

Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration

Minutes

May 11, 2005

Moses Lake, Washington

Washington State Potato Commission Offices

Present at the meeting were:

Commissioners: Kurt Volker, Dan Robinson, Byron Phillips, Jeff Sample, Andy Jensen, Ann George, Jay Schafer, Ben Barstow, Doug Walsh, Gabrielle Toutonghi, Cheryl Niemi, Ted Maxwell, Bill Mason

WSU liaison: Sandra Ristow

Staff: Alan Schreiber, Laurie Wishkoski

Guest: Jane Thomas, Washington State University

Call to order/ Introductions/ Public Comment

Chair Kurt Volker called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Introductions were made by all present.

There was no public comment.

Minutes

There were three sets of minutes that were before the Commission for approval. The January minutes had been requested to be amended by the addition of an explanation of the prescreening procedure and the Executive Committee. The teleconference minutes had been requested to insert an explanation of the procedure used in the prescreening. The minutes from the March meeting had yet to come before the Commission. The minutes were offered for approval in consecutive order beginning with the earliest.

Ann George moved to approve the January minutes as amended. Dan Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ann George moved to approve the teleconference minutes as amended. Andy Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ann George moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2005 with the caveat that there be made mention in the minutes of the existence of a proposal ranking list. Andy Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Alan Schreiber gave the financial report. The majority of expenses for the remainder of the year have either been expended or are known. The Commission should be within budget for the year. Kurt Volker requested that Alan Schreiber give some background and explanation of the Pacific Northwest Specialty Crops Integrated Pest Management Field Symposium. The Symposium tour alternates between Washington and Oregon. Two years ago the WSCPR donated \$2000. Alan Schreiber noted that the Washington Asparagus Commission and many other commodity groups were sponsors of the tour. The tour targeted toward EPA staff. Of the 35 to 40 participants on the tour, 18 are from EPA with the rest being made up of other agency people. Alan Schreiber stated that this tour has made an effort to provide outreach to minor crops that have seldom been asked to participate and have very limited resources. Kurt Volker added that it would be good to let it be known that Washington State has strong agricultural support.

Chair Volker said that because this request did not fall into any of the general categories in the budget, it needed to be a line item up for approval. Kurt Volker asked if any one had any questions. Kurt Volker also made the distinction that the request for support did not come from anyone within the Commission.

Byron Phillips moved to approve the \$2000 sponsorship of the Pacific Northwest Specialty Crops Integrated Pest Management Field Symposium. Dan Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Schreiber continued with the financial report by going over the balance sheet and explained the check issuances. Administrative costs have been held to 12%. This means that 88% of the funds allotted to WSCPR go into projects. Questions were asked for regarding the financial report. There were none.

Ben Barstow moved to approve the financial report. Jay Schafer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jane Thomas from the Pesticide Notification Network and Cheryl Niemi were called upon to introduce themselves.

Administrative Report

Alan Schreiber explained the sole source contract. Kurt Volker explained that the responses were to be sent to him. There were no responses to the advertisement.

A new contact list for the Commissioners was handed out. A biography for Gina McCauley was handed out.

Alan Schreiber stated that the relationship between WSCPR and WSU has improved over the last year. There may be adjustments that need to be made to the Letter of Agreement between the two entities regarding time line agreements.

Alan Schreiber handed out brochures that Byron Phillips had sent to the Commission office and asked Byron Phillips to give any additional information that he might have. Byron Phillips indicated that both he and Doug Walsh sit on the Advisory Committee for the Western IPM Center. The Western IPM Center is having a symposium on the last day of August and the first day of September in Portland dealing with pesticide and water issues. Doug Walsh elaborated about the origins of the symposium.

Alan Schreiber went on to talk about Chris Grue and his research that he is doing on water and salmon issues. Chris Grue is speaking in Ellensburg on Friday May 13. The concept of the program was to allow members of various agricultural groups to listen to Dr. Grue to get a better understanding of what he had done and what he was proposing to do. At the same time, Dr. Grue would get input from the people in agriculture regarding their needs and their chemical use patterns.

Alan Schreiber handed out copies of the book Washington Minor Crops of which he is an author. Alan Schreiber is hoping to come back in July with a partially developed plan regarding the revision of the book.

