

The Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board  
Minutes of December 17th, 2015

The North Dakota Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board met on December 17th, 2015, on the Sixth Floor Conference Room of the State Capitol in Bismarck, ND.

Board Chairman Jeff Topp called the meeting to order at 1:04pm. Board members in attendance included Chairman Jeff Topp, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, Troy Bassingthwaite, Representative Mike Brandenburg, Terry Weckerly, and Senator Terry Wanzek. Dr. Ken Grafton, Ivan Williams, Stan Buxa were absent. Representative Marvin Nelson was present for the last part of the meeting. A quorum was declared.

Non-board members present for all or part of the meeting in person or via telephone included, Jerry Sauter (NDDA), Brandy Kiefel (NDDA), Dutch Bialke (Attorney General Office) and Dan Wogsland (NDGGA). Dr. Julie Pasche (NDSU), Dr. Andrew Robinson (NDSU) and Dr. George Linz (USDA) were on the conference line.

It was noted that a notice of meeting had been filed 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.** Wanzek moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2015. The motion was seconded by Weckerly. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**II. Minor Use Fund Grand Budget Report.** Sauter provided a report on the Minor Use Fund. There was \$186,646.81 carried over in the Minor Use Fund from the 2013-2015 biennium to the 2015-2017 biennium. With the \$325,000 appropriation from the legislative assembly, there was a gross total of \$511,646.81 available at the beginning of the current biennium. There are funding obligations of \$89,397.00 from the 2013-2015 biennium leaving a net total of \$422,249.81 in Minor Use Fund dollars available.

**III. Pesticide harmonization Grant Budget Report.** Sauter provided a report on the Pesticide Harmonization Grant fund. Sauter explained that this fund pays for Board operating expenses and is used for harmonization grants. There was \$74,997.36 of net funds available in the fund.

**IV. Consideration of New Pesticide Harmonization Grand Request.** Topp referred members to tab D in their meeting binders. Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association presented a harmonization grant request for \$27,443.00 to defer costs associated with the 2015 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. Nine EPA officials took part in the

2015 E-tour. Topics highlighted during the tour included: Boarding the Lewis & Clark river boat in Bismarck, the Department of Agriculture “Ag 101” presentation provided an overview of North Dakota agriculture. The group and the EPA personnel were impressed with the farm visits, calling it the highlight of the tour and the modern technology employed by North Dakota Agriculture. Wogsland also thanked the NDDA staff and Board members who participated in the tour.

Wanzek asked if these are the costs to offset 2015, not costs for 2016. Wogsland replied, these are costs from 2015. Topp pointed out that these are reimbursement costs from 2015.

Goehring asked if they have a format in place for next year. Wogsland replied No, we haven’t started plans for the upcoming tour. Wogsland added that he is willing to meet with board members to discuss any issues.

Brandenburg wanted to know if there should be more people on the tour who want to join. Wogsland replied saying they want to keep it manageable at 6 because of seats on governor’s plane. Topp said you have full support of the board.

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

**V. Consideration of New Minor Use Fund Requests.** Topp referred members to tab E through G in their meeting binders which included three research proposals. He opened the floor to each researcher to provide a brief synopsis of their proposals.

*A. Utilizing 2,4-D for Weed Suppression in Potato Production: Dr. Andrew Robinson, NDSU.* Robinson presented the board with his proposal. This is the second year of the funding request. The purpose of this experiment is to determine if low rates of 2,4-D provide sufficient suppression and control of hard to kill weeds and to determine if there are any adverse effects of 2,4-D on white-, yellow-, and russet-skinned potato plants and yield. This project will also compare the ester and amine formulation of 2,4-D to determine if there are any differences. In 2016 it is proposed the project be completed at two North Dakota potato growing areas, Inkster and Grand Forks, ND, which will represent two different soil types and weed species. The cost of this experiment is \$14,500.

Topp asked if the project has additionally funding sources. Robinson replied at this time we do not. Robinson added that Northern Plains Potato Growers Association provides land and equipment and New Farm America provides the products.

Topp asked if a dollar amount can be given to help fund the project. Robinson said he believes last year was around \$5,000 and he missed adding that in the report. Robinson also added they are trying to expand to the white and russets on weed control.

*B. Ethaboxam Seed Treatment for Management of Aphanomyces Root Rot in Field Peas: Dr. Julie Pasche, NDSU.* Pasche presented the Board with her proposal where North Dakota growers have voiced concerns that root rot in field peas has, and will continue to reduce field pea acreage. In North Dakota, and other regions in the Northern Great Plains, field pea root rot is attributed to a complex of pathogens mainly comprised of fungi from the genus Fusarium. Pasche also pointed that Aphanomyces euteiches was reported as a root rot pathogen of field peas in North Dakota for the first time in 2014. The seed treatment ethaboxam has been evaluated for the control of Aphanomyces root rot by Canadian researchers. This proposal will evaluate ethaboxam seed treatment for the control of root rot caused by euteiches under North Dakota field conditions. The request includes \$19,635 from the North Dakota Crop Harmonization Board to perform one field trial at the Carrington REC including sample processing and pathogen quantification. Funding for an additional trial following the same methods to be executed at a second site will be provided by Valent USA. Funding for research associated with pathogen identification and quantification will be requested from the Northern Pulse Growers Association.

