



## National CAPS Committee (NCC) Conference Call

November 3, 2016

### Minutes

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#### Participants

Joel Bard	Piera Siergert	Dale Anderson	John Crowe
Lisa Jackson	Yolisa Ishibashi	Ian Foley	Steve Bullington
Julie Van Meter	Tiffany Mauro	Avi Eitam	Susan Schechter
Mike Tadde	Darrell Bays	Dan Mackesy	Eileen Luke
Sherry Aultman	Ruth Welliver	Heather Moylett	Melinda Sullivan

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#### NCC staffing announcements

- Avi Eitam (Pest Survey Specialist, Ohio) is officially on his TDY filling Brian Kopper's position as National Operations Manager (Pest Detection and CAPS) until December 24, but it may be extended through the NCC annual meeting.
- John Bowers is still out of the office on training. His training will finish on November 11. He will be back in the office on November 14.
- Melinda Sullivan is on a 60 day TDY as a National Operations Manager in Field Operations through December 24. She is still available intermittently for CAPS-related issues. For plant pathogen related issues, please email Melinda Sullivan and she will either address the issue or delegate the request to Daniel Mackesy.

#### 2017 Annual NCC Meeting

Charleston and Baton Rouge do not have space to accommodate us, but Texas appears to work. Not Moore AFB for the entire meeting, but the PPQ office in McAllen has a good conference room, can provide vehicles, and is close to hotels and the airport. While there we could have a brief visit to the lab that receives fruit fly trapping specimens. Avi proposes that we tour the Moore AFB for 2-3 hours during the meeting. There is a trap & lure warehouse, Mexican fruit fly rearing facility and a CPHST lab there. Researchers at the lab would appreciate input from the field for the trap development program. There are also other facilities in the area that could be of interest, although we would not have time for more than a short visit to Moore during a two-day meeting. Perhaps people can voluntarily stay an extra day if they would like to visit additional locations.

What about backup plans in case Moore doesn't work out?

We prefer warm weather locations to limit weather delays with convenient access to airports, lodging, and restaurants. The Professional Development Center (PDC), Newnan, GA, Austin, and Miami all came up as possible backup locations. We have visited these locations in the past.

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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.



It may be time to revisit old locations that worked out well, as we will have had sufficient turnover in NCC membership (new members may not have visited these locations).

As for the dates of the meeting, some people have conflicts in both possible weeks (1/23 or 1/30). We may need to consider the week of February 6 as well.

**Action item:** Send your preference to Avi by tomorrow, 11/4, for the following three weeks: 1/23, 1/30, and 2/6. We'll finalize it when John comes back (should be back around November 14).

**Action item:** Send any NCC meeting agenda items to Avi before Thursday, 11/10.

### **NCC Rotation nominations – due by week of Nov 14<sup>th</sup>**

Ian is continuing his rotation as the WPB SSC. One person volunteered for the SPHD rotation, and another volunteered as an alternate, so that looks good. Emilie Inoue from Vermont has volunteered for the EPB SSC rotation. Emily is highly regarded by NCC members. Following the call, we were informed that Megan Abraham from Indiana has volunteered to serve as the CPB SPRO representative.

### **CAPS Webinar Series**

What is the goal of these webinars? Is it CAPS 101, or is it more detailed information? We can do basically any and all ideas.

We do need to provide CAPS 101-type information for new employees. There are also topics that could serve the entire community or specific groups.

Suggested topics:

- NAPIS 101 (Susan Schechter)
- New Pest Prioritization Model and how it impacts CAPS lists (CPHST)
- Approved Survey and Identification/Diagnostics Methods (CPHST)
- New Pests/Info for Work Plans (CPHST)
- CAPS Community Roles and Responsibilities (John Bowers?)
- NIS: Process for submitting sample from various domestic surveys (Steve Bullington)

We could plan to have the first webinar in December to get this series started. It would be good to tap into Susan's knowledge before she retires. Susan should give the first webinar in December as she may retire in February. She could give a NAPIS 101 training for new users and this could also serve as a refresher course.

Tentative dates and times for Susan's talks:

- Thursday December 8 at 1:00 pm Eastern
- Tuesday December 13 at 11:00 am Eastern



Lisa Jackson and Melinda Sullivan can do one for CPHST, perhaps in January. CPHST could discuss the new pest prioritization model developed by Alison Neeley's group and how this impacts the final CAPS Priority Pest Lists. There still seems to be some confusion and this is a complex, important topic.

Another possible topic is going into depth about how CPHST develops survey and diagnostic methods for CAPS and why there can be a lag time between published information and approval of the methods. There have been questions about this topic in the past.

Ruth suggested a webinar around March-April (after NCC meeting and before work plans are due) to discuss any changes to survey information or pest lists and also to discuss pests that are under-surveyed. She also suggested a webinar giving an overview of roles & responsibilities of the group and how everybody makes CAPS work. This would help new SSCs.

All of these topics received support by the Committee.

Following the call, Ian Foley suggested an NIS update with an outline on the process for submitting sample from various domestic surveys.

**Action item:** Send possible webinar topics to John Bowers (ongoing request). Please include 1) topic, 2) priority (high, medium, low), 3) webinar presenter, and 4) best time of year to give webinar.

### **Survey Supplies Update**

There is a Continuing Resolution. Pest Detection funding is capped at \$41,000 (19% of the annual budget) for the duration of the CR until December. Hopefully, more funding will come in December.

John C. and Avi did an inventory of lures, and there is a good stock of lures at Moore Air Base at this time. Otis products are expected to be received in January.

The current ordering period ends November 14. Orders should be approved by December 1.

On October 27, the Survey Supply Team, Moore Airbase facility staff, and Billy Newton and Calvin Shuler (Field Operations leadership) met at the Moore Air Base. The group discussed issues that came up over the past year. The team is working on a communication plan to alert the field if there is a new lure or change in product and to provide information on the new product. Similarly, the team is developing a plan on how to communicate when there is an anticipated delay in delivery.



While the team was discussing the intended audience of the communication, it was observed that the SSCs may not receive information through as many channels as the PSSs. For instance, CPHST, Survey Supplies, and other groups attend each monthly PSS call to give updates.

The NCC discussed ways to reach the SSCs. Not all regional SSC groups have monthly calls, so that is not an option. The group suggested that the onus be on the PSSs to pass on information. Lisa Jackson proposed this as a meeting topic at the NCC meeting.

**Action item:** Before the NCC meeting, SSC representatives reach out to SSCs. What is the best way for them to receive information? Be prepared to discuss this at the NCC annual meeting.

### **Purdue Update**

Susan has been working on improving ways we can record sample surveys. In the future, sample survey will be reported in a similar way as a trapping survey. Soil and tissue sample surveys are two examples of sample surveys.

Recently, announcements to the CAPS community from CPHST have shown up with a 'spoofing' warning when sent through Purdue. The USDA-APHIS IT department informed us that this is a Purdue issue. We are aware of this issue and are working to resolve this issue with Purdue's IT department.

### **Farm Bill Update**

Christopher Pierce is the acting NOM for Farm Bill until January 7. Kristian should be back after that.

The Farm Bill team is hoping for a final spending plan earlier than last year. It all depends on how the approval process plays out. The group plans to share their draft spending plan with the PPQ Deputy Administrator next week. At that point, the PPQ Office of the Deputy Administrator will work with the Department for final approval on the plan.

**The next NCC call will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 1:00 pm eastern time.**

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