

**NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (NPSA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING MINUTES
Sept 1, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER:

Don Gilbert, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

ROLL CALL:

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

Present: Don Bradley, Kathy Brooks, Rob Denny (until 10:45), Nancy Fitz, Don Gilbert, Pat Hipkins, Joe Hoffman, Allan Hovis (until 10:45), Lois Levitan, Don Mullins, Kelby Neal (until 11:11), Janice Oldemeyer, Dan Schweitzer, Roger Springman

APPROVALS:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Kelby Neal reported via email that as of August 30, 2005 the checking account balance is \$13,502.82, with no deposits this month. There have been six payments (AT&T toll free number \$151.36 for the month of August, Arrowchase Director of Operations for July \$1270.00 and August \$1430.00, Global Pay Credit Card Settlement \$35.00, NDPS Credit Card Machine \$44.79, and George Brooks \$962.50 for website updates for the quarter) totalling \$3893.65. It was noted that we appear to be whittling away on the balance. Board members affiliated with corporate sponsors were asked to check the status of the company's contribution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

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

Communications: Pat Hipkins reported that the Focus Group on member-to-member communications would be meeting by conference call on Sept 6 and that the Communication Committee had been surveyed regarding what materials should go into the “member only” section of the website. The Consensus of the Board is that material that would showcase the value of NPSA should be available to all--e.g., member listing (name, affiliation, snail mail address) and postings to an organizational bulletin board or listserv--but that only members would be able to post to these lists (unless their purpose is to get broader input) or to have access to email addresses of other members. The Board asked Pat to move ahead to implement this section, including asking George to develop a member list for the web. It was reaffirmed that NPSA would maintain both electronic and paper archives of policy statements, Board minutes, etc.

NPSA Name Change: Dan Schweitzer had circulated the proposal of the ad hoc committee via email Aug 31. Rob Denny spoke to the issue, walking us through the elements of the proposal and explaining the pros and cons of the arguments. Rob has discussed the proposal with Kelly, the NPSA lawyer. Primary justification for the name change is to reduce barriers to international

participation, which will help to maintain solvency of the organization and enable growth, as well as potentially expand the reach and influence of NPSA. There was discussion of how to have international representation on the Board. A motion was made and unanimously carried to put a proposal to change the name before the membership. A second motion was made and unanimously carried to change the name to The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance. Dan will ask Gail Amos, chair of the bylaws and elections committee (who was absent from the Call because of the birth a his grand-daughter) to make preparations for putting a vote before the membership in November 2005, 45 days after notification that the amendment has been proposed; also to consider whether a change in by-laws is needed in order to change the make-up of the Board to include international representation. Pros and cons were expressed re: using the slot now designated for the environmental/health sector instead for an international representative.

Conference/Program: Kathy reported that she has been working on arrangements, but cannot reserve meeting rooms etc. until the Program is set. In reviewing the menus she is finding that prices are a bit higher than paid previously but there is no sales tax on alcohol. Dan and Joe reported that the program committee will be meeting Sept 27, shortly after the closing date for submission of abstracts. Reminders will be sent out prior to the Sept 15 deadline for submissions and a press release about the meeting will be distributed mid-October.

Sponsorships: Allan Hovis was no longer on the call to give a report.

International Relations: Don Mullins reported that he and Jude Andreason have been working on the meeting program. Don has gotten a grant from US AID to do a pesticide applicator safety training program in West Africa. It was also noted that Cam Davreaux has called a complementary meeting for those involved in pesticide container collections internationally; it will be held just following the NPSA meeting in Austin. Kathy Brooks noted that Rob Denny has details on this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Conference 2007 Report: NPSA's lawyer is reviewing the contract with the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, proposed site for the 2007 meeting. Several expressed concerns that we need to move rapidly so as not to lose the space. Dan Schweitzer will encourage the lawyer to complete the review a.s.a.p.

Discussion of ACRC Situation (Bradley/Schweitzer--10 min.) **and NPSA Ad Hoc Committee Report:** These two agenda items were folded into one discussion. (i) Jay Vroom's Aug 26 proposal to EPA re: pesticide container management on behalf of CropLife America (CLA) and RISE, was discussed¹. In essence CLA/RISE propose Federal regulation of the pesticide industry to "force"

¹ **Executive Summary of CLA/RISE Proposal to the Federal Government**, presented by Jay Vroom, Aug 26 2005:

Since 1992, the crop protection industry has conducted a voluntary plastic pesticide container collection program known as the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC). More than 80 million pounds of nonrefillable plastic pesticide and related containers have been safely collected and recycled to date at a direct cost of more than 40 million dollars. These costs have been fully borne by a small group of ACRC members, consisting of pesticide manufacturers, formulators and distributors, all of whom are CropLife America members.

