The PIRT Steering Committee met regularly during 2014-15 by conference call. Amber Davis (US EPA Region 4) is the current EPA PIRT Coordinator. Tim Drake served as the AAPCO representative on the Steering Committee.

Two trainings were planned for 2015, and one already has been successfully carried out. An “Urban FIFRA Issues” PIRT was hosted by the Nevada Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from February 23-27, 2015. This program was held in Henderson, Nevada. The course focused on urban FIFRA issues, and included training related to bed bugs, bee kill inspections, integrated pest management in schools, environmental sampling, and enforcement challenges. Also presented were updates from the EPA.

Still to be held in May is the “Advanced Inspector Skills” PIRT. It is planned for May 18-22, 2015, in Albuquerque, NM. The program is being hosted by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the US EPA.

This course will focus on advanced inspector skills, and it will include training related to enforcement case documentation, enhanced photography skills, sample preservation, performing specialized misuse investigations (including wildlife and bees), new technologies in application and inspection, calibration skills, understanding organic production, label interpretation, product registration, and electronic inspection programs, along with updates from EPA. The program is intended to be very interactive, and it will include the sharing of information and experiences by the attendees themselves.

There will be two SLA/tribal opportunities to host national inspector trainings in FY2016. The Steering Committee has put a lot of thought and consideration into these courses, and the course topics will be the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), and Pollinator Protection. The funding for each of these trainings will be $100,000.00.

The WPS course will include information on regulation changes, as well as technical Spanish for pesticide inspectors. The Pollinator Protection training will include the bee kill inspection guidance, pollinator management plans, presentation skills for outreach meetings, interviewing in challenging situations. Additional topics may be added to the 2016 courses, and still are to be decided.