



NCC Conference Call - Thursday, February 5, 2009

Minutes

Participants

Matt Royer	Benny Graves
John Bowers	Bob Dahl
Brian Kopper	Vicki Smith
Kristian Rondeau	Mike Wallace
Bruce Shambaugh	Kathy Handy
Jason Watkins	Melinda Sullivan
Adam Silagyi	Susan Schechter
Erin Stiers	Eileen Luke
Talitha Price	Bob Rabaglia

The conference call consisted of progress reports from members of the NCC on the action items from the NCC meeting in Raleigh. See the agenda for the call for a quick synopsis of topics covered (NCC agenda 2-5-09.pdf). NCC decisions and action items are detailed in the minutes of the Raleigh meeting (NCC minutes Raleigh 2009.pdf). The status of the actions items are in NCC Action Items 2009.pdf and are up-to-date as of the date of the call.

Cooperative agreements for this year are slowly getting out from the Regions, funding at 43% as per the Continuing Resolution. Budget difficulties are hampering the process as PPQ has to absorb cost of living increases without extra appropriated funds. Additionally, Pest Detection is paying more for traps and lures, and in the Western region, Pest Detection money is funding a new Domestic Identifier position located at Texas A&M University (with associated relocation costs and funding an agreement for facilities). Efforts are being made to minimize the impact to surveys, but work plans may have to be adjusted.

The Forest Service's Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program is offering a bark beetle identification workshop at Cornell University the week of March 16. This is mainly for and geared to the participants in their program, but space may be available for other interested State or PPQ personnel. More details to come.

Attendance of State and PPQ personnel at the Regional Plant Board meetings was discussed. PPQ field personnel will not be approved to travel and attend due to travel restrictions. The local PSS may be able to attend and represent the PSSs, and report back to the NCC on topics discussed. It was discussed that if a Regional Plant Board wanted a particular PPQ person not already approved to travel to the meeting, then they may have to make a case with justification to PPQ in order for that person to obtain approval to travel.

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.