

**Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board  
Minutes of December 16, 2013 Meeting**

The North Dakota Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board met on December 16, 2013, in the Brynhild Haugland Room of the State Capitol in Bismarck, ND.

Board Chairman Jeff Topp called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Board members in attendance included Chairman Jeff Topp, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, Senator Terry Wanzek, Representative Mike Brandenburg, Representative Marvin Nelson, Terry Weckerly, Stan Buxa, Troy Bassingthwaite, and Ivan Williams. Board member Dr. Ken Grafton was absent. A quorum was declared.

Other individuals present during all or part of the meeting included Jim Gray (NDDA), Brandy Kiefel (NDDA), Dan Wogsland (ND Grain Growers Association), Dr. Michael Wunsch (NDSU), and Britt Aasmundstad (NDDA).

It was noted that the ND Department of Agriculture had filed a notice of meeting with the ND Secretary of State. A copy of the agenda was posted next to the main entry to the meeting room in the hallway.

**I. Approval of Minutes.** Williams moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting on December 19, 2012. The motion was seconded by Buxa. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**II. Minor Use Fund Budget Report.** Gray provided a report on the Minor Use Fund. There was \$27,859.81 carried over in the Minor Use Fund from the 2009-2011 biennium to the 2011-2013 biennium. With the \$200,000 appropriation from the 2011 legislative assembly, there was a total of \$227,859.81 in the Minor Use fund at the start of the 2011-2013 biennium. The Board made \$158,295 in Minor Use payments over the 2011-2013 biennium with an additional \$60,750 of funding obligation, leaving \$8,814.81 in net Minor Use Fund dollars available at the end of the last biennium.

The 2013 legislative assembly appropriated \$325,000 into the Minor Use Fund. With the \$69,564.81 carryover at the end of the 2011-2013 biennium (\$8,814.81 of unspent funds plus \$60,750 of funding obligations), this created a Minor Use Fund balance of \$394,564.81 at the beginning of the current biennium. However, the Board still has \$60,750 of existing funding obligations, leaving \$333,814.81 of net funds available.

**III. Pesticide Harmonization Grant Budget Report.** Gray provided a report on the Pesticide Harmonization Grant fund. Gray explained that this the fund that pays for Board operating expenses and is used for harmonization grants. The Board spent the Pesticide Harmonization Grant and operating fund down to \$5,153.88 at the end of the 2011-2013 biennium. This included operating costs of \$4,173.96. Dollars in the Pesticide Harmonization Grant fund do not carry over, although the 2013 legislative assembly appropriated \$75,000 into the fund. Therefore, the Board has \$75,000 available in the fund for the current biennium.

Topp noted the positive conversations that he had with EPA officials during the 2013 ND Grain Growers E-Tour and asked Commissioner Goehring if there were opportunities in the near future for Gray to go to Washington, DC again to work with EPA on pesticide issues. Goehring stated that there is a need to re-engage with EPA on a variety of issues, such as pollinators and pesticide enforcement, and that he would continue to look for opportunities to work collaboratively with EPA.

**IV. Reports from Previously Funded Minor Use Fun Projects.** Topp referred members to Tab E in their meeting binders for a final report recently submitted by Dr. Sam Markell for the project, "*Evaluation of Fungicides for Management of Blackleg Disease of Canola*". Gray explained that no action was required on the report since there was not a final payment that required Board approval. There was no discussion.

**V. Consideration of Harmonization Grant Proposals.** Topp referred members to Tab F in their meeting binders. Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association presented a harmonization grant request for \$18,600 to defer costs associated with the 2013 E-Tour. Wogsland explained that the E-Tour is an opportunity for the Grain Growers to host staff members from EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs to discuss North Dakota pesticide issues, showcase North Dakota agriculture, and build relationships with EPA. Seven EPA officials took part in the 2013 E-Tour, including three division directors. Topics highlighted during the tour included pesticide drift, pollinator/pesticide issues, seed treatments, and issues with surface water use buffers. Wogsland also thanked NDDA staff and Board members who participated in the tour.

Brandenburg stressed the importance of the E-Tour and the value of building relationships with EPA. Goehring stated that he appreciated the ND Grain Growers hosting the tour.

Wanzek moved to approve the funding request. Motion was seconded by Goehring. Topp called for a voice vote and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

**VI. Consideration of New Minor Use Fund Proposals.** Dr. Michael Wunsch briefed the Board on his Minor Use Fund proposal, "*Evaluation of Fungicides for Management of Foliar Blight of Lentils*". Wunsch thanked the Board for previous funding of his research to help find fungicide options to manage lentil diseases. Wunsch explained that lentil growers routinely experience losses from Anthracnose, Ascochyta, and Sclerotinia. Anthracnose is the biggest problem, and no fungicides are currently available to manage the disease.

