

AAPSE Board of Directors Meeting

April 7, 2009

AAPSE Board Members in Attendance: Ples Spradley, Carol Ramsay, Joanne Kick-Raack, Dan Wixted, Jennifer Weber, Richard Beard, Pat Hipkins, Sandra McDonald, Clyde Ogg, Scott Bretthauer, and Ed Crow

Guests in Attendance: Larry Schulze, Kevin Keaney, Jim Criswell, and Amy Brown.

Treasurer's Report

Dan Wixted provided an update of the treasurer's report and said that AAPSE has 174 paid members as of the end of March 2009. Dan said that 132 AAPSE members were due to renew in 2009 and most have done so already.

Carol Ramsay referred to Article VI of the AAPSE bylaws, which stated that June 30th is the membership renewal deadline. Members who have renewed prior to the upcoming AAPSE election will be eligible to vote.

Dan said that AAPSE didn't have many expenses in 2008 or so far in 2009, but there will be some anticipated expenses associated with the upcoming North American Pesticide Certification and Safety Education Workshop in August 2009. He said that AAPSE used to have three 12-month certificates of deposits that would come up for renewal at the same time, but he renewed each for different terms before returning them to 12-month terms so that their maturity dates would be staggered throughout the year, allowing more timely access to funds if necessary.

Joanne Kick-Raack stated that an educational fund set up with a donation from Paul Baker was meant to be the source of funds for the nursery, shade tree, and orchard spraying webcast AAPSE and Ohio State produced in 2007. However, payment was made from AAPSE's checking account. The board directed Dan to transfer funds from the educational account into the checking account to cover the costs.

Status of Elections

Ples Spradley said that the Nominations and Elections Committee hit the ground running and that the committee is close to sending out a request for nominations. He suggested that Board members send their nominations to Carrie Foss or Phil Nixon as soon as possible. The new officers will be announced at the National Meeting in August 2009 and service will begin then.

Status on Awards

Sandra McDonald will solicit nominations for AAPSE awards on June 12th. She sought input from the BOD on whether or not to notify the award nominees prior to the 2009 C&T Workshop. Carol Ramsay suggested that Sandra contact the 2009 C&T Workshop planning committee to see if each award recipient registered for the conference. It would be nice to surprise the recipients, but some may not plan to attend. This would enable AAPSE to assist with travel arrangements if necessary.

Professional Development Committee

Ples Spradley explained that Tara Steinke, formerly of Colorado State University's Pesticide Safety Education Program, was the chair of the AAPSE Professional Development Committee. Tara recently left Colorado State University for a new job. She stepped down from the position of Professional Development Committee Chairperson, and Mike Helms of Cornell University agreed to take the role of Chairperson.

Ples added that AAPSE will not hold a separate professional development course this year since the majority of the 2009 C&T Workshop sessions provide useful information, tools, and content that can be considered "professional development" courses.

AAPSE Meetings during the North American Pesticide Certification and Safety Education Workshop

Sandra McDonald is serving on the 2009 C&T Workshop Planning Committee and was therefore able to provide the board with a tentative conference agenda so that they could decide when they wanted to schedule the AAPSE reception, business and general meeting.

Sandra said that the conference will end at noon on Thursday, but that there are several regional meetings that will be held from 1:00 – 3:00 that afternoon. While we could schedule an AAPSE meeting for late Thursday, she said it is difficult to find flights out of South Carolina in the evenings. She suggested that we eliminate Thursday afternoon as a meeting option.

After tossing around a few more ideas, the board decided upon the following schedule:

- AAPSE Board Meeting = Monday, August 10, 2009 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- AAPSE Reception = Monday, August 10, 2009 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- AAPSE General Business Meeting & Breakfast = Wednesday, August 12, 2009 from 7:00 am – 8:45 am

Sandra volunteered to check on the costs of the breakfast meeting and AAPSE reception.

In addition to holding various AAPSE meetings, the board agreed that AAPSE should also display a poster so that non-AAPSE members, who are not likely to attend the AAPSE meetings, can learn about the association.

