



## National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

November 5, 2015

### Minutes

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#### Participants

John Bowers	Brad Lewis	Melinda Sullivan
Brian Kopper	Lisa Ishibashi	Dan Mackesy
Rick Zink	Sherry Aultman	Steve Bullington
Joel Bard	Dale Anderson	Susan Schechter
Piera Siegert	Ian Foley	Eileen Luke
Julie Van Meter	Lisa Jackson	

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#### Funding and Budgets

Congress approved a two-year budget resolution that would provide a funding framework and eliminate the potential of any debt-ceiling defaults. The resolution provides broad spending limits which the Appropriations Committees will use as they develop the detailed funding bills that actually allocate money to USDA and its agencies. Be aware, however, of the potential for a government shutdown once the current CR expires due to continued partisan politics in Congress. Most agreements do not start until after January 1, so we should be good for now.

Congress approved an FY16 Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through December 11, 2015. Once PPQ receives a budget, cooperative agreements will be sent out for that portion of the year (~19%) covered by the CR. We cannot officially approve a work plan or sign a cooperative agreement until we have a budget. As in past years, no news is good news and you can assume your work plan has been accepted if you do not specifically hear back from Brian. Unless you hear otherwise, all is good.

#### Annual NCC Meeting

The Annual NCC Meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of January 25, 2016, in Phoenix, AZ, at the PPQ SPHD office. The CPHST Phoenix Lab also is located nearby. This year we would like to highlight the work of the CPHST Phoenix Lab and the AZ SPHD office in support of the safeguarding continuum. A meeting in Phoenix would highlight the cooperative nature of the CAPS Program, the importance of the support by CPHST, and the challenges of a southern border state. We will know soon if this location and date can be confirmed.

#### NCC Rotations

With the end of the calendar year comes the end of several rotations on the NCC, and with the beginning of the calendar year comes new faces and fresh participation. Joe Collins, Saul Vaiciunas, and Carol Motloch have completed their terms and did not seek a second term in favor of concentrating on new and other responsibilities. Taking their place will be Tyson

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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.



Emory from FL as the SPRO rep from the SPB, Ruth Welliver from PA as the SSC rep for the EPB states, and Mark Hitchcox from OR as a PSS rep. Sherry Aultman from SC will continue on to a second term as the SSC rep for the SPB states. Farewells and introductions will take place on the December NCC call.

### **Farm Bill**

The review and rating period has finished, and the goal teams are preparing their spending plans. A combined spending plan will be put together and vetted by the Farm Bill team over the next couple of weeks. The Team is still on schedule to present the spending plan to the Deputy Administrator in December.

### **CPHST**

The new Tropical Hosts Commodity-based Survey manual and pest lists are being finalized. Two new pest datasheets were released this week (*Neofusicoccum mangiferae* and *Paratachardina pseudolobata*).

CPHST is preparing to hire a replacement for Talitha. The job announcement is currently being developed and should be announced soon. Questions should be directed to Rick.

### **Purdue**

Two new data fields are being implemented in NAPIS for trapping surveys: Trap and Lure (we talked about this a while back). These will be required in January 2016 for all data entry, but should be available before then and will be optional until the required date. This is the result of a Survey Method Reconciliation project to reconcile the two worlds of survey methodology: NAPIS Survey Methods and the Approved Methods. The NAPIS Survey Methods are being greatly simplified in favor of the Approved Methods. The Trap and Lure fields help with the transition. CPHST also requested the trap and lure fields to aid analyses, so two issues are being addressed at the same time. This is only for trapping surveys at this time. Visual surveys and surveys with sampling are being worked on as they present different challenges. Data entry for these surveys will remain as is for now. Susan will plan and hold a webinar to explain the processes for the CAPS community in the near future (perhaps in January after everyone is back from the holidays). Questions can be directed to Lisa, Melinda, or Susan.

### **IPHIS**

A question was asked as to a rumor that is floating around about IPHIS. As if on cue, an email from the Deputy Administrator was sent out to all of PPQ the following day. A portion is copied below. Essentially, IPHIS is funded this year only to keep the lights on with no new development while a review team analyzes domestic surveillance needs. This does not affect NAPIS.



### **Domestic Pest Detection and Surveillance Programs**

Our domestic pest detection and surveillance programs generate important data that help us make critical decisions as we safeguard American agriculture. To ensure we continue to have access to the tools we need, the PPQ Management Team formed a Domestic Data Systems Task Force and asked it to evaluate our domestic program data usage and analytical needs. The team will develop a shared understanding of how domestic data systems are used across all levels of PPQ and by users beyond PPQ. The team will use this information to determine whether current data collection, reporting, and analytical tools meet PPQ's needs. The team will also develop a strategy to modify or replace systems that do not meet our needs.

### **Vehicles**

A question also was asked as to the status of PPQ vehicles available to cooperators as some had heard that PPQ would only lease vehicles from now on. This is true and is a USDA Departmental mandate. States may not be able to use leased PPQ vehicles because of liability issues. However, negotiations have allowed PPQ to retain approximately half of their vehicles this year. Check with your SPHD office as this is still an evolving situation. More details to come.

### **CAPS Recognition**

It is not too early to start thinking of nominating someone for CAPS Recognition for work done in 2015. The call for nominations will go out in January.

### **New SPHDS**

PPQ Field Operations has hired several new SPHDs to fill in behind retirements. If there are any additions or corrections, please let John and Susan know so we can update the Directories on the CAPS R&C site. In no particular order:

SC: Carl Lightfoot

LA: Tad Hardy (former SPRO)

NE: Shayne Galford

MN: Erin Stiers

KS: Jeff Hash

CT/MA/RI: Kate Aitkenhead

NY: Mafalda Weldon

### **Plant Board Meetings for 2016**

See the [National Plant Board Meeting](#) page.

**The next NCC call will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 1:00 pm eastern time.**

Please forward to your NCC representative any agenda topics for discussion on the next NCC call.