

Interagency Relations Committee

Championed by Paula Henstridge and Geir Friisoe

NPB

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PDC Support

Melissa Thornton

Christina Lohs

Lora Katz

* Diana Hoffman was unable to attend the March meeting, so Craig substituted for her. Erin Stiers was also able to join for the first day of the meeting. Both contributed significantly to the process and the report.

Purpose: Create a Culture of Communication

A True Partnership:

- ▶ Has shared goals and a shared commitment--safeguarding American agriculture and natural resources
- ▶ Understands one another's responsibilities, pressures, and strengths and weaknesses, as well as the capabilities and limitations on each side
- ▶ Collaborates in problem solving
- ▶ Displays trust on both sides and communicates openly, honestly, and frequently
- ▶ Acts with good intention and assumes good intention
- ▶ Supports professionally expressed disagreement
- ▶ Shares in successes and failures equally, accepts that mistakes will be made and acknowledges mistakes

IRC Process

- ▶ Developed case studies covering an array of scenarios: Farm Bill, plum pox, Dickeya, funding delays, Ralstonia, *Xanthomonas*, thousand canker disease (TCD), and the two Chinese Furniture Incidents
- ▶ Followed up with focus groups on the furniture incidents and TCD. Themes, challenges and responses for each incident were captured by the focus groups
- ▶ IRC met in Minneapolis in March with a focus on TCD and Chinese Furniture
- ▶ IRC identified problems, solutions and strategies
- ▶ Strategies categorized and action plans being developed around categories

Feedback from Focus Groups and Data Collection—What is Needed?

- ▶ Better understand the scope of PPQ and NPB—roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Manage and share information and engage more effectively
- ▶ More clarity around decision processes
- ▶ Understand how to work together (PPQ and NPB)—protocols and processes
- ▶ Communicate more effectively internally in NPB—protocols and processes
- ▶ Educate cooperators and stakeholders about impacts

Strategies

- ▶ Clarify roles and responsibilities around decision making, coordination, and communication.
- ▶ Create a culture of communication and collaboration by increasing understanding of authorities and the many factors that affect public policy development.
- ▶ Ensure that effective protocols and processes are used to support early engagement, sustained communication, and effective decision making on emerging issues.
- ▶ Educate partners and key stakeholders on the consequences of acting in the absence of regulatory decisions or evaluation of impacts of new pests.

Action Plans

- ▶ Roles and responsibilities
 - ▶ Contact lists; Federal-State responses; facilitate early dialog within the NPB
- ▶ Orientation and training
 - ▶ Onboarding in PPQ and NPB; meeting ongoing training and mentoring needs
- ▶ Protocols
 - ▶ Socialize existing protocols
- ▶ Consultation and engagement
 - ▶ Emerging pest situations; pests not of Federal economic significance
- ▶ Collaborative outreach
 - ▶ Educating NGOs, Extension and academia about the impact of their actions on regulatory actions