

**NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (NPSA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING MINUTES
Nov 3, 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. There was a quorum only during the mid-portion of the call when Don Bradley was able to participate. Names of voting members of the Board are underlined:

Present: Gail Amos, Don Bradley, Kathy Brooks, Chuck Cabbage, Nancy Fitz, Don Gilbert, Pat Hipkins, Rob Hofstetter, Lois Levitan, Kelby Neal, Angela O'Callaghan, Janice Oldemeyer, Dan Schweitzer, Roger Springman.

APPROVALS: (i) The Agenda was approved. (ii) Board Minutes for the October 2005 meeting were approved pending clarifying revisions to the communication focus group report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Kelby Neal reported via email that as of October 26, 2005 the checking account balance is \$11,758.45. Seven membership renewals = \$485 have been deposited. Payments for expenses totaling \$1209.79 were made to NDPS, the phone company (\$44.79); Global Pay, for credit card processing (\$35.00); and Arrowchase (\$1130.00).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership. Angela O'Callaghan was welcomed as the new committee chair. Angela outlined suggestions for (i) making "wordsmithing revisions" to the membership renewal policy to improve clarity; (ii) sending current members an invoice for renewal rather than renewal reminders; (iii) developing membership recruitment materials that include a paragraph about member benefits, explaining what dues pay for, and describing NPSA accomplishments to date.

The Board gave Angela its blessing to move ahead, noting that the organizational name change provides a good reason to re-connect with members and to include member benefits information with the announcement. Angela will draft the "wordsmithing revisions" and member benefits information (or will take the language from the existing member brochure and/or website), circulate to a sub-group for feedback, and then to the full board. The **Board agreed** re: sending an invoice with cover letter in lieu of a membership reminder(s). **Kathy** will use the QuickBooks Invoice format and will send the first reminder—due to be distributed Nov 1—and subsequent reminders in this format. Pat requested that the membership form include a question re: what contact information may be made public. There was discussion re: whether the conference registration invoice should be merged with the membership renewal invoice, with **decision** to create two different invoices but perhaps to send them in one mailing. There was then further discussion re: various means to increase members' sense of connection with NPSA, e.g., membership cards, membership cards or NPSA business card in the form of a magnet, NPSA shirts, etc.

Finance. No committee report was given. A question was raised re: the function of this Committee and whether we should expect a monthly report (no report has been presented in 2005). Gail Amos described the committee's role as: developing a budget and submitting it to the Board for approval, approving large expenditures, and providing additional check-and-balance in review of finances.

Because NPSA does not have a formal budget, the Finance Committee does not in fact play this role. The Treasurer is charged with reviewing the books twice a year; the Finance Committee's role is to become involved in this process as needed for check-and-balance.

Elections/Bylaws. Gail Amos reported that the ballot for the organizational name change is ready to be distributed electronically. Approval requires a simple majority of the votes cast, with a minimum 25% response rate. The ballot to elect the 2006 Board of Directors will be distributed as soon as Dan has reviewed it and Kathy has checked the spelling and affiliations of nominees. The ballot must be distributed at least 45 days in advance of the annual membership meeting.

Conference Program 2006. Schweitzer/Hoffman reported. The Board approved setting a late registration penalty of \$50 for registrations received after January 13, 2006 and a one-day registration fee of \$125 (there is no 2-day fee). These fees are at the same level as in 2004 and supplement the previously approved standard registration fee of \$325. NPSA hopes to attract members of the ACRC Board and others who will be attending meetings in Austin pre- or post- our conference. It was clarified that the \$50 membership discount is for members paid up for 2006. Kathy has provided the Committee with information about funds needed to sponsor various meals/events and the Committee will now beat the bushes for sponsors. After discussion, the Board **approved** the Tuesday night off-site reception at a place 45 miles away highly recommended by the members of the Committee from Texas. It was noted that the Monday evening reception will not provide full dinner, as it has in the past, so people will have the opportunity on Monday night to visit Austin's Sixth Street district.

Communications. Pat Hipkins asked for input re: the web homepage. It was **agreed** that more information about the organization should be on the homepage; that "newsbits" should be placed lower on the main page or on a subsidiary page, and that conference information should be moved off the homepage. All supported the suggestion to develop a resource section with pictures and short articles for use in the public domain. Pat asked for input and help in compiling these resources. It was **decided** that the members-only section would be launched by sending the current (2005 and 2006) passwords with acknowledgement of paid membership. The 2005 password should be widely advertised but will be useful only until March 2006; loss of access to the members-only section is hoped to be an enticement to renew.

Sponsorships. Allan Hovis was not on the call to give a report.

International Relations. Mullins/Fitz reported on the Mexico-Arizona border area pesticide clean up project later in the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Life-Cycle Stewardship Prospectus. Roger Springman described the proposal that he has developed with Bill McLelland and others, as well as the proposed time line for actualizing. Roger had hoped the Board would be able to vote approval to make this a NPSA project. However, without a quorum this was not possible. A sub-committee (Chuck Cabbage, Janice Oldemeyer, Lois Levitan as well as Bill McClelland and Roger) was formed to review the prospectus and timeline, revise as needed per comments received and present it to the Board by means of a proposal circulated via email. While the topic is on the docket for Austin, Roger wants to hold a conference call with partners prior to that meeting so that Austin can be a worksession, not an introduction. [Post meeting Development: A special meeting of the Board will be held Nov 17 to act on the proposal.]

