

Magruder Committee Minutes
February 16, 2021 – Virtual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 3:45 pm EST by Frank Sikora

Attendance – ~134

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review and Approval – Frank Sikora

Agenda - Motion to approve agenda James Bartos, seconded by Bill Hall - motion approved

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes – Frank/Patty

Minutes – Motion to approve by Bill Hall, seconded by James Bartos– motion approved

Treasurer's report – Jamey Johnson

Statement is through December 31, 2020. Total assets are \$137,340.48. Expenses were \$31,410.29 and income was \$290.85. This does not include approximately \$6,000 from January 2021 Magruder subscriptions. Also, there are 3 checks/deposits from overseas labs that don't include their laboratory identification that are being addressed. There was also one credit card declined from an international lab.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report – Sharon Webb seconded by Patty Lucas – Motion approved

Administration Update – Frank Sikora

Frank shared a graph of the number of labs reporting. The yellow highlighted area shows the impact from the initial Covid period. He also shared the number of active labs. There are 142 labs (US Public 43, US Private 35 and International 64). Paid labs were 75 and unpaid were 68. Stop shipments were 10.

Sharon asked which group regulatory labs are part of. Answer is public. James asked if we can break it out further as 3 categories is tight? Jamie indicated that the public labs are regulatory labs.

Chat: Hugh made a recommendation for categories – US Regulatory, US Commercial/Private, International Regulatory and Commercial.

Public Labs – Regulatory; Private US/Commercial Production vs. Labs Servicing

Frank said he will look at this further.

Review of how samples are prepared – Bob Able

See Powerpoint

Discussion:

Bill Hall asked if there is any lab checking after grinding. Bob indicated that they don't do any measured sieve but evaluate the product after grinding. Bill asked if he has had any heat problems where the product melts, etc. Bob said that yes, not everything works. Jamey asked if Bob is using the same hammer mill as used for AAFCO feed samples. Bob said yes, it is.

Chat:

Jake Staley - Do you grind the entire 50 LB sample?

Bill Hall – Yes, all of the sample is processed.

Discussion: What is the approximate wt of sample sent to each lab. Bob said its 125 g. Michael asked about liquids. Bob said 125 ml each from a 5 gallon container. Michael indicated that some liquid might be breathing hazard and asked if he has mitigation. Bob said yes, he does in his facility to control while handling.

Chat:

Sally Flowers – Bob, thanks for sharing that! Good info for newer AAPFCO lab members.

Bill said that we may see an increase in samples due to more visibility from meeting/forum. James asked a question on feed. Do you make more? Bob said that he starts with 200 pounds and makes 300 – 300 g samples. Frank asked how the liquids are stirred. Bob said he uses a propeller stirrer. Jamie asked how many samples are being retained. Bob said around 10 which he sends to Sharon. Michael asked if there were any issues regarding bad samples (contaminated) and how they are tracked. Frank said that they haven't gotten complaints and results are compared to other labs not a guaranteed amount. Sharon said the samples are vacuum sealed and no deterioration has been seen (example 2008 sample used for micros).

Job asked a question regarding organics and said that they might be an issue. Also, regarding storage, are we ok even with more samples. Sharon said we will need to evaluate. Number of samples purchased over past few years were stored on shelf with no sunlight. There was also discussion on publishing that samples are available for purchase in Magruder Newsletter or website. Bill Hall suggested adding a box to check with "Do you want to purchase more of this sample?" for labs to complete on website.

Chat:

Tom Phillips- You can't store them in the dairy barns, like older soil samples used to be stored in the mid 80's.

Data Mining on total Fe, Mn, Cu and Zn – Bill Hall

We have this tremendous stockpile of data (millions of data points) in the Magruder program. Starting in 2016, it is digital in Excel. Andy has set up a whole category of data mining Excel files on the webpage. There is sorting capability. It is a tremendous resource and vastly underused. Screens were shown on how data is stored. Example shown for ammoniacal nitrogen data for whole year. Can be

broken out by sample number and others; can begin to do statistics. Also showed information on AV and AV vs. RSD charts.

Andy – Clarified the AV (assigned value/average of all reports) is represented by RSD. The more results you have the better the AV is. The N value is included to know how many labs there were.

Name change from “Check Sample” to “Proficiency Testing” – Frank Sikora

See Powerpoint

Magruder Fertilizer Program Proficiency Testing Program

Andy made the suggestion to make this name change along with the other proposed changes (schemes)

Proposal for Providing Options for Sample Schemes (see Powerpoint)

Frank gave some background on the program and past suggestions to add new sample schemes. AAFCO added new schemes for mycotoxins, minerals and pet foods.

Frank proposed taking what we have and categorizing them and offering labs a choice. Proposal shows fee structure and options for labs to choose from. Bill said it would provide a set schedule (for example: 3 liquids a year)

Sharon asked how the current scheme would change? Will the ingredient scheme be kept or will it move to the new scheme. Frank said labs would subscribe to the schemes they are interested in. Bill said we are not planning to vote to change this now but vote to explore moving to this. Frank said there are a lot details that need to be worked through. Shared sample schedule on screen. Explained the number of samples per month and collecting information from labs. Andy said he noticed there may be data integrity concerns if only a few labs participate in some schemes. Sharon said AAFCO looked at how many labs they needed prior to deciding to add a scheme. Frank said we would need to put out a survey to see how many labs are interested. Andy recommends selecting one and seeing how it goes; maybe combine into fewer schemes (ie: NPK).

Hugh said with the potential for more labs to participate, there is no recognized fertilizer PT in the world. There may be isolated ones in certain areas. With that in mind, recommend keeping the current program and add secondary program for quarterly ingredient program. Or, have two samples every quarter (DAP and micronutrient blend example). This could be a second scheme to build on. Bill suggested we think about this further and reconvene the committee to discuss. If we made the program slightly larger and add, for example, a raw materials program where you can choose only micronutrients, etc. And add those in 2022 and see how that would look. Modify current program to encompass the raw materials where raw materials producers would get separate choices.

Sharon thinks this is a great idea and will provide a lot of options for labs.

Bob said that from a preparation standpoint, if there are going to be fewer participants in some groups, we may have a lot of material left over or would not be making as many samples. If there is a smaller number of participants, there may be storage or disposal issues. Sharon said that will be part of the

process when thinking it through. Frank likes the idea of looking at the raw materials. Frank – great discussion; we will meet in a couple weeks.

Chat:

Tom Phillips – Is the fertilizer program accredited yet?

Bill Hall – No

Jamey Johnson – Does Bob have capability to incorporate this?

Bill Hall – Yes; he prepares the feed program and is accredited.

Magruder Newsletter

Frank shared information about the newsletter and its location. Winter newsletter has the article titles listed. Frank thanked Sally Flowers in Kansas for her assistance with the newsletter formatting. Also thanks for James for one of the articles. Newsletter is great opportunity for advertising too. Showed examples with vendor advertising. Companies advertising equipment (ie: soil testing equipment). Asked Bob Miller on SPAC newsletter advertising what he charges (see structure shown). Frank asked what folks think. Sharon said she is fine with it as long as its fair to all vendors (equal opportunity) and asked if there will be a customer cost for the newsletter. Frank said that there would be no cost for customers. Sharon said we could do a vendor survey at end of methods forum on this. The group discussed whether the newsletter should be put out twice a year or 4 times per year.

Scheduled samples

Discuss in a couple weeks at next meeting. Job, Bob and Frank meeting once a week to go over schedule details.

New Topics

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by James Bartos with second by Sharon Webb. Motion approved.

Magruder committee meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm EST