National Plant Board – What is it and how does it work?

Ann Gibbs – NPB President, Maine Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
What is the NPB?

- Non profit organization established in 1925

- Organized by 4 regional boards with members representing state plant pest regulatory agencies

- Representation includes all 50 states, commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Guam
NPB Mission/Vision

Provide leadership in developing and implementing science based regulatory policies and plant health programs, enable trade and protect agricultural and natural resources of the United States
NPB Purpose

- Provide national representation for the regional plant boards
- Foster effective and harmonized plant health programs
- Collaborate and communicate effectively with public and private agencies and organizations on plant health and plant pest regulatory issues affecting states
- To protect agriculture, horticulture, forestry and the environment on state, national and international levels
NPB Regions

- Central
  - 12 states
- Eastern
  - 11 states
- Western
  - 14 states
- Southern
  - 14 states
How does the NPB work?

- The NPB president speaks for the organization
- Each state has one vote (usually the SPRO or other designee determined by the state)
- Decisions are made in consultation with the NPB officers and the NPB Board of Directors (BOD)
- Monthly calls occur with the NPB BOD to provide updates and get feedback from the regions
- Twice monthly calls occur with the NPB and PPQ leadership
- Annual regional and national meetings
- Members share information regarding changes to state quarantines or new pest issues
NPB Organizational Structure

- NPB executive team consists of 1 member from each region
  - Executive Secretary is also included
- Allows regional voice on national matters
- Positions rotate every 2 years
- 2 calls/month with PPQ
- 1 call per month for executive team members
NPB Organizational Structure (con’t)

- President
  - Voice for NPB
  - Responsible for day-to-day activities
- Vice President
  - Substitute for President in case of absence
  - Responsible for NPB annual meeting agenda
  - Website review
- Secretary/Treasurer
  - Records minutes of conference calls and meetings
  - NPB financial responsibilities
- Past President
  - Provides additional support for President
NPB Organizational Structure (con’t)

- Board of Directors
  - Each region’s president and vice president
  - One alternate for each region
  - Monthly calls
  - 2-3 face-to-face meetings per year

- Executive Secretary
  - Non-voting
  - Not a spokesperson for NPB
  - Administrative leadership
Collaborate and Communicate

- Work with partners to provide input on state plant pest issues when requested or necessary including:
  - Fed agencies – USDA – PPQ, BRS, FS, ARS
  - State agency affiliates – NASDA, NASF
  - Others – NAPPO, AmericanHort, TNC
- Utilize the NPB website
- Members represent the NPB on committees
  - Farm Bill review
  - P. ramorum
  - Imported Fire Ant
NPB website:
www.nationalplantboard.org

- Very valuable resource – bookmark it!!
- Utilized by regulators and industry
- Members only area for SPROs
NPB Website Content

- Member directory with State regulatory websites
- State summaries of plant pest statutes & regulations
- List of committees and the members – lots of opportunities to volunteer
- Upcoming and past meeting information
- And the BASEMENT for SPROs– where all the good stuff is, including historical documents, reference documents and meeting minutes. You need a secret password to enter.
How Does the NPB Provide Input?

- Participating on PPQ committees including program review committees
- Provide resolutions and letters of support or concern regarding issues of importance to membership
- Any feedback to APHIS PPQ goes through our state liaison with PPQ – she is a very critical link
- Issues that can’t get resolved at these levels will then be elevated to NASDA or the state NASDA members. Participate in the monthly NASDA calls.
A Couple of things to Remember

- NPB is not a lobbying organization
- NPB does not have any control over states actions
- NPB members are technical experts and are a valuable resource to provide the “local flavor”
Questions??
NPB Annual Meeting – What to expect?

- 2 NPB Business meetings at the beginning and end – NPB members please attend
- 2 NPB BOD meetings – NPB BOD members attend
- 1 NPB/PPQ Leadership Meeting – BOD and PPQ management attends
- Monday regional breakout session – Regional members attend
- Meeting sessions – all participants should attend, lots of effort put into developing the agenda
- Sidebar meetings – rooms are available to resolve issues
- Opportunities to mingle and network – Reception, banquet, field trip, hospitality room