

**WSSA Liaison to EPA –OPP (Office of Pesticide Programs)  
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors–  
Quarter 4, 2013**

**January 28, 2014**

Fourth quarter expenses to visit EPA-OPP offices totaled \$2276.59.

November 6 – 8

Michael Barrett visited the Arlington, VA offices of EPA-OPP. During the visit he met with representatives of the Registration Division and the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD). He attended a Registration Division (across all pesticides) meeting where a number of issues were discussed, both internal and external to the Agency. Other discussions concerned the process of registration approvals, from the outline provided by FIFRA, interpretations of that act by EPA and published in the Congressional Record, and how policy is communicated to registrants. He met with Clayton Myers of BEAD to examine ways for weed science and entomology to work together on resistance issues. Plans were formulated for seminars in future visits. An outline for a presentation on the WSSA EPA-OPP Liaison position at the North Central Weed Science Society was also discussed.

On Friday, he attended symposium organized by the Economic Research Service and entitled “Public- and Private Sector Policy Implications of Research on the Economics of Herbicide Resistance Management”. While there were presentations on agronomic and social aspects of herbicide resistance, the unique aspect of the meeting was, of course, those presentations dealing with economics. The impact of resistance was analyzed from several economic perspectives but it was clear that, while there is a cost to adopting resistance BMPs, this cost is quickly recouped and it turned into a positive economic position. This information needs to be more clearly and forcibly communicated to practitioners.

An overriding and complicating factor during this visit was the impact of the government shutdown on the agency. While work was not attended to during the shutdown, additional registrations requests were still being submitted. This situation is further complicated by the PRIA requirements for timely processing of registrations decisions.

December 4-6

Michael Barrett visited the offices of EPA-OPP in Arlington, VA. He met with staff from the Registration Division and the Biological and Economic Assessment Divisions. He attended a Plant Tech Team meeting where aquatic test guidelines, the variability of data from greenhouse experiments, and endangered species issues were discussed. He discussed plans to work with RD reviewers, a newly appointed Branch Chief, and weed science training needs for RD. In another meeting with BEAD, herbicide resistance and the peer review process was discussed.

Time during this visit was also given for a conference call on a review of the last 5 years accomplishments of National Program 304 Crop Protection and Quarantine. In addition, he visited the offices of USDA-NIFA to discuss a proposal to establish a WSSA sponsored weed science person in that Agency.

December 10

Michael Barrett make a presentation entitled “Serving as the WSSA EPA Liaison: My First Impressions” in the general session of the North Central Weed Science Society meeting in Columbus. Among the points made in the presentation workload at the Agency being shouldered by a much reduced staff. The work of the liaison, what they can be included in and what they cannot, was also covered.