

Conference Call Minutes
AAPSE Board of Directors
March 31, 2008

Conference Call Participants: Ples Spradley, Joanne Kick-Raack, Carol Ramsay, Dan Wixted, Ron Gardner, Don Renchie, Pat Hipkins, Clyde Ogg, Ed Crowe, Sandra McDonald, Jim Wilson, Margaret Tucker, and Jennifer Weber.

Ples Spradley called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Board Minutes Approval

Bob Wolf sent the minutes from the previous board meeting to the Board of Directors (BOD) for their review. Unfortunately, not all BOD members had a chance to review the minutes prior to this conference call. Jennifer forwarded a copy of the minutes to the BOD by e-mail during the conference call. The group agreed to review the minutes within the two weeks following the conference call and will send their comments to Ples.

Board Responsibilities - What can we do for you?

Carol Ramsay began the discussion on this topic by focusing on the Board's roles and responsibilities and asking the BOD which activities they thought that we needed to continue and what we would like to accomplish. This discussion moved into an evaluation of the existing AAPSE committees, which was a topic we had listed further down on the agenda.

The BOD agreed that while many of the AAPSE committees are very active and productive, some have had little activity. This could be due to a shift in leadership within the committee or a need to update the committee's goals or promote it to the membership to see if others would be interested in joining the committee's efforts.

While several BOD members mentioned specific committees that appear to be experiencing problems, the group agreed that a status report from each committee would provide us with a better picture of the AAPSE committees' objectives, accomplishments thus far, projections, and needs. Ples agreed to send a note to all of the AAPSE committee chairs to request information regarding their status and needs. *Update: Since this conference call, Ples has sent out the aforementioned status report request to the committees' chairs.*

Resolve length of terms issue for Past President, President, and President Elect

This topic was introduced by Joanne Kick-Raack who mentioned that some AAPSE members were hesitant to run for President Elect because the position actually required a 6-year service commitment.

Dan Wixted said that the Certification & Training Assessment Group (CTAG) has shortened the service length of their chair positions.

Joanne Kick-Raack offered to review AAPCO's officers' term lengths as a possible model AAPSE's. After she has had a chance to do so, she will submit a notice to AAPSE members to ask them to vote on the issue of reducing the total presidential term length from six years to four.

Pat Hipkins added that the AAPSE BOD also experiences inconsistency in the service duration for regional representatives. Currently, representatives are elected during their regional pesticide meetings. These are annual meetings, however they are held in different months. For example, the Western Region holds their meeting in May and the Northeast Region in September. This results in regional representatives entering and exiting their positions at intervals. Pat suggested that AAPSE move to a simultaneous electronic voting system for all regional representatives, which would help to resolve this problem and result in a more stable Board.

Possible Committee Dissolution or Continuation

Much of the discussion occurred earlier in the conference call, yet its placement on the agenda led the BOD back to talking about the possible dissolution or continuation of particular committees.

Since Ples had already offered to send a status report request to the committee chairs, many of the concerns will be addressed at a later date. However, one of the suggestions was to request that the AAPSE Auditing Committee reviews "the books" (*terminology?*). Dan Wixted said that the committee will be working on that task soon.

Jennifer Weber said that the Non-English Language Materials for Pesticide Safety Education (NELMPSE) Committee could certainly use a few more members as they are down to four. The BOD agreed that this is something that Jennifer could mention in her Committee Status Report as a need to revitalize the committee, or the members could merge with another AAPSE committee that shares similar objectives. *Update: Since this conference call, Pat Hipkins has asked to join the NELMPSE committee.*

Tasks for Professional Development Committee

Sandra McDonald reminded the BOD that Tara Steinke, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, had recently sent out an e-mail to re-introduce the committee to AAPSE members. Carol Ramsay said that the committee also has a PPT brochure.

Ples Spradley said that a pesticide spray table demonstration or other hands-on training would be good examples of programs that the Professional Development Committee could organize and offer. Carol Ramsay thought that Ples had a good idea and added that Pat Hipkins also had an interesting presentation on TPSA.

Ples mentioned that Tara Steinke was right on schedule for her proposed task and that she will send a follow-up e-mail to AAPSE members to request their ideas for topics. *Update: Since this conference call, Tara circulated a professional development topic survey to the membership.*

Board Responsibilities - What can we do for you? (Revisited)

Ples asked the BOD to return to the question of finding out what AAPSE can do for its members. Carol suggested an e-mail survey to ask the membership what it would like from the AAPSE BOD or even just AAPSE in general. A simple survey, containing three questions may elicit a response from the members, since it would not take too much of their time to complete.

Pat Hipkins said that the BOD could also create a list of items or tasks and ask the members to select from the list. If there were additional ideas, they could fill in an “other” category.

Carol Ramsay said that the National Meeting will be held in South Carolina or Georgia in August 2009 and that the meeting planning workgroup is just forming. Carol asked Board members if they thought we should take a proactive stance and offer an AAPSE member to serve on the planning team.

Don Renchie said that the State Lead Agency in either South Carolina or Georgia will coordinate the workgroup. After exchanging ideas on how the BOD could elicit participation from AAPSE, Sandra McDonald volunteered to serve on the planning workgroup as an AAPSE BOD representative.

