

**AAPSE Board of Director's
Conference Call
September 8, 2008**

Participants: Dan Wixted, Jennifer Weber, Carol Ramsay, Ples Spradley, Margaret Tucker, Ed Crow, Joanne Kick-Raack, Jim Wilson, Sandra McDonald

President Ples Spradley called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. (Pacific Time)

Picloram – Registrant-Provided, Label-Mandated Training

A few AAPSE BOD members had heard that EPA made a decision related to the recent Picloram label issue. President Ples Spradley contacted Dan Kenny (EPA, Herbicides Branch) to gather more information and learned that EPA has decided to work with the registrants to rescind the verbiage on the label that pertains to the Picloram training requirement. EPA still feels there are hazards with the use of Picloram but wants to rework the language that is placed on the label to safeguard users and others. Therefore, the Picloram label language that pertained to the additional training requirement has been or will be removed from the labels.

There was concern that labels with the reference to the training requirement may already be in the channels of trade. Board members wondered if those labels would be enforceable. A few board members said that they doubted that there were any products in the channels of trade, and said that if such labels did exist, EPA would most likely send out compliance guidance to disregard the language.

It was suggested that Ples notify the membership regarding EPA's decision to rescind the Picloram training requirement. Ples agreed to do so and said that he will create a group of AAPSE members who will look further into the Picloram label issues. That will enable AAPSE to have a seat at the table as provide input to as they work through the necessary additional stewardship issues for Picloram. Ples will also stay in contact with Dan Kenny.

Resolutions from North Central Region

Ples presented two resolutions that were submitted to him on behalf of AAPSE members who attended the North Central Region Meeting. The two resolutions and subsequent discussion follows.

Resolution 1:

Be it resolved that the AAPSE Board seeks input from AAPSE members before statements of policy are sent to any other agency.

Discussion took place regarding the roles of the AAPSE Board and AAPSE members in relation to decision-making, letter writing, policy and position papers. During the North Central Region Meeting a few AAPSE members in attendance stated that they would like an opportunity to weigh

in on issues and concerns that the BOD discusses, before the Board puts forth policy or letters expressing an AAPSE position.

The Board respected these sentiments. They discussed the need to be more sensitive to the fact that there are members who would like more communication and the need to identify those issues that are of greatest concern to the membership to encourage broader discussions.

The AAPSE Board agreed that for now they will be more diligent in their communication strategy to keep members informed on what issues are under discussion and seek greater input. The Board will refer to the AAPSE Bylaws to guide them in deciding which types of decisions and letters will need to go before the full membership. It was decided to bring the resolution and “policy-vote” discussion before the entire membership during the AAPSE General Business meeting in South Carolina in August 2009.

It was suggested that the President update the membership more often, solicit greater involvement and provide opportunities for more dialogue with members. Regional representatives are the key liaisons between their members and the Board. The representatives can keep their regional members informed about the issues and let them know who to contact, should they want to provide input about an issue. To assist in this process, Dan Wixted (Treasurer) will provide Board members with a quarterly report that lists all paid AAPSE members and their contact information.

Resolution 2:

Be it resolved that the AAPSE Board seek input from AAPSE members about the recently-issued RED for soil fumigants, particularly relating to product stewardship and product-specific training, and then provide comment to the Environmental Protection Agency prior to the end of the comment period.

During the overall discussion about the RED for soil fumigants, BOD members suggested that if a letter was written, it should be short and focus on such things as the registrant-required training and the proposed notification to state lead agency before each application. Carol asked if it would be worthwhile to ask the AAPSE membership if they support the idea of a national soil fumigation category. Would a soil fumigation category would require a change in 40CFR171, and if it did, would it be a feasible option?

Ples proposed that the AAPSE Issues and Evaluation (I & E) Committee take on the soil fumigant issue with Dan Wixted’s assistance.

As chair of the Issues and Evaluation Committee, Carol said that she will send a note to Richard Pont asking for a list of states that currently have a soil fumigation category. It was noted that both Fred Fishel and Kay Harris serve on the EPA Soil Fumigant committee that Dirk Helder is organizing on this same issue.

The I & E Committee (interested parties) will bring its proposal to the board regarding sending a letter to EPA or not and if so, provide a draft copy for Board approval. Any final letter would be

circulated to the full membership. It was noted that time is an issue for draft, review, and submission by Oct. 30.

In summary, the BOD agreed that there is a need to communicate with the membership and to let them know that two resolutions were submitted to the Board and discussed during this meeting. Ples will respond directly to the members in North Central Region about the Board's discussions.

2009 National C&T Meeting in South Carolina

There was a question of whether or not AAPSE had been approached by EPA to assist with planning the 2009 National Certification and Training meeting. No Board member had been approached, thus far. The meeting will be held in Charleston, South Carolina in August 2009. NASDA was contracted for the 2009 meeting and funding for the meeting is in place. It was expressed that having a national meeting in less than a year, there was a need for communication from EPA so the dates could be noted on members' calendars. Travel will be an issue for some AAPSE members, due to the current budget situations. Sandra offered to contact EPA and request an update about the National Certification and Training meeting.

Scheduling Conflicts during Regional Meetings

The AAPSE business meeting and SLA/SFIREG meetings are often held at the same time. This does not allow for everyone to attend the AAPSE meeting. AAPSE should look at future meetings, find out who is hosting, and specifically ask if they don't hold SFIREG and AAPSE meetings simultaneously.

President Ples Spradley adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. (Pacific Time)