

**NATIONAL PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (NPSA)  
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING  
Nov 17, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Don Gilbert, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order shortly after 2:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Secretary Lois Levitan called roll. Five voting board members participated (Don Bradley, Chuck Cabbage, Don Gilbert, Greg Jackson, Allan Hovis), giving the meeting a full quorum. Non-voting participants were: Dan Schweitzer, Lois Levitan, Nancy Fitz.

**APPROVALS:**

The Agenda proposed by Don Gilbert was approved, *i.e.*, giving exclusive attention to a discussion of the Pesticide Life Cycle Prospectus and a vote on whether to adopt this initiative as a NPSA project.

***Pesticide Life-Cycle Stewardship Prospectus.***

Background: Roger Springman has taken leadership in the past few months in developing the prospectus for an initiative that he brought to the NPSA Board for discussion at the Oct and Nov 2005 meetings, with the proposal that the project be undertaken by NPSA. The essence of the proposal is that NPSA organize and facilitate multi-stakeholder involvement in developing a plan for implementing full-life-cycle stewardship of pesticides, including proper disposal of obsolete/unused products and containers. A Focus Group appointed at the Nov 2005 Board Meeting met by conference call on Nov 7 to discuss the concept and its finer points, including an implementation plan. Focus group members in addition to Roger and co-author Bill McClelland are Chuck Cabbage, Lois Levitan, Janice Oldemeyer, Dan Schweitzer (*ex officio*). Following the discussion, Roger took the lead in revising documents that were circulated to the Board in the form of four attachments to an email distributed on Nov 14 (Life Cycle Prospectus.doc, Life cycle partner ltr.doc, Life Cycle Implementation.doc, Pilot Project E. Summary.doc).

Dan Schweitzer and other attendees summarized the discussion and outcomes of the Focus Group (FG) meeting:

- (i) The Focus Group fully supports Roger's proposal that NPSA take organizational leadership on this project.
- (ii) The Focus Group recommends that the project, and all supporting documents, refer to disposal of all types of pesticides and their containers, and not be focused exclusively on agricultural products, as was the case in earlier drafts of the prospectus. It was felt that this broader concept and language (*i.e.*, without caveats re: which pesticides/uses are/are not of interest) will be easier to communicate and publicize, and is strategically on-target. The FG recognizes that tactically the project may focus on a subset of products, types of pesticide use, and stakeholders.
- (iii) Because the FG wants to encourage stakeholders with diverse interests in the problem to come to the table, it considers it appropriate at this stage not to presume any

particular outcome or means of solving the problem. *I.e.*, implementation steps should focus on how to facilitate discussion, not on how the collections and disposal will be organized, actualized or paid for.

The Board discussed the recommendations of the Focus Group as well as the documents circulated Nov 14, followed by a vote re: whether NPSA should adopt the program, and in what form.

Among the points raised in discussion:

- (i) the status and stability of state pesticide collection programs.
- (ii) the need for means to address the “million \$\$ question”: How do we get past the perception that disposal programs are optional? It was noted that an attitude change is needed at EPA as well as among producer and user groups.
- (iii) status of EPA’s container rule.
- (iv) possible role for state Farm Bureaus in bringing political pressure for disposal stewardship. Members of the FG noted that a major thrust of this project is the opportunity to bring a full array of stakeholders, including new players, around the table.
- (v) implementation steps: Roger is interested in organizing a conference call of key players prior to the Austin annual meeting, followed by a discussion and working sessions at the meetings.

It was noted that--despite agreement among the FG that the project must be initiated without pre-conceived ideas about solutions--the newly proposed Executive Summary (ES) lays out a specific approach for funding the collections and disposal. Thus the **Board agreed** by unanimous vote to ask the FG to revise the ES to be consistent with the prospectus; specifically, to replace verbiage re: fees in the last two paragraphs with excerpts from the first paragraph in the conclusion to the prospectus.

The **Board agreed** by unanimous vote to adopt the Pesticide Life-Cycle Initiative as a NPSA project, with NPSA’s primary role initially to bring a diverse set of players to the table to develop a strategy for pesticide life-cycle stewardship. It was noted that the proposed project is synchronous with NPSA’s mission and that it identifies a problem in America that will not disappear without action.

These votes were understood to put the responsibility for moving ahead back into the hands of the Focus Group.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17pm, Thursday, November 17, 2005.