



## Minutes

### Participants

John Bowers	Ken Carnes
Kristian Rondeau	Beth Long
Dan Fieselmann	Mike Wallace
Bruce Shambaugh	Kathy Handy
Jason Watkins	Susan Schechter
Benny Graves	Lisa Jackson
Dan Hilburn	Melinda Sullivan
Erin Stiers	Christina Jewett
Marge Rayda	

### Farewells and Hellos

As mentioned in the minutes to last month's call, the composition of the NCC will change. In this month's call we say farewell to Erin Stiers (PSS, KS), Ken Carnes (SSC, NY), and Bob Dahl (SPRO, WI). We thank them for all of their efforts, energies, and engagement in support of the CAPS program. At the same time we welcome Marge Rayda (PSS, ND), Beth Long (SSC, TN), and Julie Van Meter (SPRO, NE) to the NCC. We know that they will bring different experiences and established skill sets that will enhance the work of the NCC, and continue to grow the CAPS program.

### NCC Meeting

The annual meeting of the National CAPS Committee will be held January 27-28, 2010, at the PPQ National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia. The meeting has been approved, and information was sent to the NCC earlier in the week. A draft agenda outline was sent to the NCC to review and discuss with their constituency. **Now is the time to forward issues and items that the CAPS community needs the NCC to discuss and/or make a decision on a course of action.**

### Work Plans

Due to an almost unprecedented early allocation to the PPQ Regions, most of the work plans have been approved and finalized. There are just a handful of states either finishing revisions or gathering signatures.

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## **Farm Bill**

The Farm Bill 2010 spending plan is being prepared for Departmental review. Matt Royer will meet with Rebecca Bech and Cindy Smith (may have already occurred before you read this), which will start the review process. The Secretary of Agriculture must approve the plan before any funds are committed to any project. After Departmental approval, The National Plant Board and industry will be briefed, and conversations with states will begin regarding selected projects and surveys. It is hoped that these conversations can begin before the holiday season.

## **Visual Surveys**

Adam Silagyi (PSS, FL) and Lisa Jackson, (CPHST, NC) continue to work on defining and refining visual survey protocols focusing on *Agrilus biguttatus*, oak splendor beetle, and *Platypus quercivorus*, oak ambrosia beetle, the number 1 and 2 pests on the AHP Prioritized list, and for which there is no specific trap or lure. They will develop recommendations and present these for discussion at the NCC meeting in late January.

## **Data Entry Language**

Kristian Rondeau (RSC, WR) lead a discussion on standardizing data entry language for the CAPS Survey Guidelines and work plan templates, and attempting to bring about a uniform protocol for data entry throughout the CAPS program. The group also addressed adding a map feature to Pest Tracker that would display surveys in progress for pests in each state. It was decided that we should table discussion on this issue until the NCC meeting in January. With the transition to IPHIS we do not want to develop or change any guidelines until we know more about how data entry will work in the new system.

## **Pest List Working Group**

A new working group was assembled to review the commodity pest lists, and to make recommendations to the NCC at the January meeting as to what pests to add, delete, or keep. Lisa Jackson (CPHST, NC) and Melinda Sullivan (CPHST, CO) have led this effort based on their work developing the approved survey methodology that will be in Appendix M of the Survey Guidelines. Changes to the commodity pest lists will be reflected in the 2011 CAPS Survey Guidelines. Please forward the name and contact information for anyone who would like to be a part of this effort.

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## 2010 CAPS Conference

The 2010 Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Conference for the entire CAPS community will be held November 30 - December 2, 2010 in Austin, Texas (pending approval). The documentation for approval will be submitted soon. It is not too early to start developing the agenda for the meeting. The NCC was asked to discuss with their constituency your ideas about the format and content of the meeting. In addition to content that you would like to see, what aspects of the meeting in Phoenix in 2008 that you would like to see continued, discarded, expanded, etc. There was some good discussion on the call about several items, including possible workshops, format, and facilitators, and these discussions will continue in more detail at the NCC meeting in January. We are excited, hope you are too!

## Other Items and Comments

A discussion on the common name for the European gypsy moth was held. It appears that some folks are referring to the pest as the North American gypsy moth because of its establishment and distribution. The position of the NCC is to defer to CPHST and the protocols established in professional societies for the proper common names of insect pests and plant diseases. For now, we will still refer to the pest as the European gypsy moth.

Last month the NCC talked about how to present the expanded Appendix M as it could get quite unwieldy in table form. Susan Schechter (NAPIS, Purdue) was asked to investigate the possibility of publishing the Appendix as a web page. She informed us today that a draft format is ready to review that would make navigating through the table(s) less arduous. The NCC will review the draft and send comments back to Susan.

Ken Carnes (SSC, NY) asked a questions on the status of traps and lures procurement, and whether there is any anticipations for delays in delivery to the field. As of now, the procurement process is running smoothly and no delays are anticipated. Dave Asher and folks in his shop at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, TX, are doing a great job in keeping the process running and staying ahead of potential trouble spots.

A new National Survey Supply Coordinator position was announced on USAJobs this week. This position is on the Emergency and Domestic Programs (EDP), Pest Detection staff located in Riverdale, Maryland. The incumbent reports to the Director of Pest Detection, and works with APHIS staff on all aspects of the planning, coordination, and procurement of traps, lures, and other survey supplies used in survey programs by APHIS and state cooperators. The person selected for this position will participate with staff and other programs on the development, implementation and maintenance of strategic plans, action plans, budgets and performance measures, operational plans, regulations, and guidelines for assigned areas within the program,

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and will serve as the Agency accountable party and leader for all aspects of quality and timely delivery of survey materials in support of national and international plant pest survey programs. The closing date for this position is December 28, 2009.

The links for the announcement are:

Public Candidates

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=84835689>

Status Candidates

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=84836045>

A comment was relayed from Chris Pierce (PSS, MO) by Erin Stiers (PSS, KS) regarding a concern that during the transfer from NAPIS to IPHIS the data quality that we have been building into NAPIS transfer as well to IPHIS. This is a legitimate concern, and is an issue that will require our diligence and vigilance. The plan for 2010 is to complete work on Appendix M, and to use this information to start building the Pest Detection complex in IPHIS. This will contain all the rules and validations for data entry for those surveys funded by Pest Detection. This also will standardize data entry by PPQ and state cooperators. The ultimate goal will be to present all of this information to the CAPS community at the CAPS Conference in December 2010.

The next NCC call will be on **Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 11:00 am eastern time.**

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