

MINUTES
Food & Environmental Quality Laboratory
Advisory Board Meeting

April 26, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Washington State University Tri-Cities
East Building, Room 212

Board Members Present: Mike Firman (for Royal Schoen), Ann George, Sandy Halstead, Matt Keifer, Scott McKinnie, Marilyn Perkins, Sandra Ristow (for Ralph Cavalieri), Randy Smith, Steve Thun

Board Members Absent: Kim Anderson, John Baranowski, Rick Long, Barbara Morrissey, Gabrielle Toutonghi, Todd Taruscio

FEQL Faculty and Staff Present: Catherine Daniels, Allan Felsot, Vince Hebert, Doug Walsh, Sally O'Neal Coates.

Guests Present: Jim Cowles, Washington State Department of Agriculture Environmental Toxicologist, Dave Lemak, WSU Tri-Cities Chancellor; Rick Zack, WSU Department of Entomology Chair

With the loss of chair Don Abbott and absence of vice chair John Baranowski, past chair Ann George volunteered to lead the meeting. She called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and initiated self introductions.

Chancellor Dave Lemak welcomed the group on behalf of WSU Tri-Cities.

Acting chair Ann George opened the review of the minutes from last year's meeting. Allan Felsot offered one correction under the "Cholinesterase by the Numbers" section. Where the previous minutes referred to "370 employers submitted results," it should have read, "workers employed by 370 employers participated." The minutes were approved unanimously as changed.

Faculty Presentations

Each faculty member had provided a brief write-up of his/her activities over the past year prior to the meeting; copies of those as well as a copy of each faculty member's slide presentation is provided with these minutes.

Vince Hebert, Laboratory Research Director of the FEQL Analytical Facility and host for today's meeting, began the faculty presentations with a slide show recapping the

laboratory's work over the past year, the FEQL's legislative mandate, and the roles of various lab staff members. He described the successes and failures of various pheromone dispenser technologies, his continuing work on pesticide exposure and fate, and the wrap-up of his work in cooperation with the University of Washington on pesticide impacts on farmworkers' children. He discussed in some detail his ongoing work in metam sodium product stewardship, which involved adjustment of sprinkler height and nozzle technology with the goal of maximizing application efficiency and reducing the amount of off-gassing. Vince noted that this work was submitted for funding to the Washington State Potato Commission but was not funded and will be submitted again. Ann George and Randy Smith asked about the human health impacts of this compound, which is a lacrimator (eye/throat irritant) and also an odor nuisance. This was addressed in the slide show.

Allan Felsot, FEQL Environmental Toxicologist and Member of the State Department of Labor & Industries' Scientific Advisory Committee, presented a recap of his work over the past year. A major accomplishment of his and Vince's over the past year was working with some high school students in the Project SEED program through the American Chemical Society. Working with one of these students, he conducted experiments comparing traditional spray patterns (every tree) in apple orchards with patterns skipping rows or alternating row middles. While there is no formal economic threshold for codling moth, Allan's work indicated that the "alternate row middle" method shows economic and efficacy promise. Another student took on a project studying the impacts of axial-fan orchard sprayers on off-target drift. This research indicated a significant contribution to drift through the so-called "backwash effect." Allan is actively seeking funding to continue these two projects. Allan also passed out the Table of Contents for an upcoming book for which he served as editor (provided as a handout).

Allan also publicly congratulated Vince Hebert for his recent achievement of tenure with the university.

Catherine Daniels, Director of Washington State Pest Management Resource Service (WSPRS) and State Liaison to Western Region IPM Center, began her presentation by reminding the Advisory Board about the WSPRS web page (<http://wsprs.wsu.edu>), which is the face of WSPRS outreach activities. She recapped the roles of her four staff members and enumerated and quantified her and their collective activities of the past year. She also showed the group the two posters in which WSPRS was involved at the recent National IPM Symposium in St. Louis. One poster, "IPM Across Washington State," explains the links between the Urban IPM, Ag IPM, and IPM Information Dissemination functions of the university. The other, "The PNW Workgroup," shows outputs and outcomes of collaborations between seven western states funded through the Western IPM Center, which is in turn funded through USDA-CSREES. Miniaturized versions of these posters are provided with these minutes.