All agreed that this would be a good idea, but that the old AAPSE poster display will need to be updated. It was decided that this could be a good activity for the AAPSE Membership and Public Relations Committee. Ples will contact Membership and Public Relations Committee members Dean Herzfeld and Kathy Dictor to talk to them about updating the poster.

Pat Hipkins added that the AAPSE brochure is also a good resource. It is still current and therefore doesn't need to be updated.

Journal of Pesticide Safety Education (JPSE)

Pat Hipkins asked about the status or results of the peer review process of the Journal of Pesticide Safety Education. Carol volunteered to contact Andrew Martin or Fred Whitford to ask them how pleased they were with the process of submitting journal articles for publication in

JPSE. Andrew and Fred co-authored an article that was published in the most recent issue of JPSE.

Certification, Training and Assessment Group (CTAG)

Dan Wixted sent a summary of the CTAG meeting through the AAPSE listserv but also highlighted a few topics during this meeting. Dan said that CTAG just held an election to replace Andrew Thostenson, whose CTAG term had expired. A follow up e-mail will be sent as soon as Andrew's replacement is announced.

Dan said that CTAG has been doing a lot of work on the quality and security of pesticide applicator exams. The group is also focusing on the quality of certification and training (C & T) programs. They would like to provide C & T organizers and speakers with guidance on program content. *Please refer to Dan's CTAG summary for more details.*

Pesticide Safety Education Web Portal

The board talked about the Pesticide Safety Education Web Portal, which is housed at Washington State University. Joanne Kick-Raack said that she uses the web portal frequently to search for a phone number and links to websites, so it is helpful for her. However, she doesn't refer to the list of resources that are included. Dan said that he uses the AAPSE listserv and search engines, such as "Google" when he is looking for a resource or contact.

Kevin Keaney said that the AAPCO website also houses contact lists. Pat Hipkins added that she uses both the AAPCO and AAPSE webpages for contacts and links to other pesticide safety education sites.

The consensus was that the Pesticide Safety Education Web Portal does house a lot of valuable information, but that the "web portal" format may be outdated and that not everyone thinks about using it when searching for resources, contacts, and links to other sites. Carol Ramsay suggested that the board think about how to effectively share resources and information using today's technology. In the meantime, she will keep the web portal up until asked to move it elsewhere or to take it down.

Timeline for Worker Protection Standard Regulation Changes

Kevin Keaney explained that a recent law passed to create a panel consisting of small business leaders, pesticide program officials, and representatives from the office of budget to discuss regulation changes that would impact small businesses. A report of the panel's comments was included in the docket.

Kevin said that in the coming months, and hopefully by the end of June (2009) EPA will take several more steps to inform key organizations, panel members, and administrators about the proposed regulation changes and preferred options for these changes. This will all contribute to the final rule. *Kevin referred to a PowerPoint presentation that he provided during the AAPCO spring meeting that highlights the Pesticide Worker Safety Regulations and agreed to send a copy of the PPT to board members who were unable to attend the AAPCO meeting (<http://aapco.org/doc/min2009/min040509.html#cont7>).*

Kevin said that an economic impact statement about the proposed changes will be developed. EPA will engage USDA, OMB, and Congress and the proposal will go out for comment in November 2010. A formal comment period will follow and it is anticipated that final rule will take place in October 2012. Kevin said that they will solicit comments through AAPSE and AAPCO listservs and would appreciate a wide range of comments regarding the impacts that these changes will make on industry, the agricultural community, and others.

Funding Update for Certification and Training

Kevin sent out a spreadsheet that contained funding details. He said that he would like to provide this each year so that funding recipients will know the amount of money they will receive and when it will be distributed. This information will also be made public through a website.

Kevin said that Jeanne Kasai and budget staff are working together to make sure that the money is being spent and reallocated. One way to do this is by establishing shorter interagency agreements, which will allow them to identify unspent money sooner and more frequently.

