AAPCO Workgroup or Liaison Report to Annual Meeting

Work Group/Liaison Name: Laboratory Committee

Lead Person’s Name: **Andy Randall** Date of Report: **February 22, 2018**

**The Laboratory Committee has no issues to be raised at this time.**

**The Laboratory Committee meets annually during the AAPCO spring meeting and has quarterly phone calls. The following report outlines activities from last year’s meeting and calls.**

The Laboratory Committee met on Monday, March 6th and Tuesday, March 7th, 2017, at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town during the AAPCO annual meeting in Alexandria, VA.

Ping Wan of the Indiana State Chemist’s Office provided an update on the AAPCO Formulation Check Sample Program. Indiana has hosted this check sample since 2000. In the 2016 check sample round, 86 laboratories participated. There remains a strong international demand for this program and the participation from US regulatory labs remains stable. The annual fee for participation is $200 for domestic labs and $250 for international labs. Products that are able to be used for this program are subject to shipping restrictions, especially for international shipping. There are usually three products representing four to six active ingredients that are used. Participants can choose to do however many of the four they wish. The published report contains statistical analysis of the results and methods used by the labs to help others with troubleshooting. Indiana will provide the manufacturer’s method if asked. Some labs do not participate every year, but alternate years.

An update on the Wisconsin Residue Check Sample Program was given by Amy DeBaker of Wisconsin’s Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection via phone. Two rounds of samples were sent out in the last year, one set of soil in the spring and another set of foliage in the fall. A survey was sent with 21 responses asking for desires to add or remove certain active ingredients from the program. Additionally, changes to the report form were made to improve usability.

Jake Vukich of DuPont gave a presentation entitled “Introduction to the U.S. Pesticide Registration Process.” This presentation outlined the registration process from the registrant’s perspective. This information was useful and of great interest to the group because it covers a portion of the process typically unknown to laboratory personnel.

Cristina Rodriguez of DuPont gave a presentation entitled “Overview of the State Pesticide Registration Process.” This presentation showed some of the challenges and the cost associated with registration of products for the states. Additionally, state registration approval timelines were presented to the group.

A report on the 2016 SFIREG meetings was presented by Michelle Bogner of Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Topics discussed were the treated seed drift, swabbing of vegetation, cannabis, hemp, Zika Virus and the pesticide in use for mosquitos, and dicamba.
Ping Wan of the Office of the Indiana State Chemist gave a presentation of the background baseline of active ingredients. This was an update to an ongoing study being conducted in Indiana involving a new sampling design. The sampling design being investigated was the use of swabs to collect AIs from vegetation. The investigation is ongoing.

Michelle Bogner of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development gave a presentation on the draft ISO 17025-2017 standard. This presentation was of great interest to the laboratories because many are working towards accreditation or have a component of work that is already accredited to ISO 17025. Many of the changes are a renumbering/reorganization of the standard.

The committee had a round table discussion on a potential QAPP library for laboratory use.

**National Laboratory Workshop**

The next workshop will be administered by the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry (ODAFF), Laboratory Services Division on February 26 through March 2, 2018. A total of 12 participants have been selected. The objective of this workshop is to provide comprehensive training to analytical chemists from the State FIFRA Laboratories on the analytical instrumentation required on a routine basis to analyze pesticide formulation and residue samples. The course will also cover advanced sample preparation techniques focusing on Dicamba extractions in vegetation and soil samples to assist those laboratories dealing with herbicide Dicamba drift issues.

**Laboratory Committee Chair and Vice-chair**

The current chair is Andrew Randall of New Mexico and the current vice-chair to chair is Tom Phillips of Maryland. This is their first year in these roles.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Andy Randall, New Mexico