WSCPR Tour Update

There have been some difficulties that have arisen. The tides during the time that the Tour is to be in Long Beach are the lowest of the year. The passage for boats is therefore limited. It may be necessary to modify the agenda. The invitations are out and sponsorships are in the works. The Tour will go north to the Skagit area on the first day. Then the Tour will pack up and go south dealing with urban landscape issues and end up in Long Beach. The third day will be oysters and forestry. Alan Schreiber asked for input and notification if any of the commissioners are planning on going on the tour.

Andy Jensen made a presentation on the potato tuber moth. The potato tuber moth was first reported in Washington in 2002 and has increased in the scope of damage with each ensuing year. Slides are shown of larva and larval activity. Slides are also shown of the adult moths. Potatoes.com shows the research portion and has map of trap counts and trap locations. WSCPR has funded a portion of this research. Andy Jensen said that he doesn't know how growers will be able to afford the cost of monitoring and control. Control measures were discussed. Quarantine measures are being considered. There is the possibility that this is a pest that is also spreading tuber to tuber in storage. Volunteer potatoes and cull piles are significant problems.

Jane Thomas with the Pesticide Notification Network

Work is done at WSU Tri Cities. The PNN is part of the WSCPR mandate and that of the Food and Environmental Quality Lab (FEQL). Jane Thomas has been the person to do the collection of information and the notification since the beginning of the network. The purpose of PNN is to support production agriculture in the state. Anyone can sign up for notification. It is possible to sign up for notification by either crop type or by pesticide type. The PNN website now has a search feature. This fall a survey will be done, hopefully it will be done electronically. The preference that the Commission had stated was that the survey be done every four years. The budget request is for the same amount that was requested last year \$49,746. Alan Schreiber asked to be included in the survey creation.

Lunch was served.

Budget

Alan Schreiber clarified the budget items. Stability within the Commission will translate to stable costs within the Commission administrative costs. Alan Schreiber gave information on the history of the Commission. After the creation of the Commission concerns arose with being a line item in the state's budget. It was felt that the Commission was too exposed to cuts. As a result it became folded into the WSU funding. Three of the last five years there has been a cut in funding. Alan Schreiber asked Sandra Ristow what she felt was the outlook for funding this year. Sandra Ristow responded that a 1% cut was possible but that, at this time, it did not look like it would be more than a 1% cut. She went on to add that there was little to no chance that there would be an increase in funding. Alan Schreiber suggested that the budget be approved and if there is a cut in funding then that cut could be reflected in project funding.

Ann George moved to approve the budget as presented. Andy Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter of Agreement

Alan Schreiber highlighted the Letter of Agreement between WSU and WSCPR and explained the implications. The LOA recites the enabling legislation and the obligations. Washington State University is the fiscal agent who will follow our directions. Sandra Ristow requested that the stated 30 days for contract submittal be changed to 40 days. Sandra Ristow also requested that the required two weeks within which to set up accounts for recipients be changed to three weeks after notification of award. It was also noted that there had been a name change. CAHE is now the College of Agriculture, Humanities and Natural Resource Sciences or CAHNRS. Kurt Volker contributed the institutional history that the figures were arbitrary to begin with.

There were no other suggestions for changes.

The LOA would be sent to Ralph Cavalieri for approval. If there are no changes or insignificant changes, the Chair would simply approve them. If there are significant changes then Chair Volker would contact the Executive Committee to examine the requested changes.

Byron Phillips made a motion to approve the Letter of Agreement with the proposed changes regarding the name of the institution, the length of time to create contracts and the length of time to set up accounts. Ben Barstow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Doug Walsh made a presentation on insect life in mint. Mint is a high percentage sugar source for a great many insects that use the sugar source as well as those that are feeding on those insects. Doug Walsh's presentation compared mint fields to red light districts.

Alan Schreiber stated that there will be a contract drawn up between the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration and Agriculture Development Group, Inc. Kurt Volker clarified that the choice had been made at the previous meeting and that the selection had taken place after having gone through the competitive process last year.

The next meeting will be in Anacortes, Washington on July 12, 2005.

There was no other business.