

## **2007 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2007 and Action Plan for 2008**

**Committee Code and Name:** Weed Science Subject Matter Expert (SME) Liaison to EPA

*[Originally it was proposed that the SME would chair a new subcommittee under the WSSA E-4 Committee. However, at the 2007 summer Board meeting it was decided to broaden the SME role to include all aspects of weed science - not just invasive species. As a result, it was determined that the SME should report directly to the WSSA President; and that the Federal Noxious and Invasive Weeds Committee, Director of Science Policy, Science Policy Committee, and other WSSA committees would serve in a resource capacity. Also, a list of experts from among the general WSSA membership is to be generated as an additional resource.]*

**Committee Chair:** Steve Dewey

**Board Coordinator:** President (Jill Schroeder)

**Committee Members Rotating Off:** **Appropriate Replacements:**

**Committee Goals for 2007** (what did the committee plan to accomplish in 2007):

This new position was created by the Board in May, 2007. According to the original position announcement and subsequent modifications made at the 2007 Board meeting, the objectives and activities of the SME are to include:

- 1) Interact with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and serve as a liaison between WSSA members and EPA employees.
- 2) Learn the registration and re-registration process for herbicides.
- 3) Attend EPA-OPP committee meetings. Become familiar with EPA-OPP scientific committees and how they operate
- 4) Gain an understanding of how EPA-OPP risk assessments are conducted
- 5) Provide expertise in control of weeds and use of herbicides, or identify WSSA members or others with the appropriate expertise.
- 6) Interact with appropriate federal and state personnel who are responsible for invasive weed management on public lands in order to bring their expertise to bear on herbicide labeling and use decisions made by EPA.
- 7) Develop a long-term technical relationship between WSSA and EPA-OPP.

**Summary of Progress for 2007:**

**What was accomplished toward the goals set by the committee?**

During 2007 I spent a total of six weeks at the EPA-OPP offices in Washington, DC (Jun 11-15, Jul 9-13, Aug 6-10, Sep 24-28, Oct 28-Nov 2, Dec 10-14). On my first visit, I met numerous EPA employees, became acquainted with the organizational structure and function of the various Divisions and Branches within the Office of Pesticide Programs, and presented a seminar on my

background and the role of the WSSA SME. During subsequent visits I attended numerous internal committee meetings, learned about their purposes and function, and received instruction in pesticide risk assessments requirements and procedures. I also provided invited input on several specific topics and issues currently under consideration by EPA.

**What was the membership/committee involvement in committee activities?**

Jill Schroeder, Tom Mueller, Joyce Lancaster, and I began development of a list of WSSA members who might be interested in providing technical support to the SME and EPA on various subjects. Progress has been made, but more work needs to be done. In the meantime I created an informal advisory group for topics related specifically to terrestrial invasive weeds on non-crop sites, and sought input from them on several occasions. Current members of the advisory group are:

Celestine Duncan	Consultant/Contractor (West)	Weed Management Services
Steven Manning	Consultant/Contractor (East)	Invasive Plant Control, Inc.
Stephen Enloe	Ext. Weed Specialist (East)	University of Auburn
John Randall	Weed Specialist	The Nature Conservancy
Carol DiSalvo	IPM Specialist	National Park Service
Bonnie Harper-Lore	Veg Mgt Specialist	FHWA/USDOT

**If funds were requested, how much was requested and how much was actually spent?**

Travel expenses were anticipated to average as much as \$2500 per visit to DC. However, actual expenses in 2007 ranged between \$1,433 and \$1,863. The total amount spent for the six trips was \$9,952.

**What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on any or all of the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?**

In my opinion, significant progress has been made in each of the 7 objectives listed above. I feel information provided to EPA by the SME has already influenced some decisions.

**What is the current state of committee/project activity and what is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?**

SME activity level was high in 2007, and goals are being met. The greatest current need is improved SME access to the expertise of WSSA's general membership. Improvements in online access to WSSA membership directory data might be the solution.

**Recommendations for Board/Society Action:**

I recommend continuation of the SME position through 2008 (a total of 6 more visits to DC). Prior to the 2008 summer Board meeting, I suggest the President seek candid input from EPA employees, industry reps, federal land managers, and any interested individuals from the general WSSA membership regarding the perceived impact/value of this position. I will not be able to extend my service as SME beyond December of 2008. If a decision is made to continue the position beyond that time, I recommend the Board be prepared to seek a replacement who will be

ready to assume the position by the end of the year. I feel it would be very beneficial to have that person accompany me on my December visit to the EPA.

**Committee Goals for 2008:**

Continue to foster a strong and mutually beneficial technical relationship between EPA and the WSSA membership.

**Plan of Action for 2008:**

Spend a total of 6 weeks working at the EPA-OPP offices in DC (Feb 24-29, Apr 7-11, Jun 9-13, Aug 10-15, Oct 6-10, and Dec 8-12).

Continue to participate in EPA-OPP committee meetings and individual consultations with EPA employees, providing input on weed-related matters.

Continue to seek additional input from my advisory group and the general WSSA membership regarding pertinent weed/herbicide matters under consideration by EPA

Attend the week-long WSWS Weed Management Short Course with Dan Kenny (EPA-OPP Herbicide Branch Chief) in Chico, MT.

**Resources needed for 2008:**

**Finances:**

I anticipate travel expenses for the 6 visits scheduled in 2008 will total \$11,000 or less.

**Membership involvement (person-hours):**

SME: 31 days in DC, plus approximately 8 hours per month while away from DC  
(344 person-hours)

Advisory Committee: 1 hour per person per month (72 person-hours)