July 23, 2013

Western Region AAPSE Conference Call

Present: Drew Martin, Barry Brennan, Ronda Hirnyck, Kaci Buhl, Carrie Foss, Tim Stock, Jack Peterson, Becky Maguire, Jennifer Weber, Sandra McDonald, Lisa Blecker

Linda Johns, Thia Walker, Madeline Waring

1) National AAPSE Professional Development Conference

**Background:** An AAPSE workgroup explored the potential for holding a biannual national AAPSE professional development conference (meeting/workshop), starting in 2014.  The concept brought to the BOD this month was:

* A National AAPSE conference could be held every other year, opposite PACT, and rotate around the regions.
* The meeting would provide a platform to focus on professional development for members, e.g. pesticide safety outreach, application technology, applicator certification, product stewardship, skills development, research updates, etc.
* The meeting agenda would hopefully draw in a more diverse pesticide safety education audience that includes C&T, IPM, Master Gardeners, County Extension, non-governmental organizations, and private industry.

What do you think of the idea of a biannual AAPSE professional development Conference or workshop?

**Discussion:**
The group was in favor of the proposal as described above.

* It would be a great way to showcase region-specific resources/expertise by bringing the national group around the nation.
* In addition to working on manuals together, and keeping up with technology advancements, we need to maintain our “expert” status. Let’s encourage expert presentations/trainings with hands-on activities.
* We should spend some time on “how to teach” using proven methods, more hands-on than PowerPoint
* Ronda Hirnyck on behalf of Sherm Takori, who couldn’t make it today: Favors a half-day for region-specific breakouts. It will help C&T staff (SLA) justify the trip, and it could help to get more EPA people to attend Regional meetings.
* Barry suggested we avoid the word “Conference” because of a recent GAO report. “Workshop” is accurate, and preferable.
* The Western Region declined the opportunity to host this meeting in 2014.
* The NE and Southern Regions have expressed an interest in hosting in 2014.
* It was noted that the West is scheduled to host the PACT meeting in 2019.

2) AAPSE membership structure and dues

**Background:** Another AAPSE workgroup is exploring  modifications to membership structure and dues. Right now the workgroup is generating questions regarding membership.

**Discussion:**
a) What can AAPSE do to make the organization more functional (i.e., improve value) for the individual member?
- Create a national meeting to facilitate more networking and shared knowledge

- Solicit more input on the list-serve from SLAs, more diverse group(s)

- Hire one person to help the EC and BOD with executive functions

b) What can AAPSE do to encourage more participation in the organization by SLAs and private sector members (e.g., service in elected positions, on committees)?
- Encourage a standing committee for recruitment to focus on SLA personnel

c) What can AAPSE do to make the organization more attractive (i.e., offer value) to potential members (e.g., PSEP staff, SLA personnel, extension educators)?
- Offer a professional credential such as “AAPSE Certified Trainer.” Barry said that idea was discussed early in the history of AAPSE. Sandra said there are some standards available for setting up a certification process, and she’s familiar with recent efforts from another Association.

d) What, if any, negative consequences [to AAPSE] are entailed by amending the by-laws and extending [some or all] voting privileges to members in categories other than Full Membership?

* There was an overall positive response to the idea of opening up full membership privileges to educators who may not be employed by a University or SLA.
* Sandra said that AAPSE has been too University-focused in the past.
* Barry gave the perspective from previous decades, that folks in Washington DC wanted all PSE to be delivered via University personnel. If that’s no longer the case, it’s time to change.
* Jennifer said that tribal educators might want to join, if given the full & fair opportunity to participate.
* Thanks to Drew for attending and answering questions during the discussion.

Meeting adjourned

Notes by K. Buhl