

# Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration

Fidalgo Country Inn

Anacortes, Washington

July 12, 2005

Approved Minutes

Kurt Volker, Chair

Present at the meeting were:

Commissioners: Art Losey, Ann George, Ben Barstow, Andrew Jensen, Bill Mason, Jay Schafer, Gina McCauley, Byron Phillips, Bryan Sakuma, Ted Maxwell, Chuck Masters, Gabrielle Toutonghi, Kurt Volker

WSU liaison: Richard Zack

Staff: Alan Schreiber, Laurie Wishkoski

Guests: Mike Shelby, Debra Inglis

## **Call to Order**

Chair Kurt Volker called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

## **Introductions/ Public Comment/ Minutes**

Introductions were made by all present.

There was no public comment. It was announced that there would be a change in the order of the speakers. Debra Inglis would speak first and Mike Shelby would speak second.

The minutes of the last meeting were handed out to anyone who did not have a copy. Kurt Volker asked if anyone needed time to look over the minutes or if they had read them already.

*Andy Jensen moved to approve the minutes. Byron Phillips seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Handouts were given of the financials, the Tour agenda and the Tour attendees.

## **Financial Report**

Alan Schreiber gave the financial report. The unspent funds at Washington State University, check details, the profit/loss figures and the year to date status of the account were discussed. Kurt Volker asked about the Attorneys General Office billing. Alan Schreiber replied that a bill from the AG office had not been received yet. The money has been set aside for that payment whenever it arrives.

Alan Schreiber asked Rich Zack what amount Washington State University would be given for the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration. Rich Zack replied that he did not know for sure. The general feeling was that a cut would be made of one or two percent. Research had received a one percent cut.

*Ann George moved to accept the financial report as presented. Ben Barstow seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **Administrator's Report**

Alan Schreiber discussed a problem that occurs when dealing with multiple learning institutions. It is often that one contract or project will occupy an inordinate amount of time. Alan Schreiber gave the example of a hops project that involved testing in the IR-4. There was a great deal of confusion regarding payment on a project from 2001. The project involved all three entities: Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration, Washington State University and University of California at Davis. It required quite a few man-hours and, eventually, a conference call to reach a point of consensus. One difficulty is that each entity uses a different numbering system so that it is necessary to always cross-reference numbers. Another concern on the part of other institutions is that there are no administrative costs allowed.

Alan Schreiber discussed the Letter of Agreement that exists between WSU and the WSCPR. There are multiple offices that are involved in the processing of each project which increases the time that is necessary to issue contracts and funds. Washington State University personnel have been making a concerted effort to decrease the time involved in processing and have been quite successful. When asked by Alan Schreiber, no commissioners reported having an outstanding voucher. Alan Schreiber reported that he had received comments that WSU is processing projects more quickly than in the past.

Alan Schreiber gave a report on the status of the reworking of the Minor Crop Handbook. There was a possibility that WSU Extension would fund the revision, publish and recoup their costs

from the sales of the book. It is also possible that a proposal for funding will be submitted at the next WSCPR funding review meeting.

Alan Schreiber talked about the virtual meeting scheduled for September. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 20 but we must wait for confirmation from the WHETS system. Doug Walsh has made the request through his position with WSU. Alan Schreiber explained the process for the virtual meetings.

Alan Schreiber discussed the possibility that term limits might affect some of the commissioners whose terms are ending this year. Jay Schafer is one who is eligible for re-nomination. Kurt Volker, Chuck Masters and Art Losey are all at the end of their current terms. The affected industries will be contacted for nominees. Alan Schreiber encouraged the eligible commissioners to contact their industry and relate their willingness (or unwillingness) to serve another term.

Alan Schreiber announced that the WSCPR would be donating \$2000 to the Minor Crops Tour that would be taking place on the east side of Washington this year. There are five present who are participating in the Minor Crops Tour. They are Kurt Volker, Andy Jensen, Ann George, Alan Schreiber and Laurie Wishkoski. Ann George gave detailed information about the Minor Crops Tour. Ann George indicated that the featured speaker at the Tuesday luncheon being held at IAREC in Prosser would be Alan Schreiber. Andy Jensen added an explanation of the second half of the tour week. The tour is geared to regulatory issues and the EPA. At this point the registrations have been cut off because the bus is full.

The Minor Crop Tour is focused on water and ESA issues and the EPA. The WSCPR's Pest Management Tour has a wider scope of attendees bringing in chemical people, state agency staff and state regulatory people. Both tours give an opportunity to interact with people who make decisions and to allow these people to see how their decisions affect agriculture. The Minor Crops Tour alternates between Eastern Washington and the Willamette Valley. The Pest Management Tour alternates between Western and Eastern Washington. The tours are complementary to each other. The Minor Crop Tour began in response to FIFRA in 1988.

