

Draft Magruder Committee Meeting Minutes
Association of American Plant Food Control Officials Meeting
February 18, 2014 San Diego, CA

Bill Hall, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Sixteen committee members were present. Industry had 12 representatives with the control officials having 15 representatives present. Total attendance was 27. Introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and no additions were made.

The previous minutes from August 2013 were handed out for review. Sharon Webb made a motion to accept the minutes with edits in paragraph 8 (...If Magruder “when” changed to “went” to Andy...). The motion was seconded by Rhonda Boles and the motion passed.

Jamie gave the treasurer’s report. (see report) Total equity is \$112,512.17 through January 2014. Questions from group included: How many labs do we have subscribed? Jamie indicated that there are 75 paid up so far; and there are 4 free labs. In addition, 35 second notices are going out. There were no other questions for the treasurer. A motion was made by Sharon Webb to accept the treasurer’s report with a second by Keith Wegner. The motion passed and the treasurer’s report was approved.

Lab Methods Survey –

James Bartos gave a presentation on the methods survey. This was based on a request from industry to the AAPFCO board to obtain a list of methods that the states used. A survey was put out to see what methods both the regulatory labs and the industry labs are using. There was a 25% response on survey. The results for both state and industry labs were presented for N, P, K, S and secondary/trace metals (additional information on summary slide from James’ presentation). James said that if you haven’t done the survey, one can be sent out. He would like to get as much data as possible to include. A suggestion was made to put the survey link on the website. Kerry indicated that this could be done.

Updating Revision of Method Codes –

Rhonda Boles gave an update on the revision of method codes. Harold Falls worked on the sulfur part. Rhonda shared an Excel spreadsheet with the data and identified areas to be added and removed. She indicated that not many changes are needed for the N codes. For P, there is a need to separate the sample prep from the analysis. Another area where more work is needed is sulfur (additional information for details and recommendations are listed on spreadsheet from Rhonda’s presentation). Questions asked included: Vicki Siegel from Indiana asked if participants ask for method codes and indicated that they do that in AAFCO. She also asked about extraction info and Rhonda indicated that that information would be useful. James Bartos asked what the increase/decrease in method codes would be? Rhonda said that overall, the number of method codes will be 3-4 times as many as we currently have. Bill asked if there is a need for elemental S by difference.

NIST Ammonium Phosphate and High P₂O₅ Reference Material -

Harold Falls gave an update. The standard has been in progress since September 2013 (194A) and will be coming out in March. It will be similar to 194. AFPC has an ISO certified MAP available through SGS. Work is being done to certify a Magruder sample to be available through AFPC. This will be discussed further in the methods forum.

Magruder and AFPC Data Comparisons – What does the future hold for % Available Phosphate? –

A presentation was made by Harold Falls. The goal is to review the current Magruder data and the current AFPC data and make a comparison of indirect, direct and ICP available phosphate (additional information and data charts in handout presentation). Current efforts to help resolve fertilizer analytical results deviations for APA and to improve accuracy and precision include: educational videos, Magruder newsletters, recommending that official analytical methods are performed as written (without deviations), workshops, consultant services and incentives for best performing labs. This is a mechanism to avoid having to adjust IAs again.

Wade Foster with TFI gave a presentation on the upcoming lab training best practices videos on sample prep and ICP. These topics were selected as they were identified as critical need issues. They will be “how-to” type videos; scripts will be provided and they will be asking for input on content as they want to be able to cover a variety of equipment. Additional video inputs from companies will be included for other equipment. Videos will be filmed at

the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services facility. Vendor selection is underway and cost estimates were shared – cost is approximately \$10,000; would like to host on websites to get videos out there.

Sampling Study & Segregation Discussion –

Bill Hall gave an overview and an update on the sampling study conducted in FL. Many blends made with a combination of different size particles (mixing 320 SGN with 100 SGN) were made. Bill shared the videos of the blend preparation and the separation video where larger particles move to the sides. Bill indicated that the full presentation which will be made at the Methods Forum will show the results at various points in the process.

James announced that the Tyler instrument is set up in the front of the room.

Data Entry, Statistical Analysis and Reporting Options Discussion –

Frank Sikora gave a presentation on the findings from the subcommittee working group charged with looking at the costs and details for both options. Options included having Bob Coehlo upgrade the current program or have Andy Crawford (statistician for AAFCO) provide the service.

Bob: Cost is 20K and would take 3-6 months; he would pay cost and sees return on his investment as fee for Magruder work; he wants commitment before proceeding. 10 years was mentioned; the database would be fully available; and he will sell software program for \$30K when he retires from position.

Andy: Will charge \$5K for startup and \$865 per sample; statistical analysis follows International Harmonized Protocol for Proficiency Testing; comprehensive compilation of data available to labs on the web site for review. Andy's time will be spent on data analysis; software for web entry of data done separately. Need to acquire data collection mechanism (FASS info per Vicki). Clarification – data needs to be managed by someone prior to submission (Vicki facilitates this for AAFCO). Vicki spends approximately 2 hours per month conducting the QA review prior to sending to Andy.

Frank shared the cost comparison slide.

Option 1 : Bob C. initial startup - \$0; annual statistician fee is \$4,800, website is \$436- actually \$185 (correction by Jamie). The one time cost of program in 30 years is \$30K.

Option 2: Initial startup - \$5,000; annual stat is \$12,100 (\$865 per sample/14 per year)

Fee per lab info showed fee with one time cost (\$300 – option 1 and \$323 – option 2)

Comparison info:

Magruder with Option 1 = \$300; Magruder with Option 2 = \$323 (14 samples per year)

AAFCO = \$300; NAPT Soil testing \$610 (20 samples per year)

Manure analysis program = \$400 (6 samples per year)

Discussion – Both options would allow us to own the program. Question about support if “win the lottery” happens – are there other company type vendors of this type of product? Vicki knows of only one. Some FERN programs use them. Bill thanked the subcommittee, asked the group to think about this information and be prepared to make some kind of recommendation to come to a decision at the summer meeting.

Listing of samples for 2014-2015: (see spreadsheet with new additions)

Discussion of secretary change – Kerry Cooner has been serving as secretary for 12 years

No change in slate of officers; Kerry will step down as secretary and Patty Lucas will assume the responsibility of secretary. Kerry will continue maintaining the Magruder web-site.

Sharon Webb made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Harold Falls and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Cooner and Patty Lucas