



CTAG

Certification & Training Assessment Group — National Partnerships for Safe & Effective Pesticide Management through Education, Training & Competency Assessment

Certification and Training Assessment Group (CTAG) Board of Directors Meeting December 13-14, 2005

Meeting Summary

The CTAG Board of Directors met in San Diego, California on December 13-14, 2005. The following Board members participated in the meeting: Kevin Keaney, Carol Ramsay, Andrew Thostenson, Gina Davis, Jack Peterson, Dean Herzfeld, Jeaneanne Gettle, Kerry Richards, Kathy Dictor, Tim Drake, Richard Pont, and Michelle DeVaux, CTAG Secretary. Mike Fitzner, Director of Plant Systems for USDA-CSREES attended in lieu of Monte Johnson. Dick Herrett of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation (NASDARF) also attended the meeting. Several invited visitors attended the meeting: Kathy Davis, US EPA and Paul Liemandt, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

1. Operational Issues

AAPCO Presidency: Jack Peterson assumed the presidency of AAPCO upon the resignation of Steve Rutz. He will fill the presidency for the remainder of Steve's term, and then continue through the term for which he was elected.

Pesticide Safety Cooperative Agreement: EPA has entered into a 5-year cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation (NASDARF) to replace the expired agreement with the Council of Agricultural Science and Technology.

New CTAG members and expiring terms: Paul Liemandt was elected to fill the seat of SLA representative/AAPCO liaison (vacated by Jack Peterson) and Janet Fults was elected to fill the SLA position (vacated by Gina Davis).

Document updates - The board reviewed Goals of the 21st Century Report and the Tracking Document and suggested minor changes, additions and deletions.

2. Status of EPA Programs

Endangered Species: In February and March a public meeting and a stakeholder conference will take place to address the changes to the regulation and associated information. The stakeholder conference will be held in conjunction with the Section 18 conference, and Jeaneanne has requested that it follow a train-the-trainer design to accommodate those states that are unable to attend. Arty Williams, now of the Environmental Fate and Effects Division, agreed to this proposal. Kevin, Carol, and Jeaneanne agreed to coordinate with Arty to discuss the upcoming events, the roles of engaged parties, and how CTAG and the Cooperative Extension Service can be involved.

Aerial Exams: EPA is in the process of developing a national aerial exam, in conjunction with the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) and NASDARF.

State Plan Template: Richard Pont provided an update sheet on implementation of the state plan template. The template will collect end of year reporting data. EPA's strategy for reviewing the data is to compare it to last year's to ensure consistency, and then to e-mail confirmation to the states. The Board suggested distributing a sheet on the accomplishments and successes of the template, such as improved state plans, updated information, and easier reporting and plan approval.

Bad Actors Database: The Board debated whether or not to include a Bad Actors Database (BAD) as part of the state plan template. Jeaneanne suggested waiting until the template has been in place for at least 1 year before adding additional reporting requirements, especially with the anticipated burden of reporting on measures. Paul Liemandt, past president of AAPCO said this type of database would have high value, and AAPCO would likely support it, especially with a restricted access portion. Once the template hosting issues are resolved, the Board will begin to consider a tiered approach to incorporating the database as part of the template website.

PREP: The 2005 Worker Safety PREP held in Atlantic City, NJ in September 2005 got good reviews from participants on the content and involvement of OECA. Another Worker Safety PREP focusing on the rule changes under consideration by EPA has been scheduled for Sept. 11-14, 2006.

2007 National C&T Meeting: Kevin and Michelle will be meeting with Gary Fish and Jim Dill and bring together a planning committee for the August 21-23, 2007 meeting in Maine.

3. Updates

AAPSE Professional Development Meeting: The AAPSE Professional Development meeting will be held in conjunction with the NE PSEC in September 2006. Topics to consider include Social Marketing.

USDA PESP: Mike Fitzner, Director of the Plant Systems Section at CSREES attended the Board meeting in lieu of Monte and gave an update on PSEP from USDA's perspective and actively participated in discussions. The program leader responsibility for managing the funds passed from EPA to USDA to fund PSEP has shifted from Monte Johnson to Jim Parochetti, effective January 1, 2006.

CTAG Poster: A CTAG poster was developed for exhibit at the North American Pesticide Safety Education Workshop in Madison, Wisconsin, and was very successful. CTAG members from each region will ensure that the poster can be included as a display at their meetings.

Northeast Region Pesticide Safety Education Center (PSEC): Kerry gave an update on the success of the first PSEC training session and will share a PowerPoint presentation with the Board. Penn State is working on developing a new curriculum in order to allow participants to attend a second time.

4. Accountability Planning

Dean distributed a handout that was developed based on the responses received from the accountability planning proposal in Madison at the NAPACSEW and led a discussion on the issue. He offered to further develop the proposal and share it with potentially interested parties for future action. The board voted to solicit interest in the project more broadly, set a timeline (considering funding mechanisms), and offer letters of support from CTAG.

5. Department of Defense Update

The AFPMB is expanding its relationship with and in Texas and is considering similar action in Arkansas, inviting state applicators to attend DOD recertification sessions for credit. Golf course superintendents are looking for ways to ease reciprocity, as many are licensed in more than one state, and are considering partnering with DOD. Partnership would be especially beneficial for categories that are narrow, for which material and exam development is prohibitive at the state level. Carol suggested compiling a document (awareness piece) on what DOD is doing and sharing it as part of the agenda at regional meetings.

