

Minutes of AAPCO BOARD Conference Call

Date: February 12, 2014

Meeting Convened at 1 p.m. ET

Present on the call: Jeff Comstock, VT, President; Dave Fredrickson, Treasurer; Gina Alessandri, Past-President; Charles Moses, NV, Director; Director; Amy Bamber, MT, Director; Steve Dwinell, FL, Director; and Grier Stayton, AAPCO Executive Secretary.

Treasurer's Report – Fredrickson reported the first payroll was cut through the new accounting firm. Cost of the new firm for doing payroll is \$52 / month vs. \$400 for the old accounting firm. Fredrickson reported the SFIREG grant amendment should be awarded on February 13th. Currently \$1,500 is available for drawdown on the SFIREG grant. There is a balance of \$8,003 in the SFIREG checking account. The new accounting firm is in the process of converting files and setting up a new balance sheet using Quick Books. The new report format should be ready for the March Board meeting.

AAPCO meeting registrations are currently at 124 (8 guests, 55 industry, 48 SLAs). AAPCO checking is currently, \$24,000, plus \$21,305 in savings. Invoices for membership dues have not been sent to states yet – Fredrickson is awaiting completion of the new Quick Books files. Also, the invoices for the Check Sample program are on hold until the new system is in place.

Moses asked how the meeting registrations compared to 2013. (Fredrickson replied later via email, the registrations were on par with 2013). He also commented on the favorable rate of the new accounting firm.

Secretary's Report – Stayton reported on the spring meeting preparations. A hotel room reservation listing of delegates was provided by email to the Board. Bookings are at 90% of the room block, and have actually exceeded the room block for Tuesday. Stayton is in the process of increasing the number of rooms available. (As of this writing, availability was increased by 20 rooms for Tuesday). Stayton reported the March 9th Board meeting will be held in the Roosevelt (not the Arlington). Assignment of compensated rooms was discussed. Stayton also briefed the Board on side meetings taking place during the Spring Meeting (Lab Directors; Jeff Case group; Cassens ALSTAR; Performance Measures Workgroup; and the CropLife meeting). Audio/Visual set-up was discussed for each of the meeting rooms. Stayton also reported a \$240 contract was signed with Swisscom to provide wifi service to the rooms (for presenters use only). A/V will be available for the Tuesday luncheon. Comstock asked if the President's room would be an upgrade and available for meetings. Stayton replied the room would be adequate. Travel costs will be covered for Dr. Russell Thomas, Jim Aidala, and Anugrah Shaw. Life Members nominations are to be considered at the March meeting. Also there is a nomination for the Chair of the Life Membership and Memorials Committee. Stayton also noted the March Board meeting agenda should include the addition of the AASA (American Agronomic Stewardship Alliance) liaison report (Dave Scott, IN, was appointed as liaison at March 2013 meeting).

Stayton received a 2/12/14, call from Kevin Keaney, OPP, regarding the release of the WPS revised rule on Thursday, February 20. Keaney will be setting up a conference call for State Lead Agencies on February 19th to discuss the rule. Stayton will distribute the conference call number and associated information.

2014 AAPCO Meeting Agenda Planning & Review – Stayton asked if Kunickis was confirmed (she had not registered as a speaker yet). There was also a question regarding the assignment of an FDA speaker for the

Tuesday afternoon slot on the FSMA. Stayton also noted that Ples Spradley asked to be removed from the CTAG update, and it was suggested the CTAG time slot include a WPS update. Comstock agreed to contact Steve Bradley to make good use of the Wednesday time slot for CTAG and the WPS presentation by Kevin Keaney.

Comstock asked for comments on the proposed March Board meeting agenda. Moses asked that the title of the Somody topic be changed – he will provide the new title later to Stayton. Moses discussed the proposed IPM position paper. AAPCO is being asked by Somody to open dialog on the “The Critical Need for IPM Support of Pesticide Safety Education” position paper and to support the revised IPM RFP language. It is basically covered in the following paragraph:

“We strongly believe that pesticide safety education must be better incorporated into IPM guidance and efforts at the national, regional, state, and IPM Center levels. This will help with priority setting for IPM grants, grant panel selection, guidance and reviews, program collaboration, and leveraging of resources and expertise. IPM should serve as a key influencer in advancing pesticide safety education as an essential element of the chemical component of IPM.”

Moses referenced the critical need position paper (originally intended to be sent to SFIREG Chair, Steve Dwinell). Bamber summarized her understanding of the position paper: If pesticide safety education is included in an IPM grant it might open the door to Extension applicants. Moses will be sending an email to Comstock, asking to step down as the AAPCO liaison to the PSEP Stakeholder Team. He suggested the new liaison not be a member of the AAPCO Board of Directors. He stated that although he is supportive of PSEP’s, he is no longer able to actively advocate for PSEP funding as a member of the PSEP Steering Committee. He also noted the job is time intensive.

There followed a discussion of SFIREG grant funds and the consideration of travel savings. Comstock stated there should be a discussion after the spring meeting to take a different approach to per diem reimbursement. There could be a letter or other communication to SFIREG members asking them to voluntarily charge only for actual meal costs because the next SFIREG hotel contract provides the opportunity for some meals to be included as part of the lodging costs. The Board wants to encourage SFIREG committee members to help ensure (be considerate of) the long term viability of the SFIREG grant.

With the attendance of Nathan Bowen, NASDA, at the March Board meeting, Comstock noted there will be an opportunity for AAPCO and NASDA to discuss collaborating on a Drift PRN communication strategy. Comstock felt there would be the potential for a formalized strategy presentation to the September NASDA gathering. Stayton suggested the strategy also include the new WPS revisions.

Comstock asked for any further comments on the proposed By-Law revisions. It is expected that the Board will take a position at the March Board meeting, with a follow-up vote at the Tuesday, March 11th, Business Meeting of AAPCO. Comstock will draft a letter outlining the change for distribution to the general membership in advance of the spring meeting. Comstock agreed to bring copies of the revisions to the meeting for inclusion in the meeting folders. Alessandri expressed support for the revisions. Stayton will distribute the Comstock letter via email and will post on the AAPCO website.

There was a brief discussion of the next AAPCO newsletter. It was agreed the newsletter should be distributed after the spring meeting and include photos from the meeting.

During the business meeting a new Chair of the Life Membership and Memorials Committee will need to be appointed. Stayton reported that Brandi Reynolds, Arkansas, had been nominated by Bobby Simoneaux. Comstock will discuss the position with Reynolds.

Moses asked if the AAPCO position on the Drift PRN had changed and Comstock replied no. Comstock stated there is an apparent hold-up at EPA because OPP and OECA have different positions on the use of site specific label prohibitions. The BOD conference call adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Grier Stayton".

Grier Stayton,
Executive Secretary, AAPCO