Doug Walsh, Environmental and Agrichemical Education Specialist and Director of the Environmental and Agricultural Entomology Laboratory (EAEL) in Prosser, explained how he divides his time between his research, extension, and other activities. He detailed

a few upgrades to the physical facility of the EAEL, including the addition of a video conference room. He reported on successes of two recent graduate students and announced the pending acquisition of a PhD-level student for work in beef cattle pest management. Doug's program currently has funding to pursue the following projects this year: management of peach twig borer in peaches, management of thrips in Concord grapes, management of mealybugs and leafhoppers in wine grapes, management of a variety of pests and beneficial insects in timothy hay, measuring and reducing pesticide residues in hops, evaluation of seed treatments on carrots, pest management on ornamentals, continuing pest management in mint, studying the newly recognized thrips vector for Iris Yellow Spot Virus in dry bulb onions, expanding his group's work in alfalfa and alfalfa seed in pollinator protection and alternatives to burning, and developing and promoting reduced-risk internal and external pest management strategies in beef cattle.

The group adjourned for lunch at 12:10.

Guest Presentation

Jim Cowles, an Environmental Toxicologist from the Pesticide Management Division of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, gave a presentation entitled "WSDA Surface Water Monitoring Program." WSDA is now entering into its 4th year of water monitoring in response to concerns about water quality with respect to salmonid species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Jim gave a brief background about the ESA and the species under protection, refreshing the Advisory Board's memory about the Toxics Coalition lawsuit. As the lengthy process of resolving the lawsuits unfolds, there are currently court-mandated buffer zones of 20 to 100 yards around specific waterways for 18 of the 54 compounds named in the suit. Allan Felsot questioned how many producers are actually impacted by the buffers and setbacks and Jim gave some examples, specifically of orchardists in the Mission Creek area, who are indeed significantly impacted. WSDA's role is to compare pesticide usage and agricultural practices over time, to assess exposure, and to assess the impacts of mitigation measures put into place. In order to do this, they need to collect baseline data, which is why the water monitoring program was born. In the absence of actual field-collected data, EPA is obliged to use worst-case scenario figures. He explained the fundamental differences between WSDA's mandate under FIFRA/ESA and a Clean Water Act approach. He also explained WSDA's partnership with the Department of Ecology in performing the analytical work. His slide show provided some of the figures and details of the program to date; a copy is provided with these minutes.

Old Business

There are three current board vacancies: Department of Ecology, Marketing, and Farm Labor. Vince Hebert has three potential leads for the Ecology position and will pursue those and keep the board posted. For the Marketing position, Randy Smith recommended Deborah/Debra (last name unknown) from Northwest Horticulture. If NW Horticulture is more comfortable having a representative for the Farm Organization board position,

Randy Smith would be willing to move from his current position representing a Farm Organization to that of Marketing; the board was amenable to this flexibility due to Randy's dual roles with the Washington Association of Family Farms and board member for TreeTop.

For the Farm Labor position, Catherine Daniels asked if anyone knew the new Farm Labor representative on the state Pesticide Advisory Board. She could not remember his name, but believes he is located in Pasco. Randy Smith suggested perhaps an attorney who represents Hispanic farmworkers. Sandy Halstead suggested that Columbia Legal Services might be an avenue for finding someone like this. Marilyn Perkins suggested contacting the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce or La Clinica in Pasco.

Vince will also contact Rick Long, as his appointment ends June 30, 2006. If Rick is willing to re-enlist, he will stay on the board. If not, Vince will pursue another FDA contact.

New Business

Ann George opened the floor for nominations for officers. John Baranowski, current vice chair, was nominated in his absence for the next chair. Unopposed, he was elected unanimously. Scott McKinnie nominated Randy Smith for vice-chair. Unopposed, he was elected unanimously.

General Discussion

Doug Walsh asked the board if there was anything they wanted to discuss in Executive Session without the faculty members present. The board declined.

Randy Smith praised the FEQL faculty and staff for the type and level of information provided in today's faculty reports, saying it was the best FEQL Advisory Board meeting for him personally so far. He also indicated that the faculty should feel free to approach board members for endorsements or collaborations.

Allan Felsot thanked the board for being so cooperative and invited their input on future topics for the board meetings.

Ann George expressed satisfaction with the current work being done in nozzle/application technology and her disappointment that Vince is having trouble securing funding. Vince countered that he believes funds are not forthcoming because there is not a perceived problem, particularly on the part of the manufacturers of products including metam sodium.

Sandy Halstead mentioned that as EPA approaches this August's 10-year FQPA anniversary, the agency will be reducing emphasis on re-registration (i.e., looking at the older chemistries) and shifting to a greater emphasis on registration review (i.e., taking a

fresh look at the newer chemistries). Endangered species and worker protection will be major driving forces.

Ann George mentioned that many industries are in dire need of alternative and low-risk controls for soil-borne pests.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the FEQL Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at the Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser.

Acting chair Ann George adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.