6. Funding Fact Sheets

After the fact sheet on non-traditional funding sources for CES was presented at the NAPACSEW, Andrew made it available electronically as a narrated PowerPoint or streaming PowerPoint. Carol

recommended putting a summary list of resources based on the fact sheets on the CTAG website with a link to the full presentation and fact sheets, and expanding the existing presentation with information from the presentation on funding resources for SLAs to make it more comprehensive. A list of traditional funding sources must be developed as well, including grants from EPA and USDA, because there are always people new to the certification and training program that can use the information. The board will send information on traditional sources to Carol or Kerry and non-traditional sources to Andrew. The compiled lists will be posted on the CTAG website and the presentation will be updated.

7. PSEP Funding

The 2006 interagency agreement (IAG) package for \$1.2M has been submitted to EPA's grants office. 2006 is the last year of the existing IAG. EPA plans to maintain a non-funded agreement with USDA in the future to ensure an existing relationship and potential funding vehicle. Beginning in FY07, EPA plans to distribute funds for training of restricted use applicators in a different manner, probably through cooperative agreements. The board highlighted the need to take into consideration the indirect costs associated with any cooperative agreement. Kevin agreed to meet with EPA grants specialists to explore options to eliminate or maintain low indirect costs in any agreements. CTAG will continue to raise issues, potential impediments and things to consider in this process. Mike Fitzner made clear USDA's willingness to continue passing EPA funds through the inter-agency agreement.

8. Positive Identification for Exams

Andrew circulated the latest version of this draft issue paper in the new CTAG style template. Andrew moved to adopt the draft issue paper with minor edits, Carol seconded the motion and it was approved to be circulated to AAPSE, AAPCO, ASPCRO and other partners for their comments.

9. EPA Regulation PowerPoint

EPA has briefed management on potential areas for regulatory change (around 26 changes) to both applicator certification and worker protection and has received positive feedback. The Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) subgroup on regulatory change will meet in early 2006. Carol recommended having a CTAG representative on the PPDC subgroup. Once PPDC is briefed EPA will seek active input from all stakeholders including CTAG, AAPSE, AAPCO, ASPCRO.

10. Facilitating Reciprocity

The board decided to keep the below two issues separate and move forward on both tracks.

Best Management Practices

Andrew began the discussion with a history of the issue development and an overview of the existing issue paper. CTAG is seeking to develop a best management practices document (BMP) for facilitating reciprocity to assist states in this area, rather than to attempt to implement requirements. Andrew will formalize the workgroup and focus on the following tasks: define terms, define processes, recognize obstacles and concerns. The next step would be to develop a guidance manual and have recommendations for tracking and recognizing reciprocal licenses from home-state licenses.

Emergency Reciprocity

Paul Liemandt was invited to discuss the issue of emergency reciprocity between states, based on his work as the AAPCO President. Paul presented a draft issue paper on emergency reciprocity to satisfy a mandate from NASDA to have some procedures in place in the event of an emergency. CTAG gave some preliminary feedback and will send other comments to Gina.

11. Performance Measures

EPA Measures Development Process

Kathy Davis of EPA was invited in her role as co-chair of the EPA workgroup on Worker Safety Measures. The measures steering committee (high level management) has selected enforcement measures for the applicator certification program – demonstrated changes in behavior as measured through recidivism. Kathy indicated that a potential role for CTAG within EPA's measures process is to identify areas where the program is weak or realistic data is lacking.

PPRS Indicators

Carol distributed a document on the USDA PPRS committee's (1999) suggestions for indicators. After explaining the content, purpose, and need for consistency in CES reporting, she suggested piloting a pre- and post-testing questionnaire and a 6 month follow-up questionnaire for trainers reporting in PPRS. Mike Fitzner gave a brief explanation of the development of PPRS under John Impson as a simple, web-based, easily accessible template for entering reporting data. Mike indicated that stakeholders that wish to change PPRS can. Jeaneanne offered to work with Sherry Sterling, coordinator of the EPA measures development process, to incorporate measures that are already supported by USDA data collected. It was recommended that PPRS indicators be considered by EPA during the reworking of the applicator training funding mechanism. The board agreed to continue to offer any support to substantiate data and information to protect the applicator certification and training program and its funding.

12. Ensuring Continued Competency

EPA and states are tasked with ensuring applicator competency. This is done through testing, CEUs and mandatory workshops. The variety and rigidity varies greatly across the country. EPA plans to address this issue during the proposed regulatory changes. CTAG asked Kerry to form a workgroup with three subgroups to define each system (testing, CEUs, workshops), evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of each, determine what happens if an applicator cannot meet the state requirements, gauge variability between states, find out how states handle recertification for small categories, determine the system's efficiency and how it can be enhanced, and make recommendations to improve/enhance/modify each system.

13. Exam/Manual Development Workgroup

EPA is considering addressing the quality and uniformity of exams during the regulatory proposal. CTAG formed a workgroup to research the issue of exam/manual development and prepare an issue paper on the terminology strategy, benefits and barriers for states and tribes. This group will prepare initial discussion points for the next CTAG board meeting. Tim Drake will co-chair the committee with Margaret Tucker (committee members include John Scott, Ron Gardner, Dean Herzfeld and Drew Martin).

14. Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be June, 6, 7, 2006.