successful.

Discussion ensued re: what NPSA can do/what role NPSA can play. Ideas included:

(i) Encourage state activity/consequences for not recycling (*i.e.*, make recycling a condition of state registration). Despite current efforts to develop standards that could be incorporated into Federal conditions for pesticide registration, concern was expressed that this process will not move quickly enough and that the States may be able to move more quickly. However, a SFIREG³ survey recently showed that many States are waiting for Federal action on container recycling regulations. And several people expressed concern re: potential for developing 50 different regulations and protocols, rather than a uniform Federal protocol.

(ii) Inform growers about the situation. While many growers and pest control operators are vaguely aware of the situation, there is some misperception that contractors are getting more money for their plastic, and therefore do not need ACRC subsidy. With increased fuel, transportation and processing costs, this is not the case. While several presentations were given at the March AAPCO meetings, the dire situation was not fully conveyed to (or at least, not understood by) attendees.⁴

² In a July 27 email, Kathy reported that she had talked to the Silver Legacy in Reno, and learned that the period from Sunday Feb 25 2007 to Wed Feb 28th is available at a room rate of \$59 per night (both gov't and non-gov't). Since this is their only available weekend in February, Kathy requested immediate feedback and go-ahead to secure this spot.

³ SFIREG: State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group

⁴ How to access AAPCO presentations (Thanks Nancy!): (i) Go to the AAPCO web site: <http://aapco.ceris.purdue.edu/index.html>. (ii) Select "Meetings" on the menu on the left side of the screen. (iii) Select "Meeting Minutes". (iv) Select "Minutes" (NOT "Board Minutes") for the Spring AAPCO meeting. (v) Scroll down to the list of attachment for presentations from Johnny Berry (#Q), Don Bradley (#R) and Maureen Serafini (#S).

(iii) Develop a marketing strategy to get the growers and agricultural community informed and fired up about the pesticide container recycling situation, including identifying key target audiences, selecting key messages, developing an informational packet, and disseminating the message to growers, state registrants, AAPSE members, State agriculture and market. Part of the message should be that this is the time for the entire industry to step forward as the good stewards they claim to be. It is not OK to balk at additional regulation if the industry will not self-regulate. In order to develop a marketing strategy, NPSA needs facts from ACRC (Don Bradley does external affairs for ACRC, so NPSA should be able to get the needed information).

It was **unanimously agreed** that NPSA should take on this project. Gale Amos and Don Bradley will co-lead a committee that will also include Nancy, Lois and Joe. Don Bradley will inform ACRC. Note: the presentations at AAPCO can help to inform and be used in this campaign.

ASAE Container Recycling Project Update: Nancy reported the Committee is on schedule in developing a recycling standard, including protocols for rinsing, collecting, inspection, volume reduction, rejection, and determining responsible end-use products. The committee recognizes that the standard by itself will not solve the problem. As NPSA's representative to the Committee, it is up to Don Gilbert whether to share the details of the standard with the Board.

Pesticide Disposal Pilot Project Update: Roger was not present. Allan reported that he had talked with Roger about engaging industry in supporting Phase II. Phase I is awaiting a final report.

EPA PESP (Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program) Conference: Lois attended the July meetings in full as NPSA representative; Nancy attended much of the meetings, as EPA's liaison to NPSA. While much was gained from the conference in terms of exposure for NPSA (the new display boards were prominent) and contacts/ideas for NPSA conferences, both attendees perceived that NPSA stewardship activities are a marginal fit with PESP, in its current configuration. PESP narrowly defines pesticide stewardship and its Program in terms of an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) approach to pest management. Lois and Nancy proposed that NPSA request a meeting with EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) to argue for institutional support for pesticide stewardship, more broadly defined. Lois will write up and circulate her notes from the meeting and the Board will then consider this proposal.

NPSA Logo Usage Policy Update: Allan and Roger will put closure on the policy document by next meeting. The corporate/non-corporate use policies must be integrated into a single document.

Attendance: Lack of participation/attendance of some Board members was discussed briefly.

NEXT MEETING: Nancy will survey the Board for suitable dates at the end of August/early September and make arrangements for the next Board conference call.⁵

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:42a.m.

Draft submitted by Lois Levitan Aug 16, 2005; revised Sept 1 2005.

⁵ Per note from Nancy circulated Friday Aug 5: next Board call is tentatively set for Thursday, September 1, 10:00a-noon Eastern (202-275-0166; access code: 4512#; call name: pesticides), but may be rescheduled if a quorum of voting members are not able to attend.