

2010 WSSA Committee Progress Report

July, 2010

Committee Code and Name: WSSA SME at EPA

Committee Chair: Jill Schroeder

Committee Members, 2010:

Advisors: Lee Van Wychen (WSSA DSP), Kurt Getsinger (SME-aquatic WS), Dan Kenny (EPA/OPP/RD), Harold Coble (USDA/OPMP), John Jachetta (WSSA President), other WSSA officers, WSSA members.

Board Coordinator: John Jachetta

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

2010 Summary of Activities (through 07/09/10)

- What are the committee's goals for 2010?
To develop a technical relationship between the weed science community and EPA. Within this goal, I have worked to provide current information to the agency through my expertise and by identifying and contacting experts within weed science community. I have also worked to learn about the agency including the following activities: registration and re-evaluation processes for herbicides including work to develop a basic understanding of how EPA OPP risk assessments are conducted, activities of EPA scientific and advisory committees, and activities of special committees (including a herbicide resistance work group).
- List the committee's accomplishments (through 06/30/10): please see 2010 quarterly reports posted at <http://www.wssa.net/WSSA/EPAliaison/index.htm>. Accomplishments include:
 - three trips to EPA/OPP headquarters in Crystal City:
 1. **January 2010:** National Invasive Species Awareness Week; my contribution included inviting EPA staff (Jack Faulk and Arnet "Skee" Jones), on Lee VanWychen's behalf, to present information on the NPDES permits to the attendees. On Monday January 11, David Shaw and I attended (on Lee's behalf since he was busy conducting the NISAW conference) a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) meeting called to discuss the potential impact of glyphosate resistant weeds on conservation compliance programs across the US. On January 13, John Jachetta and I met with EPA/RD staff and representatives of the Entomology Society (ESA), who were interested in establishing a similar SME position to work with the Entomology Branches in the Registration Division.
 2. **March/April 2010:** Kurt Getsinger (aquatics SME), Lee, and I met with Bill Chism (BEAD) on Herbicide Resistance Management and Susan Lewis (Associate Director, BEAD) and Jack Faulk (Office of Water, OW) on the status of the NPDES process. We attended the monthly FICMNEW meeting where Allison Wiedeman (OW) provided an update on the NPDES process; Kurt and I discussed our roles as subject matter experts and briefed the group on other issues being addressed by EPA including herbicide resistance management and spray drift. The group members expressed an interest in the

work being done by the S71 committee to assemble educational materials on herbicide resistance management.

3. **June 2010:** Kurt Getsinger, aquatics SME, and Harold Coble, USDA/OPMP were in DC for part of the week. I met with them and Lee Van Wychen and participated in a number of meetings discussing herbicide resistance, NPDES, and weed science funding. They provided me an opportunity to meet additional people at EPA, Crop Life, and USDA/OPMP.

- Other activities:

1. Herbicide Resistance Education Committee (S 71) – member

2. Science Policy Committee member

3. Corresponded with ESA and APS officers about EPA-SME activities during their planning for similar positions. I have also begun corresponding with the new SME appointees for these societies, Gene Reagan (LSU – entomology) and Frank Wong (UC-Riverside – Plant Pathology).

- What information was posted on the WSSA website? Quarterly reports for Q1 and Q2, 2010 as well as all reports for 2009.

- How much funds were requested? How much was spent?

The position is a three-way partnership between WSSA-EPA- and the SME home institution. NMSU pays my salary and has granted approval for time to serve as SME, EPA is the host and provides office space, and WSSA has agreed to pay travel expenses for an average of 6 trips in 2010 at ~\$2,000/trip.

I was reimbursed \$5909.94 for January, March, and June 2010 travel to Washington, DC. The greatest expenses are hotel (I have negotiated the federal rate; however, it is now \$229 + taxes = \$250/night) and airfare (which varied from \$350 to \$500/trip and tends to be increasing). I have been staying 5 nights/trip (Sunday through Thursday) in order to maximize my time per trip at the agency. Travel within DC is minimal because the hotel has a shuttle from the airport and is located across the street from the agency; expenses include occasional taxi or metro fare for trips from Crystal City to DC. The remaining expense is for meals (breakfast and dinner primarily). I anticipate that I will make one or two more trips to DC during this fiscal year (through November 2010).

