

MINUTES
FEQL Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 27, 2005
IAREC – Prosser, WA

Board Members Present: Kim Anderson (by teleconference), John Baranowski, Ann George, Rick Long, Scott McKinnie, Marilyn Perkins, Sandra Ristow (for Ralph Cavaliere), Royal Schoen, Randy Smith, Todd Taruscio (for Gregg Möller), Steve Thun, Gabrielle Toutonghi

Board Members Absent: Don Abbott, Matthew Kiefer, Barbara Morrissey

Others Present: Bill Chase, Sally O’Neal Coates, Catherine Daniels, Allan Felsot, Holly Ferguson, Vince Hebert, Bob Stevens, Doug Walsh

Chair Ann George opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome and introductions. A special welcome was extended to new members Steve Thun, representing the Private Analytical Laboratory role on the board, and Gabrielle Toutonghi, representing the Department of Labor and Industries role. The previous meeting’s minutes were unanimously accepted.

Meeting host Doug Walsh (WSU Environmental and Agrichemical Education Specialist and Director of the EAEL, Environmental and Agricultural Entomology Laboratory) welcomed the group to Prosser, explaining his role with field research and his connection with the Prosser Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (IAREC). Previous FEQL Advisory Board meetings had been held at the Tri-Cities campus, where the other three FEQL faculty members have offices. Doug introduced Robert Stevens, Interim Director of IAREC. Bob gave an overview of the IAREC facility, which houses both WSU and USDA-ARS personnel and is the home of the Center for Precision Agriculture. He also briefly addressed recent budgetary losses including a 1% (\$2.1 million) across-the-board cut. The specific impacts of these cuts to IAREC and to FEQL programs are as yet unknown.

Cholinesterase by the Numbers

Allan Felsot (WSU Environmental Toxicologist and member of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries’ Scientific Advisory Committee) made a presentation about the status of the Washington State Cholinesterase Medical Monitoring Program, which started February 1, 2004. A copy of Allan’s slide show, providing basic scientific information about the relationship between cholinesterase and organophosphate (OP) exposure as well as the history of the monitoring program, is provided as an attachment to these minutes. The first year’s report was released in March 2005. The system was somewhat overwhelmed, as 370 employers submitted results. About 21% of follow-up blood samples indicated >20% depression of cholinesterase, which indicates exposure but not poisoning; 3.6% of workers tested were removed from labor involving direct OP exposure (i.e., given alternate assignments with compensation) as a result. Most exposure

and most testing took place in April; by the end of May of the first testing year, very few workers had blood tests showing threshold depression. The current year's field work and testing was underway at the time of this presentation; as of April 17, 2005, two workers in Washington State had been removed from work assignments involving OP exposure this year.

Regional IPM Centers

Catherine Daniels (WSU Pesticide Coordinator, State Contact for the Western Region IPM Center, and Director of WSPRS, Washington State Pest Management Resource Service) discussed Washington's role in the USDA Regional IPM Centers and several Pacific Northwest partnerships within the Western Region IPM Center. Catherine explained the structure of the Regional IPM Centers and their funding under USDA's CSREES program, in that prime grant funding goes to each of four Regional IPM Centers (in our case, the Western Region's, headquartered at the University of California at Davis) and individual states including Washington apply for grants for specific projects. (For example, Washington receives grant funds to edit Pest Management Strategic Plans, or PMSPs, for the western and intermountain states. These documents are used by EPA and USDA in pesticide reregistration and other policy decisions. PMSPs are industry-driven and, as such, the priorities set forth in them have a great deal of clout with state and Federal agencies such as IR-4 when research priorities for pest management are being determined.) Catherine explained another IPM Center-funded project known as the Comment Coordinator, which was outlined on a handout headed "USDA/EPA Information Requests." (*The contents of this handout can be viewed on-line at <http://wsprs.wsu.edu/USDAEPAInfo.html> .*) She also provided handouts on two collaborative regional projects, iSNAP (provided as an attachment to these minutes) and the OnePlan (*The contents of this handout can be viewed on-line at <http://www.oneplan.org/>*).

Finally, she announced the Western IPM Center's 2005 Symposium, "Water, Wildlife, and Pesticides in the West," scheduled for August 31 and September 1 in Portland (see <http://wripmc.org/NewsAlerts/westernipmsymposium05.html>). Several advisory board members expressed surprise and concern about the lack of publicity forthcoming about this event. Catherine and Doug said they would relate this concern to Rick Melnicoe and Linda Herbst at UC Davis. (*Following the meeting, Catherine contacted Rick and Linda; she will also send out publicity notices the week of May 2.*) Scott McKinnie offered to help publicize this event if asked; he suggested that, if the IPM Center wanted field personnel to attend this event, they might consider applying for CCA credits, a process that Scott could help facilitate (*Catherine passed this information on to Rick Melnicoe*).

Finally, Catherine outlined the new funding paradigm facing the Regional IPM Centers (and, subsequently, several WSPRS programs). This presentation is detailed on the handout entitled "Regional IPM Centers" and dated 4/25/05, a copy of which is provided as an attachment to these minutes. Essentially, most of the information-dissemination programs at WSPRS (including crop profiles, PMSPs, the WSPRS web page, and the Comment Coordinator) will either be shifted to the National Research Initiative (NRI), which has a very different mission statement than the previous CSREES 406 program, or

may be eliminated entirely. While NRI may become a new funding source, this type of funding results in less money reaching the end program (in this case, WSPRS), as NRI allows far greater indirect costs to be diverted by the institutions (e.g., UC Davis, WSU) through which the funds pass. The result could be as little as 20% of the grant dollars reaching WSPRS.

