



National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

October 1, 2015

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Saul Vaiciunas	Susan Schechter
Piera Siegert	Ian Foley	
Joe Collins	Lisa Jackson	
Julie Van Meter	Chelsea Jones	
Lisa Ishibashi	Melinda Sullivan	
Carol Motloch	Dan Mackesy	

Funding and Budgets

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 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.

Although Congress has not passed an FY16 appropriations bill to fund the government for the full year, the Senate and House markups of their respective bills contain the same figure for the Pest Detection line item. This is the same figure for Pest Detection as in FY15, so there looks to be no decrease, but no increase either. At this time there is no need to change our budget for cooperative agreements, and we will proceed as planned.

Be aware of the potential for a government shutdown once the current CR expires due to partisan politics in Congress. However, as most agreements do not start until after January 1, we should be able to weather any storm Congress may throw at us.

CAPS R&C and the Survey Summary Form

The CAPS R&C site has been upgraded to Drupal 7 as the engine that runs the site. By all accounts the transition went well and everything should be as it was before. If you notice anything out of place, does not work, links that are broken, or missing pages or documents, please let Susan know asap.

Previously, the Survey Summary Form (SSF) consisted of three different modules: CAPS, PPQ Pest Detection, and Farm Bill. With the upgrade to Drupal 7 the Survey Summary Form will be developed as an application outside of Drupal that will better integrate the previous SSFs and will increase efficiencies. This also will allow a change request work flow to be developed so

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.



that changes to the SSF during year can be requested and approved, and records kept to document the changes. This will allow the SSF to reflect work completed (as opposed to planned) when Accomplishment Reports are due. This is the reason why the SSFs had to close. The tentative date to have the change request work flow in place is January 2016. Until then, please contact Brian with requested changes.

One of the efficiencies gained is a unified CAPS R&C and NAPIS authentication protocol. Log in to either one, and you are automatically logged into the other. This facilitates going back and forth between the two sites and makes the authentication more efficient to manage.

Potential SharePoint Page for NCC

One of the drawbacks in the CAPS site is the inability of shared editing and comments on draft documents (other than downloading and sending files back and forth). A possibility may exist in the near future of having a PPQ SharePoint page that is accessible to our cooperators via USDA eAuthentication. Access can be controlled and the NCC will be able to review, comment, and edit documents in a shared environment. This will facilitate NCC input before a document is posted on the CAPS R&C site. Stay tuned.

Screening Aids

An issue recently arose where some screening aids were questioned as to their accuracy and usefulness. Several questions then ensued. Should we review screening aids before posting them to the CAPS site? Do we have the resources to do this? Who would do this? Does anybody have the time? Everyone agreed that whether the screening aid is official or unofficial, we want correct and useful information posted.

Currently, there is no review process in place, and previously, Joel Floyd was more or less the gatekeeper for these aids. With Joel's retirement that function is no longer being carried out. We are relying on the authors of the screening aids to have them reviewed, but there is no criteria or explicit direction.

The NCC agreed that a screening aid should be vetted in some manner or it should not be posted. We need to develop a protocol where screening aids are reviewed by an expert or two not associated with the authors; essentially, standing up an external review process. To coordinate this review, someone needs to act as the liaison between the Program and the authors, and will make the final decision as to whether or not a screening aid gets posted. Currently there is a review process for datasheets developed by CPHST where they draw upon a list of experts. Is this a model we should follow, or even incorporate screening aids into the current process? Regardless, this will require a separate liaison as we do not have the resources in CPHST CAPS Support to take on additional work.

The NCC is asked to think about this and talk with their constituency, and we will follow up on the next NCC call in November.



Farm Bill Update

Farm Bill suggestion reviews by the Goal Review teams are in progress. The SPHD/SPRO review period ended last week, but they are still encouraged to enter their comments.

Survey Supplies

The Survey Supply ordering module in IPHIS is open to accept orders. Questions can be directed to John Crowe, Brian, or Kristian.

Annual NCC Meeting

Planning needs to start for the Annual NCC Meeting, tentatively scheduled for the week of January 25, 2016. The meeting each year is scheduled at a location that can showcase various facets of the Safeguarding Continuum. Justification for the meeting needs to incorporate what the NCC members can learn and/or experience from meeting at a certain location. Several locations were discussed: Newnan, GA, at the PPQ Detector Dog Training Center; a PPQ Puerto Rico location for the Old World Bollworm response and/or PPQ preclearance; and Honolulu, HI, at the HI Dept. of Agriculture for the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle eradication and/or the PPQ preclearance facility.

The next NCC call will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2015, at 1:00 pm eastern time.

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