



## Minutes

### Participants

John Bowers	Beth Long
Brian Kopper	Kathy Handy
Kristian Rondeau	Susan Schechter
Dan Fieselmann	Lisa Jackson
Bruce Shambaugh	Melinda Sullivan
Vicki Smith	Joel Floyd
Benny Graves	Gary Cave
Julie Van Meter	Richard Zink

### A New Year

As mentioned in last month's minutes, we welcome Marge Rayda (PSS, ND), Beth Long (SSC, TN), and Julie Van Meter (SPRO, NE) to the NCC. Additionally, Mike Wallace (formerly SSC AZ) has accepted a new position and leaves the NCC. Replacing Mike as the SSC representative for the PPQ WR will be John Kaltenbach, the State Survey Coordinator for Colorado. 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 in the year to come. The NCC wishes that everyone have a safe, productive, and wonderful 2010.

### 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. 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.** Since we have an ambitious agenda for discussion, the NCC was asked to carefully review the items with their constituency and bring any material needed for reference.

### Farm Bill

The update to the Farm Bill is that there is no update at this time. The Farm Bill 2010 spending plan has been prepared and forwarded to the Department for review. 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.

---

**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.**



## **Regional Plant Board Meetings**

The NCC discussed at length the desire to have CAPS breakout sessions with Pest Survey Specialists and State Survey Coordinators on the agendas for the Regional Plant Board meetings. These sessions were last held 2 years ago at the Eastern, Southern, and Central Plant Board meetings, and were beneficial and added value to the meetings for both PPQ and state cooperators. Additionally, the items and issues raised during these sessions became a major part of the agenda for the 2008 CAPS Conference that December. We are once again in a CAPS Conference year, and the opportunity to meet with cooperators in the states and discuss important issues related to the CAPS program as we plan the 2010 CAPS Conference is a opportunity that should not be missed. Vicki Smith (EPB rep) and Benny Graves (SPB rep) offered that the Eastern and Southern Plant Boards, respectively, plan to offer these sessions. The challenge is the approval for travel to these meetings, for both PSSs and SSCs. The Plant Board representatives were asked to discuss within their Regional Plant Boards the feasibility of placing a CAPS session on the agenda, and encouraging SSCs to attend the meetings to participate in these important discussions. Brian Kopper and Kristian Rondeau will talk within their Region on the importance of approving travel for PSSs to the various meetings. The NCC considers these sessions to be very important to the continued growth of the CAPS program and our relationships with cooperators in the states.

## **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. In December the Group discussed the Commodity Pest lists and developed some action items to follow up with other programs. In January, the Group will discuss changes in the Exotic Woodboring & Bark Beetle list.

## **2010 CAPS Conference**

The 2010 Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Conference for the entire CAPS community tentatively will be held November 30 - December 2, 2010 in Austin, Texas (pending approval and availability of properties). 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. Please discuss with your NCC constituency.

---

**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.**



## NAPIS

Susan Schechter reported that lots of data came into NAPIS in December, more so than in recent years. There was a definite increase in activity concerning the CAPS Accountability Report, and the Report was thought to have an influence on the increased data entry activity.

The folks at CERIS continue to work on a web page for the presentation of Appendix M of the CAPS Survey Guidelines, as well as an interactive collaboration web site to replace the static CAPS site. In conversations with Eileen Luke and Susan after the conference call, perhaps the best way to demonstrate these new sites is to have a webinar in place of our monthly conference call in February, perhaps the second or third week of the month. We will talk about this at the NCC meeting and go from there.

## IPHIS

The new Integrated Plant Health Information System (IPHIS) currently is undergoing formal user acceptance testing. A select group of PPQ and state users are pushing all the buttons and clicking all the tabs and links looking for adherence to the system requirements, bugs, missing features, and more efficient usage of the system. A late winter/early spring release is planned. An implementation plan is being vetted through the PPQ Regions for those programs and states that will be designated to pilot test the system in 2010.

## PPQ Surveys and Data

The Pest Detection line item funds surveys by state cooperators, and also surveys conducted by PPQ. The cooperative agreements with the states currently specify that data be entered into NAPIS (either directly or through ISIS). The question recently arose as to the fate of the data collected by PPQ. Are we capturing the intended targets and the resulting survey data? Brian and Kristian will begin to have these types of conversations in the Regions to determine what the process, if any, has been with regards to data. Several states have been queried, and in those states PPQ prepares the data in NAPIS format and shares it with the State who enters it into NAPIS. We may need to include language in the Survey Guidelines to ensure that this occurs in every state.

## Other

The new National Survey Supply Coordinator position is due to close Monday, January 11. 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

---

**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.**



NCC Conference Call

January 7, 2010

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, 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 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>

**The next NCC call will be in February, date and time TBD.**

---

**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.**