

**THE PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

April 21, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Fred Gabriel at ~11:00 AM EST.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present. (Board Members underlined): Fred Gabriel; Marty Fitzpatrick; Rob Denny; Wayne Buhler; JD Fish; Ed Cranson; Bonnie McCarvel; Kevin Neal; Eric Laut; Jen McLaughlin; Charles Luper; Liza Fleeson; Lois Levitan; Jack Peterson; Don Mullins; Allan Hovis; Roger Springman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 12, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting were approved. A copy of the minutes will be posted on the website.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Currently 132 members from 23 different organizations have renewed their annual membership. All Conference photographs and Powerpoint presentations that we have a digital copy of have been loaded onto the website. All conference related press releases have been sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of March 31, 2009, the checking account balance is \$60,618.03. The Conference Income was \$72,091.00; the conference expenses totaled \$45,340.13. The income/expense total equaled \$26,750.87. Current Net Income is \$7,387.74.

WEBSITE

The interim Communications Committee has been discussing updating the website. At this time, it is agreed that we should work on getting the website current with updated information rather than be concerned about revamping the whole layout of the website.

It was brought up that perhaps we should charge a fee for using the website. We could consider having a “members only” portion of the website that would require a password. Access to this portion of the website could only be obtained by having a paid membership with TPSA.

2009 BUDGET

Charles Luper, Fred Gabriel and Bonnie McCarvel have been working on the proposed budget. TPSA’s expenses are constant with last year, but the revenue is down. To date, TPSA has received \$20,000 in corporate sponsorship, but we expected \$25,000. With the state of the economy, the sponsorships may be less than in the past.

Our variable expenses are to MACA, which includes all of Bonnie’s administrative fees and Mirsky, which is our website administrator. The proposed budget for these services is \$20,000 based on the amount spent in 2008. The current budget stands at -\$9,250. We need to make some changes that will help us not run in the negative.

Every time that Bonnie does anything for TPSA, she is billable at \$75.00 per hour. Bonnie’s time is very valuable, but some of these costs may be avoidable by working directly with Fred or Kevin. Once the Communication Committee is established, a designated individual can contact Mirsky direct with web services needs, eliminating those costs from MACA.

It was also discussed that we may be able to reduce our costs for website services. We are not locked into any type of contract with Mirsky. TPSA does have a good relationship with them, and they have donated many services in the past. We can look into other vendors to compare costs.

We also need to focus on obtaining memberships and corporate sponsors. Bonnie, Fred and Charles will discuss getting some type of sponsorship letter out early in hopes to secure some funds prior to budget cuts. Early conference reminders should go out to secure attendance as well.

Fred and Charles are going to work with Bonnie to verify what GL categories some items (i.e. different services that Mirsky provides) are being allocated to. We may want to combine some of the categories.

POLICY 8.0 WEB SERVICES

Appendix A: Guidelines for Posting Documents to TPSA’s Website or Sending Information to Members has been added to this Policy. The approval of this Policy has been tabled until the next Board Meeting to allow time for further review. It was agreed that all requests for postings to the website go thru Nancy Fitz until this Policy is finalized.

COMMITTEES

Conference Planning Committee – TPSA's website has been updated with the information for the 2010 conference in Savannah, GA held on February 21-24, 2010.

International Committee - This workgroup has been working on a triple rinse project. The meeting of some of the working group who attended the Albuquerque meeting suggested that two approaches be implemented: one aimed at an audience with basic tools and resources and a second one aimed at an audience lacking tools and resources. The first approach will provide instructions for an "advanced" scenario that includes imagery based on recently developed FAO guidelines for triple rinsing containers. Rob Denny has initiated a project and formed a "3 Rinse Training Task Force" which is reviewing a draft of the advanced scenario; after Board of Directors approval this will be published on the TPSA web site. A proposal to reimburse Rob for his expenses will be submitted to the Board. The second approach or "basic" scenario will be designed for audiences in truly developing countries where conditions and facilities are rudimentary. This effort will require some extra care in developing appropriate imagery and language to convey the importance of rinsing and destroying a variety of sizes and types of containers prior to disposal. The International Committee is developing a draft proposal for funding this effort that will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Communications Committee – The interim group had a meeting. They began by developing the needs of short, medium and long-term goals. They started assigning individuals to tasks and have begun to recruit volunteers. It was agreed that all needs would pass through Nancy for the time being. The importance of having a great website was discussed. This would encourage new users and allows TPSA to show that our sponsors are getting exposure all through the year.

Elections and Bylaws Committee – Eric Laut is learning the role as the new chair of this committee. Eric will work with Kevin on the call for nominations to ensure that all requirements follow the timeline set in the bylaws.

Finance Committee – Charles and Fred will work to watch expenditures and increase revenue. We will also work to try and figure out how to lure people to the organization. Perhaps we can get TPSA logo items to sell to raise funds. Kevin will look into logowear type items.

Sponsorship Committee – Sam Gibson has agreed to be the chair for this committee. His attendance to the next conference call will be requested

WORKGROUPS

Ag Plastics Workgroup – The next conference call for this workgroup is scheduled for next Thursday.

Hazardous Waste Workgroup – This group has been in contact with Earth 911 to assist with pesticide disposal links and data. They would host long term data as well as be a service to locate collection events in a specific area.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

An email will be sent to check availability for the next board meeting. Possible dates are during the weeks of May 25th and June 1st.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at ~ 12:20 PM EST.

[Submitted by Jennifer McLaughlin, May 25, 2009, Revised May 27, 2009, Approved May 29, 2009]