On the call: Leo Reed OISC; Patrick Jones, NC; Liza Fleeson Trossbach, VA; Cary Giguere, VT; Megan Patterson, ME; Gretchen Paluch, IA; Rose Kachadoorian, OR; Gary Bahr, WA; Amy Sullivan, AAPCO

The meeting began at 2pm eastern time.

Reed began by discussing the SFIREG discussions on Dicamba. Bahr will reach out to previously involved state lead agencies, and others who have been involved in the impacted states.

IN, OR, NC will be or have met with OIG on Special Local Needs questions. Jones said that NC has had their discussion and reported that it was a good discussion. He did use dicamba as an example of SLNs that had been valuable. They also discussed the current 24(c) FAQs on the EPA webpage that demonstrates the ability of states to use 24(c) to protect the environment.

A retired state lead agencies person has sent in an issue related to Tomcat Bait Chunks, EPA Reg. # 12455-132 and water quality for the board to consider. Bahr had identified it as potentially an issue for EQI to consider. Fleeson Trossbach questioned if the issue had been considered during the risk assessment. Bahr replied that it should had been considered, but it is worth looking at to ensure it had been. Bahr will do that and follow up.

The board has received a couple of requests for letters of support recently, related to adjuvants and hyperspectral imaging and pesticide detection technology. The board has determined that the requests may not be appropriate for the board to weigh in on, particularly because suggested language related to commitments and collaboration were included and are not compatible with the association’s abilities and resources, but the board members who have not had a chance to review will do so offline and respond to Reed.

We are planning to move forward with the JWC meetings in California, which would also allow the board to meet in person as well. Reed encouraged folks to attend the virtual meetings when possible. Reed also described the planning process for the AAPCO March Meeting for the new board members, encouraging them to start considering what topics they would like to pursue for their sessions.

Reed has been in communication with Derrick Lastinger as he is leading the industry relations meeting right now. The workgroup is interested in the preemption conversation that was had on Monday at SFIREG, an issue brought up by Region 8. Patterson said that it is an issue in Maine with over 30 different municipalities having ordinances that prohibit applications.

Reed thanked everyone for their participation and for weighing in on the issues he brought forward. He then asked each board member if they had issues to raise. Paluch said that she had nothing to bring up specifically as she is primarily focused on certification exams, covid-19 issues, and dicamba. Bahr thanked everyone for their participation with the SFIREG meeting this week, and discussed the meeting and the value of the new members. EQI and POM are in
good shape, we are working on planning for September even if only some members can travel, but its still up in the air. Jones offered that he just heard that NASDA will make a decision by June 22, 2020 about whether they will have their meeting in September. Patterson said that they are still working on how to manage the program during Covid-19, especially inspections and testing. Fleeson Trossbach shared that Virginia is still working through covid-19 challenges, but the testing has resumed at the DMVs in Virginia, so that is good. Hoping to have inspections back in play by August 1. The label improvement project has taken a hiatus, but will resume June 4th, which will mostly be evaluating how people are able to participate at this time. Also, at PPDC EPA asked what workgroups should be put into place, and the comments were emerging technologies and the other was labeling. Fleeson Trossbach asked that they liaise with the AAPCO workgroups that already exist. Fleeson Trossbach will be sending the three policies she has revised/drafted to the board today so they can be discussed at the next meeting. Jones said that NC is resuming testing with all the safety protocols. Jones also discussed the Region 4 apiary pesticide use issue paper. NC is also completing a new science building, which they will be moving into this year. Jones also brought up EPA’s flexibility with respirators policy that they recently released. NC still has lots of issues with PPE, and will participate with the NIOSH survey on the needs of growers in the states related to PPE. Reed offered that they are still working through covid-19 issues. They are looking forward to online exam proctoring soon. Sullivan said that she was having trouble getting through the April minutes because of the echo on the virtual meeting. After a brief discussion it was determined to be okay if the minutes are outlined with available materials and presentations. The Full SFIREG meeting went well though and minutes will not be a problem. Some end of year activities are coming up for the SFIREG grant, and Sandra O’Neill will be both the project officer and the SFIREG liaison for the time being.

The meeting ended at 3:31pm eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,