



## National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

February 7, 2013

### Minutes

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#### Participants

John Bowers	Joe Collins	Sherry Aultman	Talitha Molet
Kristian Rondeau	Julie Van Meter	Laurinda Ramonda	Kathy Handy
Rick Zink	Brad Lewis	Helmuth Rogg	
Terry Bourgoin	Avi Eitam	Lisa Jackson	
Joel Bard	Carol Motloch	Melinda Sullivan	
Piera Siergert	Saul Vaiciunas	Susan Schechter	

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#### Farm Bill Updates

The FY2013 Farm Bill Draft Spending Plan is undergoing internal PPQ review. The spending plan was presented to the PPQ fund holders (executive team) and the Deputy's office, and the group hopes to have a plan finalized by the end of the week to present to upper management. The spending plan will then go to the APHIS Administrator and USDA Undersecretary. The Farm Bill team is currently working on scheduling these meetings for next week (week of Feb. 11). After final approval, the public announcement of the FY2013 Farm Bill Spending Plan will be announced through press releases and the Stakeholder Registry.

Once the FY2013 FB Spending Plan has been released, Kristian will send out emails to all of the states informing them which projects have been funded. This will be sent to the SPHDs who will be the ADODRs of the projects. As soon as states know what projects have been funded, work plans should be submitted to the SPHDs as soon as possible in order to get the cooperative agreement process going. The goal is to get as much money obligated as possible by March 27<sup>th</sup>, which is the end of the current Continuing Resolution. Also, sequestration may begin on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is unknown how this will affect Farm Bill funds. The prompt submission of work plans is essential.

The Farm Bill team is not allowed to send out tentative funding for projects. The states will have to wait until this information is publicly released by the USDA Secretary. The Farm Bill team is preparing internally for the release of the spending plan. This year there is a revised process for submitting work plans to Field Operations where most agreements will be processed (Policy Management and Science & Tech have their own process). The team took the best practices from the former ER and WR and combined them into a new SharePoint site (work plan management site). Kristian is currently putting on a series of webinars to describe the new process to the SPHDs and their designated staff. Work plans should be submitted through the SPHD offices.

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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.



Templates for Farm Bill Work Plans and Accomplishment Reports are available on the CAPS R&C site under the 2013 Farm Bill page.

### **NCC Meeting Next Week**

Everyone should have their arrangements and reservations in place for the meeting February 11 – 14. The hotel tax exempt form is available on the CAPS R&C site under the NCC page. The hotel has asked that individuals provide this sheet upon check-in.

On Tuesday, everyone will need to go through security at the SPHD building (903 San Jacinto Boulevard at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Street)). Everyone should meet on the Trinity St. side of the building no later than 7:45am. Patty Brown, the SPHD office manager will be waiting for everyone, and will guide us through security. Remember to bring your IDs. The hotel is approximately 11 blocks (?) from where the meeting will be held (0.6 mile?). The first day will begin with a welcome, group introductions, and presentations from the SPHD of TX (Stuart Kuehn) and the SPRO of TX (Awinash Bhatkar). They will give the NCC group an overview of how they manage a large state like TX.

The group will eat lunch downtown instead of eating in the meeting area. Also, internet accessibility will be limited in the meeting area. John will need one of the connections for his computer for the webinars, but there may only be one or two extra lines.

Parking at the hotel is \$28 per night. There may be some space available at the SPHD office. Carol will follow up with Patty Brown about parking.

John sent out a doodle poll recently for everyone to input their approximate arrival times. Members should look at the poll to see who they can share rides with when getting from the airport to the hotel.

Documents for the meeting (including the agenda) are currently being posted to the NCC page of the CAPS website. Individuals who wish to follow along with these documents at the meeting should print them off beforehand. Individuals should also look these over before arriving at the meeting. The agenda should be finalized by the end of the week. Send John any documents that you would like to share with the group for the upcoming meeting and he will post them to the NCC page of the CAPS website.

John will work on webinar dates and times to get them finalized. He still needs to talk to Nancy Leathers (IPHis) and Chris Pierce (CAPS Recognition program- John will post the white paper from October 3 on the CAPS site). Individuals calling in can use John's conference call number. The meeting will be in Central Time.

Currently no one is set to call in from the Export or PIM staff to discuss negative data. More work needs to be done on this, but the group can put this in as a floating topic.



If anyone wishes to add a topic to the agenda for discussion, please let John know so that time can be carved out.

Safe travels.

**The next NCC call will be on Thursday, March 7, 2013, at 11:00 am eastern time.**