PRIA Funds and Accountability

Amy Brown said that PSEP Coordinators recently received an e-mail from USDA that PSEP is no longer required to report each year. Amy said that even though it may seem like it would be easier not to report annually, it is much better to report as it allows PSEPs and USDA to track spending.

Amy and Kevin shared their thoughts on the reasoning behind USDA's decision to eliminate annual reporting of programs using PRIA funds. They said that part of the reasoning is that the narratives that are submitted rarely change from year to year and that USDA may not want to read the same report yearly.

Amy suggested that a yearly report with a narrative about how PSEPs recertify, as opposed to simply numbers of people recertified, would be more interesting to read. She added that impact statements would also be beneficial.

Pat Hipkins added that she has to report on extension activities yearly, but these activities may not get included in the USDA report. Not every state PSEP reports their results to USDA in the same way. Some may only report numbers of people served by PRIA funds, while other states may report on all programs (including extension activities) since funds may be added to a pool of money to run the program as a whole. Amy agreed that some PSEP Coordinators may like to show how they leveraged monies. Other Coordinators may fear that by showing that they are receiving funding from other sources, the PRIA funds may be taken away from them because it would appear as if they have sufficient money to run their programs without the PRIA funds. Kevin said that EPA realizes that PRIA funds aren't the only resource for PSEPs and that it would be better to report more details than not enough about spending.

Amy said that PSEP Coordinators could start talking about reporting formats and templates that would make reporting easier, less time-consuming, and consistent across programs.

Bed Bug Summit

Kevin said that Lois Rossi wanted to involve AAPSE and EPA in the development of a package of educational resources on bed bugs. Sandra McDonald mentioned that there will be an exhibitor's table of bed bug information.

AAPCO Liaison Report

Ed Crow provided a summary of the key issues that AAPCO will address this year. The main issue (NPDES Permits) will impact public health issues because it deals with permitting requirements for all pesticides applied in a manner that could contaminate waterways.

Carol Ramsay further explained that anyone who was going to apply a pesticide, whether or not it was labeled for use to control pests in navigational waters, potentially needed a permit to do so. Any pesticide application that could potentially contaminate a waterway was perceived as a public health risk. EPA needs to appeal this decision by April 9, 2009 and it appears as if they will move forward with an appeal. In the meantime, the state water quality control boards have written a letter to ask for a two-year extension of this decision and an additional presentation was going to be provided during the AAPCO spring meeting.

Ed said that web-based labeling is also being discussed, with CTAG 21st Century funding on their radar for next year.

Updating AAPSE Committees' Webpage

Ples said that the information about the AAPSE committees needs to be updated. Some committees are no longer active and others have new committee members. The board thought that the information should be updated by the committee members to make sure that it is accurate.

Pat Hipkins suggested and Dan Wixted agreed that a request to review to update this information could be included with the membership renewal forms. As these updates come in the information will be changed on the committees' webpage. The board also said that committee information is included on the individual contact pages. Larry Schulze said that updating each individual's contact page may be a lot of work, but a historical list of committee involvement is helpful, especially when considering candidates for AAPSE representatives and officers.

Pat Hipkins said that this historical information could be included as a list on the Archives webpage. It could include a list of representatives and officers, award winners, and fellows recipients.

Ples Spradley said that these ideas are all good, but that the Membership Committee would be the best group to continue this discussion

Comparative Safety Statements and Logos

Amy Brown said that EPA is going to go through with allowing registrants to place statements on labels that claim that the products are part of the green program and have been designed for the environment. Amy said that she wasn't sure how they will do this yet, but that the companies will most likely start with the antimicrobials and hard surfaces sanitizers.

Amy said it is not a violation of FIFRA to include comparative safety statements and logos on labels as these can be considered corporate commitment statements such as a company's dedication to preserving the environment by reducing greenhouse gases and their carbon footprint.

The objective of this concept is to help the consumer make safer decisions and move toward using safer products. Amy explained that this is a pilot program and the results will be captured through product sales. However, as she pointed out, this does not ensure that the user will actually follow the label instructions or use the product safely.

