

## Region 4 SFIREG Report

Tim Drake, Region 4 SFIREG Representative

June 3, 2019

The Region 4 spring pre-SFIREG meeting was held by teleconference on April 3, 2019. The call was hosted by Region 4 EPA from the regional office in Atlanta, GA. All states in the Region (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) were represented along with EPA staff. Because of the teleconference format, an abbreviated (one day) meeting was held. Only EPA updates and topics of concern were discussed.

The updates given by our EPA partners were:

- Update on action items identified in fall pre-SFIREG (Kimberly Bingham, Region 4)
- Region 4 EPA update (Carol Kemker, Region 4)
- Regional grants update (Stuart Perry, Region 4)
- Difficulties resulting from the shutdown/furlough (Carol Kemker and Kimberly Bingham, Region 4)
- WPS/C&T update (Richard Pont, US EPA)
- Concerns with inspector credentials (Anthony Toney, Region 4)
- Regional training update (Patricia Livingston, Region 4)

Topics covered by SLA personnel were:

- Dicamba issues in Region 4 (Tim Drake, Tony Cofer)
- AAPCO update (Tony Cofer)
- ASPCRO update (Derrick Lastinger, Ryan Okey)
- POM update (Tim Drake)

Most Region 4 states had no significant issues to discuss or carry forward to SFIREG. Issues that had some discussion by the group were as follows:

**C&T Rule** – Some states have concerns over writing new state C&T plans, and there is some confusion over the level of detail (draft or final plan) that is due in March of 2020. This needs clarification by EPA Headquarters.

**STAG Funding** – NASDA sent a letter outlining their priorities on funding issues and this included a need for more STAG funding. This also is an AAPCO priority area.

**Label Issues/Review** – There is the desire to make SFIREG POM more active in looking at and identifying label issues.

**Hemp Production** – All states in the region are growing hemp. Kentucky has 50,000 acres approved for hemp production. Florida has bills moving forward concerning hemp production. There is confusion among growers related to products that can be used on hemp now. It is hoped that EPA labelled products will be available soon because hemp and its products are no longer classified as illegal substances.

**24(c) Special Local Needs Issue** – There is a great deal of concern over the change in the EPA's stance on the 24(c) process. These exemptions have been granted by states for many years, and the current federal intent to deny a state's authority to issue a 24(c) is problematic. A letter is being drafted by AAPCO related to this, and states were encouraged to send their own letters to the EPA.