



National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

November 1, 2012

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Piera Siergert	Laurinda Ramonda	Talitha Molet
Kristian Rondeau	Avi Eitam	Sherry Aultman	Melinda Sullivan
Joel Bard	Chris Pierce	Clint Burfitt ¹	Susan Schechter
Terry Bourgoin	Saul Vaiciunas	Kathy Handy	Eileen Luke
Julie Van Meter	Beth Long	Lisa Jackson	Joel Floyd
Joe Collins			

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NCC structure / PPQ re-organization

PPQ has recently undergone reorganization. It has been implemented, but it is technically not official yet. Once the appropriate documentation is signed, an official announcement will be released by the Deputy's Office.

The restructure may have a small effect on the structure of the NCC. It will not affect state representation, but it may affect how the committee members are selected on the PPQ side because there is no longer an Eastern and Western Region. The goal is to keep as diverse a representation as possible with different regional representation. This may require the NCC to modify the Bylaws for the group. The modifications will be completed before the NCC meeting in January so changes can be discussed and approved.

Will agreements be sent to the same office (Raleigh or Ft. Collins) as before?

Now that there is only one Field Operations, this process will be streamlined and result in one approach for sending in agreement proposals. A work group containing Brian, Kristian, Program Managers, Budget and Agreements staff, and SPHDs currently are working on developing a single system that will manage all of the needs while being streamlined and as transparent as possible. This new system should be in place for FY2014 agreements for Pest Detection and other line items. For now, continue to send all agreements for all programs to your SPHD office.

Farm Bill for FY13

The process has started for the FY2013 Farm Bill. This year, there is a compressed and immediate timeline in place for the Farm Bill process. The current Continuing Resolution that funds USDA brought forward the FY12 appropriations bill. This bill contained the legislative 'fix' that is needed to spend CCC funds in an appropriate manner. Therefore, APHIS has the authority to request all \$50 million. However, the CR ends on March 27, 2013, and so does the authority to use CCC funds for Farm Bill projects. The Farm Bill Team has been given the goal to obligate as much of the \$50 million before March 27, 2013, thus, a very compressed time line.

A Press release will be forthcoming with an official announcement of the open suggestion period. It will be very soon, and be open for 4 weeks. Information also will be distributed

Note: A reminder to the NCC, please distribute CAPS updates, conference-call minutes, and other CAPS-related information to the constituency that you represent in a timely manner. Also, please bring their items, issues, concerns, and opinions back to the NCC for discussion. It is our responsibility that everyone is kept engaged in the CAPS program.



through the PPQ Stakeholder Registry. If you have not signed up for Farm Bill announcements, please do so now. Tentative dates for the open suggestion period are Nov. 12 through Dec. 7, but this could change pending Agency approval. Watch for the official announcement. The prudent suggestor will start preparing now.

The format for submissions will be similar to last year. The Metastorm application is being upgraded to a new platform that will be put into production soon. It will have a similar look and feel as last year. Webinars are planned to help explain the process. Watch for announcements. The APHIS website will be updated with FY13 information very soon.

The Farm Bill management team currently consists of John Bowers (Policy Management), Kristian Rondeau (Field Operations), and Ken Bloem (Science & Technology). The team is communicating with reviewers, participants, and potential suggestors.

Can individuals check their Metastorm login credentials now?

Not currently. Individuals should wait until Metastorm is ready. It is currently being moved over to a new system. This involves moving over all of the accounts, users, and their assigned roles from last year. The new link should be posted soon. Resource links will be announced on the APHIS site. The APHIS site will include how-to documents that will be useful to your constituents. If you are signed up for the Stakeholder Registry, you will get these announcements. Jeff Sanders is the POC for Metastorm.

What about agreements that will not expire until September?

The group discussed obligating agreements in March with start dates 4-6 months out with the budget and agreements staffs. There are concerns, and the agreements staff is consulting with the lawyers. Other options also are being investigated. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

States can have overlapping agreements; however, the state has to show that they are different (i.e. a state can survey for the same pest in the same year, but the different agreements must cover different work or counties. States could have agreements for different bundled surveys.

NAPIS / IPHIS status

Data from survey agreements with Pest Detection funding will be put into NAPIS again for 2013, regardless of how the data is collected. If data is collected through IPHIS, it still must be entered into NAPIS as there is currently no link between the two.

IPHIS cannot currently support all of the needs of the CAPS Program. There was recently a long, drawn out process for selecting a new contractor for IPHIS. The new contractor is not yet up to speed, so any new developmental work (i.e. work to support the CAPS Program) has been pushed out. This topic will be addressed again for 2014 next October.

The group also will look at how the pilot tests went last year and whether it should be expanded. There is not an immediate rush to address this given the current state of IPHIS. One of the main concerns brought up by the pilot is determining the ideal way to collect data in the field and the sustainability of the FAST software. The company that developed the software was recently bought out, and there is no commitment to maintain or support the software.



Can smartphones be purchased as part of CAPS agreements?

Not at this time. From a practical budget perspective, we cannot afford to equip cooperators with data entry devices. PPQ is developing guidance on apps and other options for data entry, but this is not ready yet.

Review of the AHP process and model

The model for determining the AHP prioritized pest list is currently being reviewed. The group reviewing the model will give a presentation at the NCC meeting in January to let the group know where they are in the process and what will be the end product. There has been some concern about how some factors are assessed and how it ranks different types of pests (insects, pathogens, mollusks, etc.). The revision of the AHP process will help the CAPS Program determine if resources are being used in the right place for the right pest.

S&T update: So far, there have been 29 pest suggestions since the last AHP list was completed (FY2012). Because of this, a new list will be developed for FY2014. All 29 suggestions were run through the recently developed pre-assessment and out of these, 19 passed. These will have an economic and biological assessment completed and will then be run through the current model by December (the revised model will not be ready to use for the FY2014 list). After these are run through the model, they will be run through a post-assessment which will determine whether the species should go on the new AHP list or a priority research list.

The process used for the commodity pest lists will remain the same for right now. The group should talk to their constituency about additions and subtractions that should be considered to the commodity lists.

S&T update: The S&T group suggests that a pre-assessment should be put into place for adding new pests to commodity surveys in the future. This would provide a common set of parameters to be applied to all new pests considered for the manuals. This pre-assessment will probably vary some from the current AHP version, e.g., may allow for a larger distribution in the United States.

Guidelines for 2014

The NCC should start reviewing the Guidelines to determine what changes should be made for 2014. The collected comments will be discussed further at the upcoming NCC meeting in January.

In the FY2013 Guidelines, surveys were separated into ones supported through Pest Detection and those supported through Farm Bill (including grape, stone fruit, orchards, etc.). The 2014 Guidelines will reiterate the distinction between Farm Bill and Pest Detection surveys. If States do not follow the instructions when submitting surveys, it will delay the process.

NCC annual meeting

The NCC meeting in January will take place at the PPQ SPHD's office in Austin, Texas. The core group is working on getting approval for the meeting. The NCC group should send in any agenda items for the meeting so a draft agenda can be submitted along with the meeting approval request. Individual NCC members may be contacted if more documentation is needed. The



dates have not been decided but the meeting will most likely occur during the third or fourth week in January. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Next NCC call

Because of training commitments, the next NCC call will be postponed for 1 week. The call will now be on Thursday, December 13.

The next NCC call will be on Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 11:00 am eastern time.