Ad hoc Pesticide Container Recycling Communication. Gail Amos and Don Bradley requested a session during the Austin meetings to discuss the situation of budgetary shortfall for container recycling, inter-group conflict, strategies for resolution, and NPSA's role. It was confirmed that the Austin schedule includes an "ACRC Update Panel." Background: Gail and Don are concerned that, although CropLife and ACRC are different organizations, CropLife has been taking credit that doesn't belong to them, thereby alienating the non-ACRC companies that the program is trying to attract. The non-ACRC member companies do not want to be associated with CLA. Because of the complexities underlying this rift, Gail and Don decided not to follow through on a previous Board decision to develop a NPSA brochure on this topic.

NPSA Logo Usage Policy Update. The Board discussed final wording of the merged policies for use of the NPSA logo by corporate and non-corporate partners. (i) The policy stipulates that NPSA will supply the logo to external users and that it must then be used without modification. The Board **agreed** that in addition NPSA should be notified in advance about intended uses. (ii) The original policy, but not the revised version, had stipulated a minimum \$5000 contribution from corporate members in order to use the logo. There was discussion about the level of contribution that should be required from smaller firms, and about how to express this in the policy. It was **agreed** that the \$5000 minimum contribution should be explicitly referenced, but that additional language should be inserted implying that the policy could be modified at the discretion of the Board.

ASABE/EPA/CLA Container Recycling Project Update. Nancy Fitz reported that the committee will be doing a quick review prior to sending out the proposed standards for a formal ASABE vote, a process that will likely take one-two months. Nancy also noted that this is a project of the ASABE that is supported by EPA among others, but that it is not an EPA project.

Pesticide Stewardship at the US-Mexico Border Region (EPA Region 9): Nancy Fitz reported that US EPA Region 9 is committing \$100,000 towards this project, making it far more likely it will come to fruition. The Committee has been making logistical progress. NPSA folks have been very involved (e.g., the project will be using the registration form used in Virginia, provided by Dan). Nancy raised the question of how NPSA should now be involved. Nancy and Jude Andreasen circulated an email with their thoughts and solicited other thoughts.¹ The Board suggested having

¹ Background for discussion of EPA Region 9/Mexico disposal pilot update, written by Nancy Fitz and Jude Andreasen, and circulated by Nancy Fitz on November 2, 2005. Region 9, Arizona and Mexico have been working hard on the logistics in setting up a disposal pilot project in the Sonora region in Mexico and the Yuma region in Arizona. Jack Peterson is doing outreach to gauge interest in AZ, look into potential collection sites, and adapting Virginia's registration form. Jose Camalich is doing the same things for Mexico. Region 9 has a commitment for \$100,000 for the project.

Some NPSA representatives (Dan Schweitzer, Roger Springman, Don Mullins and Bill McClelland) have been participating in the discussions so far. I'd like to discuss options for the continued role of NPSA in this project. Some possibilities include:

1. Continue to serve as advisors/"grey beards" in response to questions from Region 9, Arizona and Mexico
 - Provide existing registration forms and other materials
 - Answer questions like Jack Peterson asked about what types of products need to be disposed of differently than universal wastes. Are there products which currently do not have a viable disposal method?
2. Mary Grisier (EPA Region 9) just asked Jude and I for help developing a statement of work and cost estimate for an RFP. Is this - and help identifying necessary parts of RFPs & contracts - something that the State reps can help with?
3. Provide proactive advice about things that need to be done and pitfalls to avoid

someone on-site to be sure workers are using sufficient safety precautions because contractors can become cavalier about safety. Experienced NPSA members could help develop and review the RfP for contractors to ensure that high standards are maintained. It is important that Arizona's safety standards be followed for work in the U.S. It may be useful to involve someone with Arizona Extension who is involved with pesticide safety training, recognizing that the collection of obsolete pesticides creates a somewhat different situation.

Regulatory Update/Discussion on Container Recycling. Nancy reviewed the August 26 meeting when representatives of CropLife, RISE, and AAPCO met with EPA OPP's Susie Hazen and EPA Administrator Steve Johnson (who joined by phone for part of the meeting). These groups had put forth a 6-point proposal in which they asked EPA to amend the current container rule. Five of the six points were non-regulatory, and included market development, education and outreach grants, etc. A few weeks ago the EPA responded under Susie's signature agreeing that EPA would explore regulatory approaches for mandating participation in container recycling at the registrant level. However, because EPA is very close to publishing its container rule, for both legal and programmatic reasons it cannot now be changed or withdrawn. *I.e.*, EPA cannot now add a regulatory mandate to the draft final container rule but will follow up re: the feasibility of the other suggestions and could amend the rule in the future. Nancy has compiled this information into a Powerpoint slide presentation given October 31 to SFIREG and circulated to the NPSA Board November 2. Nancy noted that Lin Moos, a senior associate of Bill Diamond's, is doing some initial scoping on regulatory options.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:22pm, Nov 3.

NEXT MEETING: Nancy was asked to try to find a suitable time in the first week of December. For the foreseeable future the call-in number will be **(866) 299-3188**, with Nancy's phone number **(703-305-7385#)** as the **access code**.

[POST-MEETING INFO: The next meeting will be Thursday, December 15 1-3pm Eastern time.]

Draft submitted by Lois Levitan Nov 15 2005, rev Nov 22 2005.

4. Provide information and advice about safety at the collection site for volunteers and State workers (assume contractor covers safety aspects for contractor and site)

5. Visit Arizona and Mexico during planning stages and/or during collections as advisor

6. Provide a forum to discuss and evaluate the project (e.g., potential update at 2006 conference; follow up/assessment at 2007 conference)

7. Others?