As board members discussed this further, they concluded that while they are not against the green movement, but that the method of analyzing the effectiveness of this pilot program is not quite right. Product marketing could play a strong role in encouraging consumers to purchase the product, but sales numbers alone do not capture consumer satisfaction, product effectiveness, product safety, or safe use practices.

Amy asked if the board members would like her to draft a letter about AAPSE's concerns with this issue. The board agreed that this would be a good idea. A motion was passed and seconded to ask Amy Brown to draft a letter on behalf of AAPSE outlining the organizations concerns about the comparative safety statements and logos, which are being proposed for use on pest control products. The letter will be sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs and carbon copied to the American Association of Pest Control Operators (AAPCO), the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC), and CropLife America.

Amy said that time is of the essence for writing and sending the letter as the pilot program is scheduled to begin soon. She will attend another meeting on this program on April 22-23, 2009.

Web-Distributed Labeling

Carol Ramsay presented an overview of the PPDC's work on the concept of web-distributed pesticide labeling. Web-distributed labeling is a mechanism through the web that would allow pesticide handlers to download product use directions from the Internet. The goal is to provide a less complex label.

Most of the general safety information will be affixed to the container, but the site- and pest-specific details would be located on the Internet – possibly on the registrant's page or through existing group pages such as "Greenbook" or "CMDS" that are currently housing downloadable pesticide product labels. State- and county-specific use information could also be available through the Internet as well as application rate calculators and best management practices.

Carol said that EPA has created an internal workgroup to discuss this idea and a Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee workgroup. Carol serves on the EPA internal workgroup for AAPSE and Catherine Daniels serves as AAPSE's rep for the PPDC workgroup. Catherine has circulated documents through the AAPSE listserv to keep members informed about web-distributed labeling and to solicit their input along the way. Four AAPSE members have offered to provide feedback to Catherine.

A few board members expressed concerns about the move to web-distributed labeling. These concerns included the life-span of labels, pesticide handlers' access to Internet services in remote areas, durability of printed labels, and whether or not this is something that growers want.

Carol said that Bill Jordan would like to pilot test the idea. Catherine Daniels suggested an initial "virtual" pilot program should be administered to pesticide safety educators and regulators before it is taken to the agricultural community. This will enable them to rework the concept and tweak it a bit before a pilot program is presented to pesticide handlers.

Carol said that if the switch is made to web-distributed labeling, it will not happen overnight and will not be suitable for all products. She anticipated that it will take several years to have a system in place. This is not imminent, and it is not for home and garden use products, but she concluded that if industry latches on to this idea, it will move forward.

AAPSE Strategic Plan and Action Plan

Barry Brennan sent board members a copy of AAPSE's Strategic Plan. It was created in 2002 and Ples asked the board to read it prior to the next Board of Director's meeting. Ples said the Strategic Plan does need some fine tuning and we will work together to develop an updated version.

Carol Ramsay's Resignation as AAPSE President-Elect

Carol Ramsay announced that she has accepted a contract with National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation (NASDARF) to assist with their current cooperative agreement with US EPA to Develop Pesticide Safety Programs. Carol said that since NASDARF is a grant recipient of EPA, as are Pesticide Safety Education Programs and State Lead Agency Certification and Training Programs, she needed the Board to be aware of the new relationship with NASDARF that is in addition to her full time Washington State University Extension Specialist position. Carol noted the only conflict of interest would be any direct funding by NASDARF to WSU Urban IPM and Pesticide Safety Education Program, which she clearly detailed in her contract with NASDARF would not occur. However, Carol felt the AAPSE Board needed to weigh in and if concerns were noted, she would resign to avoid any issues with AAPSE. After discussion and deliberation, the AAPSE Board felt there were concerns and Carol offered her resignation. After this announcement, the board moved to regrettably accept Carol Ramsay's resignation as AAPSE President-Elect. We commend her for her long and dedicated service to AAPSE and we appreciate and welcome her willingness to continue as an active member of AAPSE.