

WSSA Liaison to EPA (Office of Pesticide Programs – OPP)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors – Quarter 3 2012
October 10, 2012

Third quarter activities: The third quarter activities included travel to the Aquatic Plant Management Society annual meeting in Salt Lake City, UT and the tour of herbicide resistant weed issues in the Delmarva region of Maryland and Delaware. I worked with Martha Shimkin, Chief of the Policy and Regulatory Services Branch, Office of Pesticide Programs Field and External Affairs Division, and Dan Kenny, Chief of the Herbicide Branch of the Registration Division, to coordinate their efforts to identify EPA staff who were interested in attending with the work being done by Mark VanGessel and Lee VanWychen to plan the day's activities.

July 22-25, 2012: I attended the annual meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society. I originally planned to attend the meeting to present the results of some of my research work; however, the society program chair, Terry Goldsby, invited me to present their keynote address during the general session. My topic was “Bridging Science to Policy” and I spoke about my activities as SME to EPA as well as the WSSA activities in the area of resistance management and the May Summit. I learned a great deal from listening during the meeting; as a result, I hope WSSA and APMS will continue to strengthen their relationship and identify areas of common interest and need for collaboration.

August 19-22, 2012: I visited EPA/OPP on August 20 and visited with individuals from the Herbicide Branch of the Registration Division and the Health Effects Division. I attended the herbicide resistance tour organized by Mark VanGessel (UDE) and Ron Ritter (UMD). The tour objectives and a summary of the discussions are described in the report submitted under separate cover. The report was reviewed by the WSSA members who participated on the tour. After revision, the report was distributed to the tour participants and posted on the WSSA website.

Fourth quarter plans: I planned to travel to Washington, DC the week of October 29. I was coordinating my schedule to be there when Dr. Kurt Getsinger will be there in order to attend a seminar on aquatic issues that he is helping to coordinate as well as meet with several individuals during the week. However, because of the hurricane that impacted the east coast the week of October 29, I will be rescheduling my fall trip to Washington, DC.

NOTE: Dr. Gene Reagan, ESA-SME, is improving but remains at a rehabilitation facility to continue his recovery from a stroke. Please keep him in your thoughts. Dr. Mark Whalon, Michigan State University, was recently selected to serve as the ESA liaison to EPA. I have been in contact with him and hope to coordinate a visit in the near future. At this time, I do not know if the American Phytopathology Society intends to appoint a new SME to represent their discipline at EPA.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder
WSSA SME/liaison to EPA