Report EPA and USDA Engagement or Funding Issues (PRIA II, USDA pass through)

Ples began discussion on this subject by saying that one way to prevent unspent PSEP funds from returning back to EPA is to send all funding to USDA. Several BOD members thought that it was a good idea but questioned whether or not it could be done.

Carol said that if USDA send program funds to a state, the USDA can not take the money back to redistribute. Unspent funds are instead sent back to the U.S. Treasury. However, Carol also said that the idea that Ples suggested would be worth introducing in a formal letter to Jim Parochetti of USDA. Don Renchie and Jim Wilson agreed and said that they would like to work with Ples on this issue.

Ples said that they could begin to approach the subject through a more informal discussion with Jim Parochetti, which would provide them with some insight into the subject enabling them to write a more effective formal letter.

Joanne said that contacting Bonnie Poli might also be helpful as she is very knowledgeable of the funding and allocation history.

Update: Since this conference call, Ples Spradley, Don Renchie, and Jim Wilson have contacted several key people to discuss their ideas and suggestions for reallocating PSEP funds. Please refer to e-mails from Ples Spradley for more details.

Web Labeling

Carol Ramsay sat in on a Web-based Labeling workgroup meeting during a full SFIREG meeting and provided the BOD with a summary of the concept, pros and cons of moving toward a web-distributed labeling system.

Carol said that idea behind a web-based labeling system would be to reduce the amount of information affixed to the pesticide container. While a portion of the label would be attached to the container, users would be referred to pdf versions of the label to access additional product information. The workgroup that is discussing this proposal meets every two weeks and will pilot the system in 2009 to see if the growers and other pesticide users are receptive to web-based labeling.

Several AAPSE BOD members could see the potential for misuse due to technology malfunctions, time constraints, and user error. Therefore, Carol suggested that AAPSE develop a think tank – a group that can exchange ideas on how to improve (or disprove) this concept.

Margaret Tucker thought that an AAPSE “sounding board” would be an innovative way to notify AAPSE members of pesticide-related updates and ideas such as the web-based labeling concept, and allow them to voice their opinions. This may also encourage AAPSE members to become involved in issues and projects of particular concern to them.

PR Notice on Drift and Container Recycling

Carol said that this year, EPA is planning to put some language out on drift language. EPA is also proposing a rule to make it mandatory for registrants to recycle pesticide containers. Ples said that this was a complicated issue and that it would be nice to have an abstract on this issue as well.

Future Efforts on Exam & Manual Blueprints - Vertebrate, Aquatic, Seed Treatment as possibilities?

Ples lead the discussion on the Exam and Manual Blueprints by saying that it would be interesting to know how many states had agreed to use the National Core exam, and of those, which have been successful in implementing it. Ples asked if by using a standardized national core exam, if we were trying to bite off more than we could chew or if using something smaller, such as a category-specific exam would be more practical.

Jim Wilson said that he talked to Dick Herrett about this, because Jim’s concern is that the sales from the New York state study guides and exams help to provide additional program funding. A move to a national core exam could therefore have a negative impact on their program. He said though that the production of a national syllabus and sample questions would be more practice and useful for states. AAPSE BOD members thought that this was a good idea.

Carol said that perhaps AAPSE could take on the task of developing a blueprint for 80% of “generic” questions that would be applicable to any state, leaving 20% for state-specific questions.

Pat reiterated the idea that Ples provided earlier about creating national materials for smaller categories. Pat mentioned the Seed Treatment exam as an example, stating that it is a category that serves the needs of about 20 pesticide handlers in her state. It is difficult to justify using state funds to update a guide and exam for such a small number of test takers. However, a national study guide and exam for this category, countrywide would make more sense.

Dan Wixted added that a manual could be designed as a template, covering very general points that are important to know, provided states are able to add material to accommodate the variations in local pest problems.

Carol asked if AAPSE would like to develop a committee or invite an existing AAPSE committee to focus on this issue. She asked the BOD if it would be beneficial to wait or if AAPSE should develop a blueprint exam and manual?

Dan suggested that AAPSE wait until later this summer, when the Right-of-Way study guide and exam are introduced. We would be better able to see how receptive people are to the use of a national exam for a smaller category, and whether or not it is an effective testing tool. Dan also said that Drew Martin is working on this issue. Dan and Ron Gardner offered to work closely with Drew and will provide us with feedback as they learn more.

Don Rennie said that it might also be helpful if in the meantime, the BOD sends out an e-mail to the membership to get more details on states' needs to update manuals and exams for some of the smaller categories.

Dan Wixted said that he knew that national materials for the Right-of-Way category were currently being developed. He mentioned other categories that might be considered such as Sewer Line-Root Control, Wood Preservation, and Seed Treatment.

Carol wrapped up discussion on this topic by saying that EPA still wanted to fund national study guides and exams, but that they may need some guidance from AAPSE members. Results from a nationwide survey or needs analysis would be helpful and would be something that we could provide to EPA and NASDA.

Ples thought this was a good activity for the AAPSE Issues Committee and Carol offered to work on the survey.

Next Board Meeting

Ples said that the North Central Region will be holding their meeting in August or September and that we can consider one of those meetings as an option. *Update: Since this conference call, Ples has circulated a list of regional meeting dates to the BOD for consideration.*

President Ples Spradley adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Pacific Time