

WSSA Liaison to EPA-OPP (Office of Pesticide Programs)

Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors

Quarter 3, 2015

Third quarter expenses to visit EPA-OPP offices and participate in a tour of Iowa with EPA staff totaled \$2,474.34.

July 7-10

The highlight for this period was a tour of Iowa agriculture organized by Mike Owen and Amy Asmus. Details of the tour are covered in a separate report.

August 24 – 27

Michael Barrett visited the offices of EPA-OPP in Arlington, VA from August 24 to August 27. During the visit to EPA, I visited with personnel from the Registration Division (RD), Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD) and the Field and External Affairs Division (FEAD). On the morning of August 25, I visited the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) along with Donn Shilling, WSSA NIFA-Fellow. Attending the meeting were **Sheryl Kunickis**, Director, OPMP, Jill Schroeder, agronomist/Weed Scientist, **David Epstein, entomologist, Julius Fajardo, plant pathologist, Michael Schechtman, biotechnology coordinator, and Alex Domesle, regulatory risk assessor.** The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the WSSA EPA and NIFA liaisons to the OPMP staff and to learn more about OPMP. OPMP reports directly to Krysta Harden, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and that it represents the Secretary of Agriculture on matters related to FIFRA. OPMP was authorized in the Farm Bill. The office of OPMP is preparing to evaluate pesticide risk assessments by EPA and it is currently reviewing the proposed changes to the Worker Protection Standards.

On the afternoon of August 26, I presented a seminar, part of the Herbicides 101 series, on the HPPD inhibitors. Later, I met with BEAD staff to discuss elements that might be included in a herbicide resistance management plan.

I met with Anne Overstreet, Branch Chief of the Communication Services Branch of FEAD, on August 27 to discuss the drift reduction technologies program which aims to rate spray nozzles based on their drift reduction potential. Based on test results submitted to EPA by a nozzle manufacturer, nozzles can receive ratings of: One star - 25-49% reduction, Two stars - 50-74% reduction, Three stars - 75-89 % reduction, or Four stars - 90+ % reduction. It was arranged for Ms. Overstreet to attend the National Roadside Vegetation Management Association meeting in September and make a presentation on the program. Also on the 27th, I met with the participants on the Iowa tour to help review and put together a report on the tour for EPA-OPP administration.