Bassingthwaite asked if this project was not to be funded will Valent still be conducting their research. Pasche replied yes, they will but would have fewer sites.

Topp asked about supporting funding and the relationships with the Pulse Growers. Pasche said they are extremely supportive. Pasche talked about the new pathogen that was discovered and told the board they don't know how bad it really is. We need to isolate this pathogen off. Collect soil and see what the problem is. This project is to analyze the efficacy of this seed treatment against the pathogen.

*C. In-Furrow Fungicide Applications for Management of Root Rot in Field Peas and Dry Edible Beans: Dr. Julie Pasche, NDSU.* Pasche presented the Board with her proposal for the last year of the three year funding project of \$18,916. The project is still in the experimental state. Preliminary data indicates that the method of fungicide applications show some promise. Significant reductions in root rot have been observed in fields and greenhouse trials. Dry bean growers have experimented with in-furrow fungicide application for root rot control. Accurate and timely recommendations for growers may increase the likelihood of success by determining if any fungicides are effective and the application rate resulting in the best disease management. This proposal is to repeat field trials targeting in-furrow fungicides that have shown efficacy in previous trials for the control of root rot pathogens affecting dry beans and field peas. They will be performed at the NDSU Carrington REC. The Board had no questions.

**VI. Reports on Previously Funded Minor Use Fund Projects.** The Board was provided two previously funded Minor Use Projects. The grant recipients provided oral reports to the Board, via speakerphone.

*A. Evaluating In-Furrow Fungicide Applications for the Management of Root Rot in Field Peas and Dry Edible Beans (MUF-06-14): Dr. Julie Pasche, NDSU.* Topp referred members to tab H in their meeting binders. Pasche reported this project is still in the experimental stages. Preliminary results from field and greenhouse trials indicate that significant reductions in root rot are possible, but fungicides applied in-furrow may cause some reduced plant emergence, height and root growth. Further trials are being conducted to optimize application rate and methodology to minimize plant damage.

Goehring moved to accept the last half of the funding. Motion was seconded by Wanzek. Topp called for a voice vote and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

*B. Expanding the Use of 9, 10 Anthraquinone as Blackbird Repellent for Ripening Sunflower (MUF-02-14): Dr. George Linz, USDA.* Topp referred members to tab I in their meeting binders. Linz reported he has been trying to work to find a repellent to reduce blackbird feeding. Numbers of products have been tried in labs for growers and Anthraquinone has been found to be very effective in repelling blackbirds from pulling newly seeded crop or newly sprouted crops. Residues on the sunflower bracts were at or below the Method Limit of Quantification. AQ residues on the sunflower achenes were low but detectable. Arkion Life Sciences is currently communicating with the US EPA on residue limits for ripening food crops. There is no tolerance and they will continue to work with EPA, which is a slow process. Need to have a method for a spray rig that will apply the product to the face of the head. Result is applying sufficient product to the face of the head to repel birds continues to be a challenge.

Topp reminded the board this was a project that was granted an additional year because Linz had leftover funding.

**VII. Old Business.** None

**VIII. New Business.**

Topp turned the floor over to Commissioner Doug Goehring to talk about an added request to the Board to fund an Endangered Species Project. Goehring told the board about the legislature passing a bill funding the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee to address multiple issues. Looking to do research on Endangered Species in North Dakota including the Northern long-eared bat, Little brown bat, Rusty-patched bumble bee, Yellow-banded bumble bee and prairie butterfly species. Goehring asked the board for \$225,000 to fund the project. Department of Transportation committed to \$75,000. Goehring will approach other stake holders for more funding.

Dutch commented the use of pesticides and the decline of endangered species can correlate. There is some scientific base and it would be in the discretion of the board as it would relate to pesticide use.

Bassingthwaite asked how the \$225,000 will be paid out over time and who will be doing the research. Goehring gave the board members a summary of the studies. The members had discussion about the project and how important it is.

Weckerly moved to approve Goehring's request for \$225,000. The motion was seconded by Brandenburg. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Wanzek moved to approve all funding proposals at their requested funds. The motion was seconded by Goehring. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jerry asked the board to delegate a very limited amount of authority to the Commissioner for minor changes. Minor changes including product name change or ingredient changes. No dollar amount changes. The Chairman will always be notified of any changes; however, the board doesn't need to be subjective to minor changes.

Brandenburg moved to approve to make minor changes. The motion was seconded by Weckerly. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Board members discussed the need to meet again in April. Topp adjourned the meeting.