The group broke for lunch at 11:55 a.m., followed by a tour of the EAEL and IAREC facilities, which included a very instructive tutorial about the economical acquisition of building signage.

Analytical Laboratory 5-Year Retrospective

Vince Hebert (Director of the FEQL Analytical Laboratory) presented a concise retrospective of the activities within the actual analytical laboratory operations at the FEQL since his arrival in 2000. A copy of his Powerpoint presentation is provided as an attachment to these minutes. His and his staff's work on IR-4 magnitude-of-the-residue analyses, on various human exposure scenarios, and on drift and volatilization of various chemicals was discussed. Collaborations with the University of Washington, Oregon Health Science University, and the Washington State Department of Ecology were highlighted.

Old Business

The board recognized the FEQL faculty and staff for having produced a full-color FEQL Report as requested by the board at last spring's meeting. This 12-page brochure has been well received. Additional copies of the report are available to any board member by contacting FEQL staff member Sally O'Neal Coates (scoates@tricity.wsu.edu), who designed and produced the report.

New Business

Several board members' terms expire June 30, 2005. John Baranowski, Royal Schoen, and Marilyn Perkins each agreed to serve an additional 3-year term in their respective roles as the representatives for Food Processors, State Department of Agriculture, and Consumers. Todd Taruscio agreed to serve in the Oregon or Idaho Laboratory role (in this case, Idaho laboratory) for the upcoming 3-year term. The terms of Barbara Morrissey (role: State Department of Health) and Matthew Keifer (role: Health Professional/Human Toxicologist) also expire June 30, 2005. FEQL staff will contact these individuals to ascertain their willingness to serve another term. *(Staff has extended invitations to Barbara and Matt at this writing.)*

The next order of business was election of officers for the coming year. Scott McKinnie moved that vice-chair Don Abbott move into the chair position for the coming year. This was seconded by Marilyn Perkins and unanimously accepted. Ann George nominated John Baranowski as the new vice-chair for the coming year. This was also seconded by Marilyn Perkins and unanimously accepted. *(Staff subsequently contacted Don Abbott, who has agreed to serve as chair.)*

The Board currently has vacancies in the roles of Environmental Organization, Farm Labor Representative, and Farm Organization. The board expressed an interest in approaching Sandra Halstead, with the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10 office, to fill the Environmental Organization position. Doug Walsh will contact Sandra. For the Farm Labor position, a physician or an attorney might be appropriate, as would anyone representative of farm laborers. Randy Smith suggested a representative from the Ralph Broetje Farms. Ann George suggested that Catherine Daniels and Allan Felsot, who are also members of the Pesticide Advisory Board (which next meets June 8, 2005, in a joint meeting with the Fertilizer Advisory Board in Yakima), might consider checking within that organization for a prospective Farm Labor representative. Allan Felsot mentioned that he could ask Kirk Mayer of the Washington Grower's League. If a board member has any ideas for this position or the Farm Organization role (or the Marketer role, see below), he or she should contact an FEQL faculty member. Any such nominee ideas will be emailed to the entire board for comment prior to formally inviting that individual to sit on the board. As board member Randy Smith's professional affiliations have changed, it is possible he will fit more closely with the role of Farm Organization than his current role of Marketer. He will discuss this with FEQL faculty and board members will be advised whether we are seeking to fill the role of Marketer or Farm Organization.

General Discussion

Rick Long reported significant budget cuts within the Food and Drug Administration, including a 2-year hiring freeze. He hopes to continue to be able to serve on the FEQL Advisory Board and requested a copy of the enabling legislation including the language that specifies the need for a federal regional pesticide laboratory representative. *(Staff subsequently sent this information to Rick.)*

Royal Schoen mentioned some ongoing work within the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) that may present interagency collaboration opportunities for FEQL. Rick Long mentioned that similar or overlapping opportunities may exist within Laboratory Response Network (LRN, a Centers for Disease Control entity). Rick and Royal will look into these opportunities, including discerning whether funding is available for participating entities. *(Royal subsequently reported that, at this time, only local, state, and federal government laboratories are able to become part of the FERN. This could change in the future.)*

Scott McKinnie mentioned a meeting of the American Agricultural Stewardship Alliance taking place June 30, 2005. This organization has been formed to assure certain standards of containment and product stewardship across the nation. Scott has also been working with a group whose goal is to draft legal language and eventually pass legislation that would help make anhydrous ammonia less attractive to methamphetamine manufacturers by incorporating a telltale additive.

New board member Gabrielle Toutonghi expressed her appreciation for Allan Felsot's cholinesterase presentation and added some additional information on the difference between mandatory and voluntary testing and public disclosure. She explained some of

the confidentiality issues and cost reimbursement deadlines for growers as well as some developing issues with removal from work and compensation.

Next Meeting

The format and structure of the next meeting was discussed. Board members expressed approval of today's meeting format, including the relatively short, topical presentations by the faculty members. Todd Taruscio suggested an update on the Endangered Species Act and Toxics Coalition actions as a possible topic for next year's meeting.

Meeting format was discussed: face-to-face vs. teleconference vs. videoconference. Several board members expressed a preference for face-to-face meetings. Most members declined to express a preference for meeting location, Puyallup vs. Richland vs. Prosser. Staff will decide location and advise the board.

April 26 was selected as next year's meeting date; location to be announced.

Outgoing chair Ann George adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Electronic Enclosures:

- Allan Felsot's Powerpoint slideshow as PDF file
- iSNAP flyer
- Regional IPM Center document
- Vince Hebert's Powerpoint slideshow as PDF file