

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

**February 13, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Fred Gabriel at ~1:15PM CST.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present. (Board Members underlined): Fred Gabriel; Allan Hovis; Cary Hamilton; Ed Cranson; Rob Denny; Cam Davreux; Kevin Neal; Nancy Fitz; Don Bradley; Jack Peterson; Don Mullins; Roger Springman; Lois Levitan; Margaret Jones; Scott Birchfield, Joyce Harris

**2012 CONFERENCE**

We discussed potential sites for the 2012 conference and decided to make a decision to present at the Members meeting on Monday. Kevin Neal mentioned the proposals he sent to Board members on February 9. The proposals are from hotels in several potential cities for our 2012 conference. These were solicited by and provided through an outfit called American Meeting Management (AMM), which NAHMMA has used for several years. Roger Springman and Ed Cranson presented a table comparing features (like weather, attractions, hotel options, etc.) for Boise, Mobile, Sacramento and St. Louis. (See file Potential 2012 Conference Sites.pdf) Several points that were discussed were: there is a possibility of fog in Sacramento; we are due to go West after being in Savannah and San Antonio; and surprise at the typical temperature this time of year in Boise. Kevin Neal moved that we hold the 2012 conference in Boise, Idaho. Rob Denny seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Don Bradley presented the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for calendar year 2010 and a comparison of the actual P&L compared to the budget. The conference income was about \$61,000 and corporate sponsors provided \$20,000 of income. We had about \$13,000 net income in 2010. Fred Gabriel pointed out that this is will likely go toward paying for the approved redesign of the web site.

It was suggested that the new board prepare a budget for 2011 within a few months of this meeting. It would be helpful to look at the budget numbers for the last few years.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes available to approve.

## **2011 CONFERENCE**

There was no report on the 2011 conference from Kevin Neal and Dan Schweitzer. Jack Peterson said that the silent auction would be over by the Grand Reception and the auction for some items would end sooner.

## **NEW BUSINESS – SPONSORSHIP POLICY**

Lois Levitan suggested that the Board consider revising the TPSA Sponsorship Policy to include all sponsors on the conference program as a way to thank them. Rob Denny moved to amend the Sponsorship Policy to acknowledge all sponsors by including sponsors of less than \$1,000 on the conference program by listing only their name (no logo). Ed Cranson seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL**

It was pointed out that the conference program should have included a disclaimer (that the views and opinions expressed at the conference are not representative of TPSA, its board members or its officers.) This sparked a conversation about the status of obtaining legal counsel. KARA is not returning Fred's emails or phone calls, so that does not seem to be a viable option any more. Fred is concerned about protection of the board members. Cam said that CropLife Canada hands out an anticompetitive policy at the beginning of every meeting and people have insurance coverage. Fred will ask Bonnie for suggestions for moving forward.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Communication Committee**

Jay and Maria Mirsky brought two mock ups formats for the web site redesign to the conference. These will be discussed at the Communication Committee meeting during the Tuesday breakfast roundtables. Nancy Fitz reported that she is trying to find someone to head up the web redesign project. It was mentioned that Sandra Keil may be interesting/willing to chair this committee. Rob asked when the information from the international project he headed up will be posted on the web site, which will be when Nancy has time to pull it together.

### **Election and Bylaw Committee**

The ballots for Board Members were sent to the members as required and are available at the registration desk. These ballots are due Monday at 11:00 am.

Cary will present the bylaw amendments at the Members Meeting on Monday. Ballots will be handed out then and people will be asked to vote during the meeting.

TPSA officers will be appointed by the board at the next meeting. Cary will move from vice president to president, as set out in the bylaws. Sandra Keil is interested in being vice president if she is appointed. Don Bradley is willing to be treasurer. Jen McLaughlin has a potentially busy

year and the following people were suggested as candidates for secretary: Annie Macmillian from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Beth Carter from the Office of the Indiana State Chemist; Mark Jordan of Techmer PM (produces an additive to ag plastics); Jeff Rogers from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and J.D. Fish from Bayer CropScience.

## **International Committee**

The International Committee has produced a final beta version of the brochure on pesticide container management and has worked to ensure it is appropriate for the culture in Mali and Ghana. The main point of the brochure is to rinse and destroy containers. At this point, burial is the best option in many developing countries. The brochure will be available in English and French and in color and black and white. The project is under budget.

Rob Denny has completed work on the other international project, to develop visual aids to support the FAO container rinsing guidance. The documents need to be pulled together and posted on the TPSA web site.

## **AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS WORK GROUP**

The agricultural plastics workgroup has been having regular conference calls. The discussions have been good but the group is so large, it is unwieldy. During the last session on Tuesday afternoon, they will discuss how to move the group forward. On Thursday morning, they will discuss establishing an "Eco-label," an initiative to identify, brand and promote products made from recycled agricultural plastics. Lois is planning to head up this initiative, either through New York state or TPSA and asked for input from the Board. There was potential interest from the Board, although more information is needed. In addition, this initiative would need to distinguish between pesticide containers and other agricultural plastics.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **The Future of TPSA**

There was general agreement that we need to have a focused session (at least several hours) to have a structured (possibly facilitated) discussion about where TPSA should go in the next 3-5 years. This could include identifying our objectives, discussing ways to achieve those, and developing a 3-year plan. The suggestions were to have another face-to-face meeting in May or June at the site of the next conference or to come in a full day early before the next conference. Fred pointed out that we would have to do a lot of work ahead of time to maximize the usefulness of this discussion.

Other suggestions included hiring staff (via a service contract) to help with things like web site content and hosting webinars; hiring an executive director, although others question what that person would do; having TPSA be an umbrella organization for grants (with lower overhead than others); and consider raising dues.

## **Website Upgrade**

The Communication Committee will be discussing the website upgrade during the breakfast roundtable on Tuesday morning.

## **NEXT CONFERENCE CALL**

The date of the next meeting will be discussed after the new Board members are announced.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at ~ 3:30 PM CST.

[Submitted by Nancy Fitz, March 10, 2011]