

WSSA Liaison to EPA (Office of Pesticide Programs – OPP)  
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 4 2011  
December 21, 2011

Fourth quarter activities: I participated on a number of conference calls related to the EPA liaison role during the quarter.

November 1: I spent the day at the agency. The primary purpose of the visit was to attend an agency wide brown bag seminar and discussion on the herbicide resistance tour that took place in August 2011. The EPA tour participants led the session by providing a summary of the topics covered on the tour. Approximately 35 individuals representing many of the divisions within the office attended and participated in the discussion.

November 2-3, 2011: I participated as a member of the steering committee for the National Academies sponsored summit on herbicide resistance management planned for early 2012. The summit agenda has been drafted and participants are being contacted. Updates on the summit are available at <http://nas-sites.org/hr-weeds-summit/>.

December 12-15: I attended the NCWSS annual meeting in Milwaukee, WI. Bryan Young, program chair, invited me to make a presentation during the general session on the topic: “Role of the WSSA liaison to the U.S. EPA”. My presentation included the goal of the relationship between WSSA and EPA, background on the liaison/Subject Matter Expert position, and activities that I have been involved with over the past three years. I also provided an overview of the August 2011 herbicide resistance tour. Dr. Bill Chism, U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Biological and Economic Analysis Division, also presented during the general session. He addressed the role of EPA in herbicide resistance, the activities of the EPA resistance workgroup, and his impressions of the August 2011 tour as a participant. Approximately 300 individuals attended the general session. Feedback on my presentation was positive. I attended the entire conference and had some excellent conversations during the week about my activities as WSSA liaison.

Total reimbursements for travel in 2011 were \$6,149.17 for five trips to the agency and airfare for the herbicide resistance tour. I spent fewer days at the agency in 2011 due to other activities related to the EPA liaison role (please see other reports filed for 2011). My September trip included attendance at the Plant Biology Research Summit, with airfare paid by grants to the American Society of Plant Biologists. My November trip included attendance at the steering committee meeting for Herbicide Resistance Management Summit, with airfare paid by grant support to the National Academies. In addition, the reported reimbursement includes only my airfare and one night of lodging for participation on the Herbicide Resistance Tour in August. WSSA provided additional financial support for this activity.

I expect that my expenses for 2012 will be closer to \$12-14,000: the estimate includes six trips for a week each time with expenses averaging \$2,000 per trip. Airfares are rising but I pay the government rate for lodging.

First quarter 2012 plans are still in progress. I will be at the agency the week of January 23, 2012. I have been asked to lead a brown bag discussion on the topic of the herbicide resistance training modules that were recently posted on the WSSA web site.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Schroeder  
WSSA SME/liasion to EPA