

**WSSA Liaison to EPA-OPP (Office of Pesticide Programs)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors**

Submitted by: Dr. Michael Barrett

Quarter 2, 2015

Second quarter expenses to visit EPA-OPP offices totaled \$4032.70.

April 7-10

Michael Barrett visited the offices of EPA-OPP. This visit was arranged as a joint visit by the WSSA liaison, the ESA liaison (Mark Whalon from Michigan State) and the APS liaison Wayne Wilcox from Cornell). During the visit we met with staff from the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD) and discussed the corn rootworm BT resistance issue and how EPA was handling that and the overall history of the BT resistance management program. The three liaisons also met with the managers of the Pesticide Reevaluation Program (PRD) including the PRD Director, Rick Keigwin. The objective of this meeting was to introduce the liaisons to PRD and to offer our help in PRD's work. We also attended a seminar by and EPA lawyer on a "Primer on FIFRA Enforcement". A meeting was arranged between the liaisons and the Smart Label team and each discipline was asked to help support the effort. A formal letter of request was sent to the WSSA President, Dallas Peterson, in this regard. The three liaisons also met with BEAD and the OPP Resistance Management Team staff to continue work on a common set of resistance terms.

During this visit, the fourth installment of Herbicide 101 was presented. Phil Banks graciously agreed to make the presentation on Herbicide-Soil Interactions.

I also met with EPA-OPP staff concerning approval and arrangements for the WSSA tour.

May 14-15

Michael Barrett visited the offices of EPA-OPP and met with Registration Division (RD) and the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD) staff. In addition, a primary purpose of this trip was to attend the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting. This meeting, nominally held twice a year, is the primary means that EPA-OPP communicates in a transparent way with stakeholders. The committee is comprised of a diverse group of persons interested in pesticide issues, industry, commodity groups, and others. Among the subjects discussed were an update on the Endangered Species Act, Pollinator Protection Plans, the Smart Label initiative, spray drift and volatilization, glyphosate reevaluation, and "comparative efficacy claims".

Jill Schroeder and I arranged a meeting with the Pesticide Reevaluation Division to follow-up on the glyphosate reevaluation process. I also met with Rachel Holloman, Chief, and the new Program Manager, Heather Garvie, of the Fungicide-Herbicide Branch. We discussed plans for the next Herbicide 101 presentation.

Prior to and separate from my liaison activities, I arranged for a tour of federal agencies for two graduate students who are interested in exploring careers in that arena. Over two days, we were able to meet with representatives of USDA-ARS at Beltsville, NIFA, USDA-APHIS, USDA-OPMP, and EPA-OPP.

May 19-21

Michael Barrett visited the offices of EPA-OPP and met with Registration Division (RD) and the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD) staff. The timing of this visit was set to coincide with a visit of the liaison for the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Kurt Getsinger of the Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, MS. I arranged for Kurt to present a seminar, part of Herbicide 101, on aquatic weed management to RD and BEAD. As part of the visit, Kurt and I also visited with BEAD and RD staff to discuss issues with aquatic and riparian vegetation management.