In addition, I have discussed with President Jachetta whether I could request support to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) weed resistance update in Little Rock, AR in August, to rent vans for the NM tour of weed management issues for EPA staff in August, and to support travel for Dr. Bob Wolf, KSU, to Washington to present a seminar at the agency on spray drift reduction technologies.

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

Direct impact of the SME position on WSSA activities and members is difficult to quantify. However, I believe that, through the position, EPA has benefitted from having access to the most current research and extension information in Weed Science. We have had the opportunity to provide this information directly through invited seminars, tours, the herbicide handbook, and by linking EPA staff with experts in the field. This exchange benefits WSSA members by the fact that herbicide registration and other regulatory decisions affecting weed science and weed management options are made based on the most current scientific data. In addition, EPA has become aware of WSSA as a source of information on

weed science topics including (not inclusive) herbicide resistance, integrated weed management techniques (including how they vary across the country and by crop), education and record keeping requirements for pesticide applicators, application technology advancements, and invasive weed management issues and strategies.

I have also been working to inform WSSA members, through my reports and presentations, about the activities of EPA and how they conduct their work. This information has benefit to Weed Science, both for classroom training and for professional development of members. I will continue this effort as I learn more about this complex agency.

- What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities? Please see the goals, accomplishments report, and plan of action reported herein. I am very active and am currently engaged in a number of activities with the agency and WSSA committees.

2010 Plan for Committee Activities

- Other Goals for 2010: to continue to work on herbicide resistance management issues through the S71 committee and at EPA and, to accomplish the following plan of action.
- Plan of Action for Quarters 3 and 4, 2010:
 - August 2 through 4:** I have invited EPA personnel from OPP/RD and BEAD and Office of Water, Lee Van Wychen, Kurt Getsinger and Harold Coble to attend a tour in New Mexico. I have confirmation that 5 people will attend and am waiting to hear back from others. We have not finalized the agenda for the tour but plan on including the following discussions related to NPDES and information about agriculture in NM:
 - Elephant Butte Irrigation District– How water is supplied from the Rio Grande through irrigation canals to agricultural producers and homeowners of Las Cruces. We will discuss water quality issues and vegetation management.
 - Visit with selected producers of specialty crops – chile pepper, onion, and or pecan
 - Salt cedar management issues (including how it is impacted by endangered species, etc.) on the riparian areas of the southern and middle Rio Grande (including a visit to see a brush control spray project with the BLM and the salt cedar management efforts at the Bosque del Apache, <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/bosque/> San Antonio, NM)
 - Visit with Bonnie Rabe, NMDA Division Director Ag and Environmental Services, and colleagues
 - August 9-11, 2010:** I plan to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) weed resistance update in Little Rock, AR that is a follow-up meeting to the one attended in January 2010.
 - September 2010:** I have been working with EPA colleagues to invite Bob Wolf, KSU, to present a seminar at OPP on spray drift reduction technologies. We have a tentative date set for the seminar and I will plan on that activity as part of my next visit to headquarters. Plans will be finalized over the next month.
 - November 2-4, 2010:** I have been invited to present a general session talk on my SME activities at EPA for the Washington State Weed Conference, Yakima, WA (Tim Miller).
 - November/December 2010:** final trip to DC for the year.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

Funds requested for 2010:

In addition to support for one to two more trips to EPA agency headquarters in DC during 2010, I request support for the following activities:

- to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) weed resistance update in Little Rock, AR in August
- to rent vans for the NM tour of weed management issues for EPA staff in August
- travel support for Dr. Bob Wolf, KSU, to present a seminar at the agency on spray drift reduction technologies.

Other requests for the Board: I request that Board members remain available to help identify experts on various subjects of interest to EPA.