

2010 WSSA Science Policy Committee Report Summary for 2010 and Action Plan

Committee Code and Name: (E2) Science Policy Committee (SPC)

Committee Chair: Donn Shilling

Board Coordinator: John Jachetta (WSSA President)

Committee Members Rotating Off: David Shaw **Appropriate Replacements:** John Jachetta

Members: APMS: President- Greg MacDonald, SPC Rep- Linda Nelson
NCWSS: President- Chris Boerboom, SPC Rep- Michael Horak
NEWSS: President- Hilary Sandler, SPC Rep- Sean Askew
SWSS: President- Tom Holt, SPC Rep: Jason Norsworthy
WSWS: President: Jesse Richardson; SPC Rep: Pamela Hutchinson
WSSA: President - John Jachetta, Past President- David Shaw, Pres-elect- Mike Barrett,
VP- Rod Lym, At-Large: Jill Schroeder; Janis McFarland; Harold Coble

2010 Summary of Activities

What were the committee's goals for 2010? Select a new Chairman for the committee and develop a new funding formula to support the DSP. Major initiatives included 1) Establishing a USDA AFRI foundational program for weed science; 2) Submitting comments to EPA on Spray Drift; 3) Providing input to EPA on their draft NPDES permits; 4) Work with APHIS/EPA on the two herbicide resistance white papers; 5) work with all stakeholders on developing a uniform herbicide resistance management strategy; 6) develop a new approach for National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW); 7) Maintain input and interaction with the Public Awareness Committee; and 8) continue to provide weed science based information and resources to Federal agencies, Congress, and NGO's- especially policy changes related to the 2012 Farm Bill.

List the committee's accomplishments in 2010: A new chairman was selected. The DSP met with numerous USDA staff and stakeholders about AFRI and coordinated the comments submitted the National and Regional Weed Science Societies. Written comments were submitted on behalf of the weed science societies for spray drift labeling changes and NPDES permit proposal language. The first herbicide resistance white paper for APHIS still needs to get to the review stage. The second paper on herbicide resistance management has been started and is chaired by David Shaw. NISAW is being planned for Feb. 28 to March 4, 2011. The Healthy Habitats Coalition is coordinating a legislative fly-in during March 1-3. The DSP is working with the National Invasive Species Council to coordinate other invasive weed education and awareness events during the week. The DSP provided information and contacts regarding weed science funding and herbicide resistance to news sources such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Seed World Magazine, Iowa Farmer Today, Hobby Farm Home, and Western Farm Press. The DSP coordinated a Capitol Hill Seminar in conjunction with National CFAR and CropLife America titled "Solving Africa's Weed Problem", which was attended by 90 congressional staffers. The DSP met with the new USDA Director of

the Office of Pest Management Policy and other key weed science/pest management related personnel to discuss a wide array of weed science issues, but especially those issues listed in items 1 through 6 above in the “goals section”.

What information was posted on the WSSA website? Reports were posted to the WSSA Website at <http://www.wssa.net/WSSA/SciPolicy/SciPolicyReports.htm> and provided to the regional and APMS newsletters.

Funds requested? How much was spent? \$5000 is the committee’s budget allocation. Approximately \$500 was spent for Mike Barrett’s travel to DC for the USDA AFRI Stakeholders meeting.

2010 Plan for Committee Activities

Goals for 2010: Most activities are ongoing. However, in addition to the many DC related projects, we will be focused on working toward the implementation of a new funding formula for the DSP and improving communications.

Science Policy Committee Plan of Action:

- 1) Provide continued direction for the DSP
- 2) Work to prioritize issues for the next 6 months leading up to the annual meeting
- 3) Continue work on pressing issues like herbicide resistance, federal funding for weed science, environmental policy changes, and invasive weeds
- 4) Continue work on an effective office environment for the DSP
- 5) Continue to facilitate developing linkages and coalition building by the DSP with other scientific, commodity and government groups
- 6) Explore the possibilities of obtaining grants at the federal level to expand WSSA’s impact in Washington and to supplement funding for the DSP position.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action: The Board needs to review Lee’s performance and decide on our commitment to him and any action on a salary adjustment. Evaluations from committee members will be forwarded to the Board and discussed. John Jachetta and I will work with Lee in identifying areas where job performance can be improved. Time commitments should be evaluated.

Funds Requested for 2011: Other than funds dedicated by WSSA, the Regionals, and APMS, WSSA has usually budgeted \$5,000 for use by the DSP and the SPC for travel. Other travel, including travel to annual meetings, other than to WSSA, is provided by the Regionals and/or APMS