

The meeting began at 1:34pm eastern time. Present on the call: Kelly Friend, FL; Brian Verhougstraete, MI; Patrick Farquhar, NC; Sarah Caffery, OISC; Bob Blankenburg, AK; Otto Oemig, WI; Gretchen Paluch, IA; Steve Dwinell, VT; Gabrielle Sather-Olson, Treasurer.

The July minutes were reviewed and approved.

Per our SFIREG project officer, the FY26 funding for SFIREG will be \$199,000, which is lower than we had expected. Sather-Olson has modified the budget to align with the funding. She will email the financial reports to the board as they are not ready at this time. She does believe that we have sufficient funding for 2 years at this time.

#### Dicamba

The board did a round robin to learn about their representative state's perspectives on the new proposed dicamba labeling. There was also discussion as to whether AAPCO or SFIREG would be providing comments to the docket. Dwinell does not believe that he has a mechanism to provide comments within the timeframe but is committed to working with EPA on the topic as interest is shown by the SFIREG and JWC representatives. Caffery noted that AAPCO/SFIREG have provided many comments in the past on dicamba so some may be expecting comments from the association or committee, and that it would be best for AAPCO to notify the membership that neither AAPCO nor SFIREG will be providing comments, and to encourage states to submit their comments if they desired. Some states are reaching out to their Extension and commodity groups to ensure that they understand their perspectives on the topic. The topic has not come up in SFIREG or JWC discussions and is not currently on the September JWC agenda. Another element to the discussion is that for some states adoption of Enlist has supplanted dicamba OTT labels and they did not expect growers to return to using dicamba. Issues with Enlist have been considerably less than that issue with dicamba OTT in the past. SFIREG will request a special purpose call with EPA to provide an opportunity for states to have a direct Q&A session with the agency.

#### AAPCO ESA Workgroup

The AAPCO ESA Workgroup requested time to meet with the board to discuss the National Forum they are developing. Harris Walters, Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Katherine Rifenburg, and Kevin Kern joined the meeting for the discussion. They would like to hold the 2-day forum in February 2026. It would bring together major players from state lead agencies, industry, and pesticide safety education programs to share information, identify roles, set expectations, coordinate and develop C&T materials to support compliance, etc. There will be breakout sessions throughout the forum to dive deeper into specific topic areas. They are expecting to invite about 50 people and will need additional SLA facilitators/notetakers. EPA is expected to be involved as well. One desired outcome of the forum is the development of an ESA road map,

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*Amy Sullivan, Executive Secretary*

which SFIREG's Endangered Species Implementation working committee will take on for the purpose of sharing with SLAs.

Representation

The board discussed PPDC and AAPCO's representative at length. Oemig will take over for Verhougstraete as AAPCO's representative and the board thanked Verhougstraete for his time on PPDC. AAPCO would like for there to be a permanent SFIREG rep on PPDC, similar to AAPCO's seat.

Dwinell and Gretchen Paluch will also participate in PPDC's Cross Priority committee. The goal of the committee is to make recommendations about budget cuts to PSEPs and SLAs. Dwinell has presented them with a power point on state funding.

Patrick Jones, NC will step down as AAPCO's representative on AAPSE. The Board will work to find a new representative.

Check Sample program

Sullivan provided an update to the board on conversations with the Laboratory Directors committee leadership related to the check sample program. Purdue's Ping Wan has notified us that her laboratory will be moving to offering the program in alternating years. This will affect the laboratories across the globe who rely on the program as well as AAPCO's budget. The hope is to find another laboratory to take on the program's alternating vacant years. It is expected that the program fees will increase, as they are significantly below any other check sample programs that laboratories employ.

The meeting ended at 4:02pm eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,

