



NCC Conference Call - Thursday, June 5, 2008

Minutes

Participants

John Bowers	Susan Schechter
Brian Kopper	Eileen Luke
Roeland Elliston	Kennoth Carnes
Dan Fieselmann	Adam Silagyi
Benny Graves	Erin Stiers
Jeff Knight	Melinda Sullivan
Vicki Smith	Richard Zink
Robert Dahl	Kim Schwartzburg
Kathy Handy	Lisa Jackson
Todd Schroeder	Bob Rabaglia
	Todd Dutton

Kristian Rondeau is on TDY to the LBAM program in California till July 14.

Roeland Elliston will be the CAPS contact in the WR until Kristian returns.

Marty Draper will be the new CSREES representative to the NCC, replacing Bill Hoffman.

National

National CAPS Meeting

- We are still waiting on the official Decision Memo from the Administrator, and we just learned, it also now has to go to the Department level. Once this is signed and approved, we can go ahead with further planning of the logistics, registration, hotel reservations, etc. We should not advertise the specifics of meeting on other web sites, etc., until the approval is official. The hotel contract has been signed and counter-signed, so we have a good place locked-in to have the meeting (see last month's Minutes).
- Matt and I have met twice now with Tom Scott, PDC, Frederick, MD. Tom will help us develop the agenda and provide facilitators. He will help us take our ideas and put them together in an agenda while providing an overview of the ebb and flow of the meeting in a way that keeps everyone engaged and on track. We are working on how to incorporate and present the suggestions that everyone has offered. As Tom provides drafts, I will pass them along to the NCC for review and comment. The goal is to have a draft of the agenda available for distribution by September 1.
- The theme of the meeting will be the future vision of CAPS. We need a more catchy slogan or phrase, any ideas will be considered.



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- The NCC will be on center stage for this meeting, as such, we need to be speaking as one voice. Everyone needs to be on board with the messages that we agree on. To prepare for the meeting, discuss relevant topics, refine our messages, and to go over final details of the agenda and meeting, I propose that we have a 1½ - 2-day meeting. Travel budgets are tight, so a side meeting at the National Plant Board Meeting in August may work for most of us. I will look into the details and pass the information along. Other suggestions are welcomed.

Strategic Plan

- We have started working on a strategic plan for Pest Detection that will incorporate the CAPS program. This will be our vision of where we want to be 3-5 years out, with goals, objectives, milestones, etc. We want to include some of this in the National CAPS meeting as part of the vision for the program, and we will talk about this more at the NCC meeting in August.

Traps & Lures

- The Trap Supply database on Lotus Notes will be opening soon. There has been some discussion about when and how long the database should be open for accepting orders. We will look into our options and keep the NCC informed.

CCB for NAPIS

- There is a definite need to implement a Configuration (Change) Control Board to provide guidance on NAPIS data entry. There are lots of issues on the table. There are some folks in PPQ, Policy and Program Development (PPD), that may be able to take an objective look at the situation and gives us some guidance on how to proceed. Instead of rushing headlong into this, I would like to have their input before we proceed. We have been trying to set up a meeting. I will keep you informed as to progress.

EWB/BB document

- The Exotic Wood Borer Bark Beetle National Survey Field Manual is in need of revision. After discussion it was agreed that CPHST will incorporate into the Manual all relevant updates in its current format. This would be the best way to insure that the information is available in the shortest time frame. The Manual would then be re-formatted, with additional information as necessary, to have the same look and feel of the commodity-based survey documents. This will help in any outreach and branding initiative that the program pursues.

Outreach response

- We need your input and suggestions (see last month's Minutes).



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Communications and discussions

- There is a need to continue conversations beyond our monthly conference calls. Many suggestions were made, but based on access, security, etc., we will try the NAPIS Forum. Please sign up and/or request access, and try it out to see if it will work for you. I will try and start a discussion within the NCC to see how it works.

ER, WR

ISIS/NAPIS document

- The WR is developing a document on the process to make an NAPIS-compliant template for ISIS. Roeland will check into the status of the document and if it is in a form that the NCC can review.

CPHST

AHP model changes

- CPHST is proposing changes to the criteria for developing the AHP Prioritized List. Kim distributed a list of proposed changes, and went over them on the call. Please read over the proposed changes, and forward any questions to CPHST (Kim) and the group. CPHST is requesting our support to implement the changes. An email will be sent out within the next week to assess consensus for continuing with the changes. These changes are for the methodology used in ranking the pests on the list. It is not a proposed change for the protocol to add or delete pests to the list. That remains unchanged.

Commodity documents

- The status of the commodity documents are as follows: the Grape Survey Guidelines will be available for review by the CAPS community in 2-3 weeks; the Pine Reference and Survey Guidelines have been reviewed, and will be available around the week of June 23; the Corn Reference will be available for review in September, the Corn Survey Guidelines will be later. It is hoped that the Corn commodity-based survey will be available to the States for 2010 surveys.

Pest/pathogen diagnostic matrix

- The 2009 diagnostic matrix for CAPS pests and pathogens is almost complete, and will be available for review soon.

Personnel

- Phil Berger has been appointed Director of CPHST.
- Bill Dickerson has been appointed as Associate Director.
- Michael Hennessey is the new National Science Program Leader for AQI and Port Technology



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NAPIS

Pest Tracker

- In the first month that the new Pest Tracker web site was available, CERIS recorded 16,000 hits on the site from 46 different countries.

NAPIS maps problems

- A recent security patch implemented on APHIS servers resulted in the inability of APHIS personnel to access and construct NAPIS maps. This is part of an APHIS-wide problem that also affected access to other sites. We have forwarded this concern to the appropriate people.

Other items/issues

- A question was raised as to whether or not there will be a parallel program at the National CAPS Meeting for spouses and/or guests. This has not been part of previous CAPS meetings, and will not be a part of the upcoming meeting. Spouses/guests will be welcomed to the opening reception and banquet, however, there will be an extra charge for the banquet. This will be indicated in the registration process. Spouses/guests will be on their own during meeting times, however we will provide information on area attractions in the registration packet. The hotel may be able to provide transportation to some local attractions.
- After some discussion, **the next NCC call will be on Tuesday, July 1, at 11:00 eastern time** to avoid conflicts with those who wish to take leave and get a head start on the long July 4th weekend.

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.