



## National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

December 13, 2012

### Minutes

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#### Participants

John Bowers	Avi Eitam	Kathy Handy
Brian Kopper	Chris Pierce	Lisa Jackson
Terry Bourgoin	Saul Vaiciunas	Talitha Molet
Piera Siergert	Laurinda Ramonda	Melinda Sullivan
Brad Lewis	Helmuth Rogg	Susan Schechter

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*Another year ends as a new one begins. The CAPS management team would like to thank each and every member of the CAPS community for another good year in carrying out our pest detection mission. We could not do it without your collaboration and participation. A recap of 2012 will be given at the NCC meeting, and will be available on the CAPS Resource & Collaboration site soon thereafter.*

#### NCC Committee Updates

With the New Year comes the end of some terms and the beginning of others on the NCC. We thank with all due gratitude, Chris Pierce, Beth Long, and Nancy Richwine for all their insight and contributions to the NCC and the CAPS community. We welcome Carol Motloch (PSS TX), Sherry Aultman (SSC SC), and Saul Vaiciunas (SSC NJ) to the NCC for 3-year terms. Joe Collins (SPRO KY) has been re-nominated by the Southern Plant Board, and will begin a new (and final) 3-year term.

#### NCC meeting in Austin, Texas

The NCC meeting will include only the NCC proper to save on travel expenses. Others that will participate in the meeting will call in and/or present online webinars. The meeting has yet to be approved by the APHIS Administrator's Office. This level of required approval is based on estimated travel expenses per the most recent guidance. We have not received final approval as of 12/26/12. PPQ folks cannot put any information into GovTrip or make travel plans until the meeting is officially approved. State folks should consider this guidance as well. Let John know if any documentation (letter, agenda, etc.) is needed to facilitate travel approval. State folks may want to start this process within their own organizations now. State members will be reimbursed through the NPB.

There may be some issues with getting hotel rooms in downtown Austin at the government rate as the state legislature will be in session (only meets every other year) and hotels fill up fast. Although a block of rooms is reserved downtown close to the meeting area, we may not get the meeting approval before the block of rooms expires. The worst-case scenario is that the hotel

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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.



may be further out and transportation will have to be arranged from the hotel to meeting location as in previous years.

### **Farm Bill**

Submissions of suggestions for FY13 Farm Bill funding closed Wednesday, December 12 at midnight. There were 560 officially submitted submissions this year for approximately \$91 million in funding (recall that PPQ has only \$50 million available for projects). The Farm Bill Review Teams will be evaluating all suggestions with due diligence with the goal of developing a draft spending plan for Agency and Departmental review by early January.

### **IPHIS**

A new contractor has been identified, and is currently being brought up to speed on the project. Also, the co-chairs of the Executive Steering Committee have moved on to different positions. All of this brings a state of flux to IPHIS, and may be a while before things start progressing once more. CAPS will use NAPIS for survey data entry in 2013, and not be required to use IPHIS. CAPS had a pilot for IPHIS in 2012 to test some functionality, but the group has not yet reviewed the pilot results and feedback. If the pilot is expanded in 2013, additional states may be asked to participate.

### **What is the status of smartphone apps for Pest Detection?**

Thought along these lines is that PPQ should not be in the business of developing apps, but should set protocols and standards for apps that could be used to support PPQ programs. PPQ is partnering with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the NC Museum of Natural Sciences to develop a workshop for those interested to develop standards, requirements, and/or recommendations for app developers. This is part of a farm Bill-funded project, and more information should be coming out mid to late winter or early spring.

### **What is the status of a CAPS Conference?**

There has not been a lot of discussion on how to address a potential CAPS Conference. Travel for PPQ is getting more restrictive, and there are issues with the budget. The same for possible regional meetings. This may not be addressed for a while, but on the other hand, certain sources have not been completely negative. We will have to wait until we see what January brings as far as what Congress will do to address the fiscal cliff and any possible direction received concerning APHIS' budget. If the stars line up just right, we may submit for approval a CAPS Conference in December 2013. Cross your fingers twice over.

### **When will states know about potential cuts for Pest Detection?**

Funding for the federal government is under a Continuing Resolution until March 27. PPQ is advising that funding of cooperative agreements be more conservative than that allowed under the CR so that funds are not overspent if budgets are less than FY12. States are advised to monitor carefully spending on FY13 agreements in case funds are less than anticipated. To prevent overspending, approximately 32% of the total requested agreement amount should go



out soon (for the first half of the year). Although CAPS is planning on funding the full agreement amount, States should prioritize and plan for cuts just in case. This was the message given at the National Plant Board meeting, and has not changed. Guidance from the Agreements Staff will be forthcoming.

### **State Risk Assessment Model**

There has been no new information released or available on the state risk assessment model. This can be discussed at the NCC Meeting in January as there should be more information available by then.

**The next NCC call will be on Thursday, January 3, 2012, at 11:00 am eastern time.**