Alan Schreiber explained the agenda for the Pest Management Tour. The agenda for the Tour is explained for each day. Day one will be touring northward to the Mt. Vernon area with a focus on the agriculture of Northwest Washington and ending with an open air dinner at Bowman Bay on Deception Pass. Day two will travel southward then westward from the Seattle area and arriving at Willapa Bay. The tour this day will focus on urban issues and natural resource issues. The day will end with an open air dinner in Ilwaco overlooking the marina. Day three will begin with a 6:30 am launch to take advantage of the minus tides to view the issues in Willapa Bay and follow up with a forestry stop.

Kurt Volker stressed the value of these tours in educating decision makers about the value, the issues and the problems of agriculture in the state of Washington.

Ted Maxwell announced that Erik Johansen will be taking over for him on the board.

Alan Schreiber explained the Request for Proposals. The main purpose of the Commission is to guide the disbursement of state monies. That is the reason for the existence of the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration. The RFP is the vehicle that is used by the WSCPR to communicate. Each year the RFP is examined by the Commission to see if there are any issues that have arisen and which require changes in the RFP. October 25 and 26 will be the dates of the proposal review and funding meeting in Ellensburg. The projects are fairly equally divided between the old mandate and the new mandate. The old mandate involves generating data that would be useful in maintaining or generating a registration for a pesticide. The new mandate refers to basically everything else such as biological controls, mechanical and cultural controls. The RFP is written rather broadly but that is effective. It is only occasionally that a proposal comes in that is outside the scope of the Commission and Alan Schreiber, in conjunction with the Chair, acts as the gatekeeper in those instances. The Commission encourages work with crops that are not within the top 20 crops in the state.

There was discussion about the January proposal review meeting. There was concern about the conflicts with other meetings that had occurred in the past. There was discussion about the possibility of having the meeting in Pasco. It was decided that if there was no conflict with the pest meetings then the meeting would stay in Portland. If there was a conflict with meeting dates then the meeting would move to Pasco.

Alan Schreiber went over the RFP. It was suggested that the language regarding one project per proposal be stricken because it was not being adhered to. Kurt Volker voiced the opinion that, rather than removing that language, it should be enforced. The commissioners directed that the language be retained and underlined or bolded. In addition, the word 'generally' should be struck. A project can have different parts but the proposal can have only one project.

Gina McCauley requested that greenhouse be added to the list of sites using pesticides in the "Intent" section of the RFP.

Alan Schreiber indicated that he would make sure that the changes were noted in the cover letter that will accompany the RFP in the mailings.

In an attempt to cut down or eliminate the difficulty in correlating numbers, it would be requested that all numbers assigned to the proposal or be included in correspondence. This would be requested as a part of the letter of approval.

Any proposal must originate with the group that is impacted by the work. The project must be needed in the state of Washington but it can come from another state. There must be a representative from the impacted group to stand up and make the pitch for the proposal.

The issue of indirect costs was brought up. Tuition is an item that could be considered and listed as part of indirect costs. After the issue was discussed it was decided that the language would stay as written.

Alan Schreiber asked that all of the Commissioners read the RFP and provide feedback to him if there are any items of concern.

## Lunch

Mike Shelby of Western Washington Agricultural Association made a presentation on the agriculture of the Skagit area and the Skagit CIDMP (Comprehensive Irrigation District Management Plan). The Skagit area is a unique agricultural area. It is the most productive delta area this far north.

Debra Inglis of the Washington State University at Mount Vernon gave a presentation on the renaissance of that site. The center is emphasizing new and traditional goals and partnerships. Debra Inglis showed plans and drawing of the emerging Mount Vernon station.

Alan Schreiber reminded the commissioners that if they wanted any legislative action to take place on behalf of the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration the decision needed to be made at the September meeting. The commissioners were also reminded to think about whether or not WSCPR should make a Report to the Legislature. It is not a requirement but has been done in the past and it could be beneficial to the Commission.

Kurt Volker asked about the timing of elections. Alan Schreiber answered that the terms expire in September but the elections do not take place until January.

Byron Phillips asked about the progress reports that are housed at the Commission office. They are in a variety of forms both hard and electronic. Alan Schreiber responded that there has been debate about whether or not research should be available or whether it is intellectual property and therefore private. Byron Phillips asked whether or not it could be accessed under a password protected system. Alan Schreiber recommended that the commissioners spend some time thinking about this issue. Andy Jensen asked whether or not it would be possible to simply put the year's reports on a CD for each commissioner. Kurt Volker told the group that any project that was of particular interest to one of the commissioners could be obtained by merely contacting either Alan Schreiber or Laurie Wishkoski at the WSCPR office.

There were no other comments or questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.