Wunsch has been working for the last few years to evaluate fungicides for efficacy. Omega (fluazinam) has shown efficacy against Anthracnose, and Wunsch has received full funding from IR-4 to do residue analysis. Wunsch explained that he was requesting \$7,500 in Minor Use Fund dollars to conduct additional research to fine tune the application rate of Omega to manage Anthracnose, Ascochyta, and Sclerotinia.

Weckerly asked what the cost per acre would be for Omega on lentils. Wunsch stated that he did not know, but it would depend on the use rate. The purpose of the research project was to fine tune the use rate.

Wanzek asked if the Anthracnose that affects lentils is the same as the disease that affects dry beans. Wunsch stated that they were different species of Anthracnose.

Goehring asked who makes Omega. Wunsch responded that Omega is manufactured by ISK Biosciences, but is marketed by Syngenta.

Topp stated that we may see an increase in production of minor crops in the near future, and growers of minor crops will need tools to manage pests. Wanzek reiterated that there will likely be more interest in minor crops and shorter season crops to replace corn. Williams stressed that fungicide resistance is a growing issue and that we will need more tools to allow for crop rotation and growing alternative crops.

Brandenburg asked Wunsch about funding for the greenhouse facility at the Carrington research station. Wunsch stated that station manager Blaine Schatz would be the best resource for that sort of information. There are two major projects being contemplated at the station: a lab project and the greenhouse project. The lab project is going forward as a high priority. The goal is to ensure that the lab facilities are high-quality. The station may be able to go ahead with the greenhouse project if there are sufficient funds left after the lab project, but it is too early to tell at this point. Brandenburg then asked Wunsch how much funding the station will be short for the greenhouse project. Wunsch stated again that Schatz would be the best resource for that information and offered to have Schatz contact Brandenburg. Brandenburg stated that a follow up conversation with Schatz wasn't necessary.

Goehring moved to approve Wunsch's funding request for \$7,500. The motion was seconded by Weckerly. Topp called for a roll call vote. Voting "Aye": Buxa, Bassingthwaite, Weckerly, Brandenburg, Nelson, Wanzek, Goehring, and Topp. No members voted "Nay". Members also scored the proposal and supplied their score sheets to Gray.

**VII. Frequency and Timing of Board Meetings.** Goehring briefed the Board on conversations that he had with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) over the past few weeks. The Board spent much of its available funds in December of 2012, immediately before the 2013 legislative session. However, OMB begins building agency budgets and estimating special fund balances in the June or July prior to a legislative session. It is much easier if we can get the proper amounts in the Governor's budget, and a meeting in November or December makes it difficult to do so. Goehring suggested that the Board meeting in late summer or early fall to give OMB more predictability on fund balances and funding needs for the Board.

Topp cautioned the Board to have meetings for the sake of holding meetings. He stated that the Board has always met when there is a need to do so, and that the Board has always been good stewards of the funds under its control. Topp further stated that OMB could have visited with

the Board to get a better idea of anticipated fund balances at the end of the biennium instead of simply making assumptions.

Board members then discussed the feasibility of holding a late summer/early fall meeting. Several members stated that while they would be available, some of the researchers who would be submitting funding proposals may be busy doing field research. Nelson stated that researchers will likely submit funding proposals based on research results the previous growing season, and data from summer research projects would likely not be available until after harvest.

Topp called Wunsch to the podium and asked for his input as to whether a late summer deadline for funding requests was adequate. Wunsch stated that this year's timing worked well with Gray sending out a notice in early October with a November 1 deadline for funding requests. Wunsch advised that November 1 should be the earliest date that the Board should consider. Buxa stated that November 1 is the deadline used by the ND Oilseeds Council because it allows researchers to assess results from the previous growing season. Bassingthwaite suggested that research proposals with a November 1 deadline would likely be of higher quality than proposals submitted late summer.

Goehring suggested that he could come up with an initial budget number earlier in the year based on Board input. He stated that the Governor submits his budget in early December, and a Board meeting in early November will mean that things will need to be pushed into a time period of less than a month.

Topp stated that the Board normally meets when there is a need to do so. Under the current system, Gray contacts Topp to alert him of new funding proposals. Topp asked members if they wanted more structure. Several board members supported having more structure and having the Board meet twice per year. Buxa suggested two meetings per year, one in late winter and one in early spring.

Wanzek offered a motion that the Board offer two deadlines for research proposals per year (November 1 and March 1) and that the Board meet shortly after those two deadlines. The motion was seconded by Buxa. Topp opened the motion to discussion. Williams stated that the Board has had funding requests outside of late winter and early spring, especially harmonization grants. Topp responded that he can always call special meetings on an as-needed basis.

Wanzek moved to amend his motion to include a provision that the ND Department of Agriculture be used to publish information on Board activities and upcoming meetings. Buxa seconded the motion. The motion to amend the original motion passed on a voice vote. Topp called for a vote on the amended motion. Motion passed.

Topp adjourned the meeting at 11:22 am.