

**CCA North American Board Meeting  
September 15-17, 2014  
Sacramento, California**

In Attendance:

Karl Anderson	Sally Flis	Marta Krist	Jacob Redmon	Thom Weir
Amy Asmus	Jesse Grogan	Jeff Leonard	Bill Rohrer	Eric Welsh
John Bergeson	Tom Hall	Tara Little	Allan Romander	Norman Widman
Shawn Bossard	Mike Harper	Cecelia Lokai-Minnich	Quentin Rund	Dave Wilcox
Carl Cassidy	Carson Harmon	Paul Luetjen	Steve Schultz	
Armando Campos	Mike Huffman	Dana Minihan	Luther Smith	
Steve Cromley	Tom Kelley	Lisa Muirheid-Martin	Iain Sutherland	
Mary-Jane Debreuil	Keith Kennedy	Rao Mylavarapu	Fred Vocasek	
Charles Denver	Clare Kinlin	Joan O'Brien	David Wallace	
Susan Fitzgerald	Andy Knepp	Roberta Parry	Mark Weihing	

Wednesday, September 17, 2014:

Meeting called to order by Alan Romander 8:00am.

Luther Smith, Andy Knepp, Amy Asmus presented information on Specialty Certifications. POWERPOINT

- Why? Adds Value, Creates a way to identify those that do have the knowledge and skills, not all CCAs are the same, if we don't other groups will (negative consequences)

- Types:

  - IPM

  - Sustainability Specialist

  - Cover Crops Specialist (focus on upper mid-west, adapted to regions)

  - Soybean Management

  - 4R Nutrient Management

- Rationale: Increase value of CCA certification and increase value of the program to CCAs

  - 4R

  - Ohio has a 4R certification (legislation) for business entity

  - Current efforts are insufficient

  - If we don't do it, other people will—there is a need for it, and the CCA program is the only certification - program currently able to immediately administer this type of program.

  - Draft POs, exam is to be developed, aligned with IL Fertilizer Chemical Association

  - IL and IA CCAs right now, MI has expressed interest, but all are welcome

  - IPM

  - WSSA, EPA (OPP), BAED, OPMP, NRCS, all would like to work with us on this.

**Motion:** To allow the ICCA executive committee to look at specialty certifications as they are developed and review, vet, and approve them for addition to the Certified Crop Adviser program. Andy Knepp/Thom Seconded by T. Weir. Motion Passes.

Karl Anderson and Fred Vocasek gave the Policy Update. POWERPOINT

- Congressional visits day, brings together academics/researchers, grad students and CCAs in support of ag research

- Goals: research funding, educate lawmakers and staff, serve as a resource

- more details to be sent to all boards

Norm Widman gave the USDA-NRCS Update. POWERPOINT

- Adaptive Management something that a CCA does in their day-to-day lives, process of testing an idea, evaluate and adjust the application of a conservation practice over multiple seasons

- Learning experience between the producer (farmer) and the consultant

- Origin: concept came from the planning or problem solving process

- Conducting on-farm field trials: Planning, implementing, evaluate, adjust
- Producer Involvement, Data, and options for Farmer Interaction
- NRCS Assistance: Tech support and Financial Support via EQIP—Win-Win situation for both parties

Roberta Parry gave the US-EPA Update. POWERPOINT

- Clean Water Act
- EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers Water of the US—Proposal
  - Goal: Protect our waters in the US
  - Rationale: clarification was asked by numerous states, give property owners more certainty, use science to reduce amount of the ground work needed by the US Army Corps of Engineer to determine jurisdiction
- Proposal: what does it do for ag? Retains existing Clean Water Act Ag exemptions
  - Return flowed, ag storm water discharges, normal farming, construction, etc.
- Proposal: what it does not do?
  - Protect any new types of waters
  - Broaden historical coverage of the Clean Water Ag
  - Regulate land use or groundwater
  - Expand regulation of ditches
  - If it wasn't a water before, it isn't now.
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)
  - Problem: prevalence and duration of harmful algal blooms in fresh water is rapidly expanding in the US
  - Causes: Physical Factors, Chemical Factors, Sources—depends on the watershed
  - Action: Great Lake Restoration Initiative, Research, Drinking Water Advisories, Public Education
- Advancing Nutrient Sensor Technology: developing challenges to accelerate development of affordable, accurate, reliable nutrient sensors for both water and soils/plants
- This may be available early 2015
- Farmer Heroes: EPA is publicizing producers who are using best mgmt. practices to protect water, currently 8 stories, working with the NACD to identify additional producers
- suggested that EPA uses CCAs to identify farmers and showcase both the CCA and the farmer. Roberta will get back to Luther if interested.

Marta Krist presented the CEU Application 2.0 Demo.

Dates of 2015 meeting will be determined at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.