

ORGANICS COUNCIL
STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Monday, June 27, 2005

Those in attendance were: Ned Foley, Cary Oshins, Tim Bollinger, Amy Cicchillo, John Frederick, Rick Stehouwer, Carla Castagnero, and Jan Arnold.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 27, 2005. Carla will contact Dan about the change since he was going to try to arrange the meeting in Harrisburg. The Harrisburg meeting will be scheduled for a later date. The new general permit will be discussed.

Tim requires direction from this Council. One concern is how to try to get the private sector more involved in the organization. When PACA began they had meetings in Harrisburg. Then when PROP began, fewer members attended the first meeting at DEP. The private sector is not attending. How do we keep them? It's not just grant problems but it's also regulatory issues, etc. Where do we go and what is important to everyone?

Cary mentioned:

- 1) relevant information
- 2) networking is very important.

Amy stated that there are 84 people in the e-mail listing who receive minutes. We were using speakers to bring them in but apparently that is not working.

It was mentioned that from the public sector's point of view, if we're not all self-sustaining in a very short period of time, then we'll all be in trouble.

John interjected that all of the committees are like this. There is generally a core of people who attend and participate. Others just attend the programs. He feels what has been difficult that the Organics Council is trying to figure out what it is supposed to do as a sub-group of PROP. Most successful committees in the organization are those that are making things happen and are doing most of the work, too, instead of the majority of the work being done by the PROP staff.

Cary recommended having a goal of three regular meetings next year and having good attendance by having good speakers, use the next issue of the Rotten News newsletter to introduce the new chair and new activities, have each committee of the Council find a speaker for a meeting: regulatory focus, education focus, and marketing focus.

There was some discussion about centralized vs. rotating meeting locations. It was stated that centralized locations and dates will enable people to get it on their calendar so that they can attend. To rotate meeting sites, it was recommended to have it first at a public facility and then a private facility, then a public facility, etc., not favoring one facility over another.

It was decided that the centralized location would be Harrisburg. Amy will make reservations at DEP's conference room for Tuesday, September 27.

Manufactured soils update: John reported that Bob Graves recommended that PROP go with /talk with the Ramada Inn in State College. The facility will be hosting the conference. They just built a new addition and the rooms will be more reasonably priced. They also were open to allowing PROP to reschedule if the weather were prohibitive because of February snows. Considering labor, PROP did not make a profit on this program last year. Hopefully, this conference will be different. Registration fee is \$175, which is a \$25 increase from last year. As soon as more information is available it will be sent to the membership for exhibitors, etc. A price reduction is offered if they attend the PROP conference and the Manufactured Soils conference.

Clarify meetings: The next meeting will be on September 27 at the DEP Southcentral regional office in Harrisburg (a brainstorming meeting), February 23, 2006 in the afternoon after the manufactured soils conference, then April 18, 2006 at the Southcentral regional office in Harrisburg, then possibly at the PROP conference in July then the last meeting for 2006 will be September 19 at the Southcentral regional office office. Amy will send an e-mail to everyone on the list (84 past and present meeting attendees) and give notification of meeting dates.

John asked for submissions for the organics newsletter. The deadline for information is mid August. PROP will publish early in September so that people will have the meeting information.

In regards to the September meeting: Since the focus will be regulations, John would like to have someone from Steve Socash's section address the organics council's comments that were made in response to the new permit. One of the Deputy secretary's could be invited to attend, also. Amy will talk to Patty about this.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Arnold