

WSSA Liaison to EPA (Office of Pesticide Programs – OPP)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 4 2012
January 17, 2013

Fourth quarter activities: The fourth quarter activities included work on the report summarizing the herbicide resistance tour held on August 22, 2012. I also traveled to Washington DC the week of November 27. I attended the North Central Weed Science Society meeting, personally funded, to remain current on issues related to herbicide resistance and other topics.

November 27-30, 2012: I visited EPA/OPP and visited with individuals from the Herbicide Branch of the Registration Division and the Health Effects Division. I also attended parts of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee meeting that was held during the week at Potomac Yard. I had a phone conversation with Jim Gray, Pesticide and Fertilizer Division Director at North Dakota Department of Agriculture, who works with EPA on pesticide regulatory and policy issues. We discussed state concerns regarding the new herbicide technologies and formulations that may be available in the future. I think that WSSA needs to continue these discussions with state officials to understand their concerns and bring them into the conversation about how to address herbicide resistance management. I also met with Caroline E. Ridley, Ecologist and Policy Liaison to the National Invasive Species Council from EPA, National Center for Environmental Assessment to discuss the recent events related to biofuels and *Arundo donax* as well as other natural areas issues. Finally, I had a discussion with Dan Kenny, Herbicide Branch-Registration Division, and Skee Jones, Biological and Economic Assessment Division, to let them know that the time has come for me to step away from the SME position and for WSSA to recruit my replacement. I plan on remaining active until the new person can begin their appointment and during the transition period.

First quarter plans: I plan to attend the WSSA annual meeting. I will meet with the Board of Directors on Sunday and attend the Science Policy and S71 Committee meetings. I will be a presenter at the “Herbicide Resistance Management - The Path Forward”, symposium organized by David Shaw. This symposium will discuss outcomes and next steps to build on the Aphis I and II publications and the recent Herbicide Resistance Summit. I am serving on the committee assigned with the task to select my replacement as EPA SME. I plan on traveling to Washington, DC the week of February 18 to meet with individuals at EPA/OPP and to meet with Dr. Mark Whalon, the SME recently selected to represent the Entomology Society of America.

2012 Expenses: I made 6 trips to Washington, DC to work at EPA/OPP. I spent between two and four days at the office each time. In addition, I met with EPA colleagues when I attended the Herbicide Resistance Summit in May, which was reimbursed by the summit. I requested a total of \$9,380.05 from WSSA during 2012 to reimburse the majority of my expenses for travel and food. This figure does not include the cost of hosting the Herbicide Resistance tour in August (only my travel costs). I anticipate that 2013 expenses will be considerably greater considering the fact that a new liaison will be taking over my responsibilities. I request that WSSA continue to reimburse my travel until the new liaison can begin their appointment and then for one or two trips when I accompany the new liaison into the office.

Final thoughts: I want to thank WSSA, EPA, and NMSU for this opportunity to represent the weed science discipline as subject matter expert to the agency. I have learned so much from the experience – about the agency and how it functions as well as how policy decisions made at the federal level impact our weed science discipline and what I do in my work at the university. I have also learned a great deal about myself as a professional. Thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder
WSSA SME/liaison to EPA