As a non-profit organization, ACRC collects all containers brought in by users and applicators, not just those belonging to its members. Yet, ACRC has not seen any notable increase in its membership. To reduce ACRC member attrition, CropLife America made participation in ACRC a mandatory condition of membership in CLA in 2001. This resulted in more than a doubling of ACRC members. Since then, numerous efforts by CLA to persuade non-members to voluntarily join ACRC have failed.

industry-wide container stewardship. It was noted that EPA can not simply amend its rule. If EPA were to decide to regulate, the process would take at least one year but likely much longer. First step: EPA OPP must evaluate whether it is a good idea to regulate container stewardship; 2nd: OPP must identify the authority under which it would develop the rules.

Board members believe that many state associations are not aware of the precarious situation with ACRC and container recycling. G.A. and R.S. have both been working with their state associations and it is recommended that others do so as well to apprise them of the situation. Noted that while regional pesticide industry representatives may be supportive, their national headquarters are not ACRC members. Therefore it is believed that unless there is action on the regulatory side, the voluntary program is expected to shrink and go away slowly. The proposal for regulation is expected to garner negative reaction from other packaging industries who oppose regulations on disposal of packaging.

Roger described an August meeting held in Florida with a panel including Gasperini from RISE, Johnny Berry from Syngenta, a lawyer from the chemical industry (CPMA) in which the manufacturing group representative lambasted the need for any regulations on household hazardous wastes, saying that hh haz waste programs are not needed because haz wastes do not cause a problem in landfills..

What should NPSA do? NAHMMA is writing a letter to AAPCO expressing their disagreement with this presentation and to say that they would like to be on a future panel. R.S. suggests pulling together a teleconference . 1st step should be to call Doug Parsons, assistant to Susie Hazen (head of EPA OPPTS) to express NPSA's interest and ask what we can do to help. Need communication among groups. Agree that this is role for NPSA. Keep RS, NF, JH, GA, LCL in loop.

Pesticide Stewardship at the US-Mexico Border Region (EPA Region 9): Nancy Fitz reported that a conference call was held last week (end August) but there was nothing in particular to report, given time constraints.

While ACRC member companies have reduced their volume of nonrefillable plastic containers in the marketplace by moving to other more sustainable packaging and systems, their costs to fund the ACRC program have increased significantly. In the last ten years alone, annual plastic container collections have increased from 5 million pounds annually to about 8 million pounds. An ever increasing volume of these containers belong to non-members. Even though our recycling program is highly cost-effective, it will not be sustainable without full and equitable industry support.

Since the ACRC program benefits the entire industry, we request EPA to:

1. Make participation in ACRC or other equivalent container management programs a requirement under the EPA container rule.
2. Designate ACRC as an EPA recognized "green partner" to qualify our recycled plastic products made from pesticide and related containers as environmentally preferable products to be purchased by federal agencies.
3. Develop a MOU that commits federal agencies that use pesticides to deliver any empty triple-rinsed nonrefillable plastic containers to ACRC for recycling.
4. Provide grant opportunities to re-energize pesticide container education and outreach efforts and further expand research on the range of designated products that can be made from plastic pesticide and related containers.
5. Explore tax incentives to assist ACRC members and its stewardship partners.

By doing so, EPA will assure the future of container stewardship in the U.S. and maintain the goodwill of thousands of farmers, pesticide applicators, state regulators, and other government agencies, that we have earned during the past fifteen years.

ASABE/EPA/CLA Container Recycling Project Update: Nancy reported that work is progressing. The proposed standards are out for comment until Sept 14, after which the group will reconvene. Representatives are encouraged to circulate the proposed standards to their constituencies for comment (*e.g.*, Don Gilbert is encouraged to circulate the proposal to NPSA members).

Other Business: The NAHMMA Conference will be during the week of Sept 18. Gail is attending as NPSA representative; Joe is covering the vendor reception; the NPSA display has been arranged.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:58a Draft submitted by Lois Levitan Oct 3, 2005 (rev Oct 11)