

Magruder Committee Minutes
August 4, 2020 – Virtual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm EST by Bill Hall

Attendance – See electronic record for virtual meeting ~137

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review and Approval – Bill

Bill Hall gave an overview of the committee functions.

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes – Bill/Patty

One change to the order of the agenda is switch sample prep down and new technologies.

Motion to approve agenda – James Bartos, seconded by Michael Hojjatie - motion accepted

Minutes – motion to approve by Sharon Webb, seconded by David Benefield – motion accepted

Treasurer's report – Jamey Johnson

Statement is through June 2020. We had a good year. Income was more than expenses. Owe a lot to Frank for his work on obtaining payments from laboratories. Total assets are \$137,049.63. Expenses were \$58,462.67 and income was \$82,089.20. Successful methods forum with over 70 attendees registered and reduced costs for binder printing. Regions-savings account for \$1,070.19 is account for international labs that pay via wire transfer. Forum net income is \$13,529.36.

Discussion/Questions:

Bill had a question about the MSDS entry – Jamey, these are from Able Labs. Sharon asked what the report sheets are? Jamey – also received from Able Labs each month.

Sharon asked about succession planning. Bob Able's daughter will be taking over the company. Asked whether we have a plan for if Jamey retires and if Andy our statistician retires. Bill would think the AAPFCO treasurer would take over as the Magruder treasurer. Discussion about contacting Andy.

Methods forum went well with a lot of interest in biostimulants. Anticipating a similar. Bill is going to do the forum for 2021 but is looking for someone to take over the year after.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report – Sharon Webb seconded by Ametra Berry

Sharon made amendment to her motion to authorize Jamey to shift from checking to longer term account; seconded by Ametra. Bill asked if there was a limit? Sharon suggested \$20,000 as upper limit.

Motion is now to accept minutes and authorize Jamey to move up to \$20,000 to long term interest bearing account. Seconded by Ametra - motion approved.

Old Business

2020 Forum Report

Bill Hall – excellent opportunity for method work to be done. A day and a half meeting to talk about methods needed and how to develop and validate them. Work together to progress towards developing methods.

New Business

New Technologies/Biostimulants/Beneficial Substances... - Bill

Based on other meetings, AAPFCO will be in the middle of the biostimulants work; IFDC will also be involved with the slow release/controlled release work; continuing push to be more efficient, innovative, new products and new claims. As a result, methods will be needed. Another piece is that sometimes people take methods and apply them to new matrices; need validated. Issues may develop so keep scope in mind and do some work to evaluate for new matrices.

Any needs to have new matrices become part of Magruder program? Do we need a new or separate group for these types of products to verify method performance?

James Bartos asked if biostimulant methodology coming down pipeline are biological or chemical?

Bill said there are some chemical tests but not necessarily elemental chemical tests. There will be a separate group for microbiologicals. Europeans have this as part of their plans. Some are not used to this type of regulatory structure with claims on products. Some will be organic chemistry rather than inorganic. There is some methodology available for humic testing; incumbent upon stakeholders to come up with best method.

Frank referred to Chat comments:

Jack Schmansky – need consistency of available P methodology, in organics, for example.

Will try to put these on next agenda to get some work underway

James Felizola – In my opinion, Biostimulant labeling will fall under the responsibility of AAPFCO because these ingredients will continue to be claimed on fertilizer labels.

Bill – There are biostimulants that are standalone and some to be applied to fertilizer. Does the method still work when applied to fertilizer (great method question)?

Wendy Zellner – There is little guidance from FDA on testing methods for PGRs and I feel this is the same for biostimulants. We are working on validating MALDI-TOF and immunoassays for PGRs. With new technology, such as Minlon and RNAseq that is becoming affordable for labs, the use of this for beneficial microbes is an option to explore.

Bill – Will have this captured in minutes, maybe we can have these topics added for this next year. Lots of new technologies not typically in fertilizer analysts wheelhouse. Can work on this.

Masami Goda – Industry is working through Biostimulant Coalition and BPIA on development of methodologies for biostimulants.

James Felizola – Many biostimulant claims made on EU products would be considered PGR claims in the US, and would not be allowed to be made on fertilizer labels, without pesticide registration; and so the subset of ‘fertilizer’ biostimulant claims would be smaller – a bit more manageable.

Sample Prep Study – Frank

Frank gave an update on the Sample Prep Study. Tim Fau and Frank Sikora organized a sample prep study to determine what the error was in sample prep (error in splitting and grinding). Cannot measure with Magruder since samples are all ground.

Frank will be getting reports out to individual labs later this month.

Administrative Update – Frank

See Magruder Administrative Update by Frank Sikora Powerpoint presentation

Updating New Method Codes - Frank

Method codes – code that defines the method used by the lab. Currently have methods as pdf static list. Would like to propose having method codes like the feed testing program does. Showed demo from FASS data reporting code. Have a non-static list tied to database so it is updated according to the data reporting program. Would be a better way of presenting method codes and would match what is available for reporting results. Can sort alphabetically or numerically.

James asked if any of the lists are searchable? Frank said you can sort alphabetically. Sharon said you can also hit control F to search by method number or analyte. Bill emphasized that everyone should be using the most accurate code (especially if using the new methods). That way we can maximize the number of labs in the reporting and evaluate method performance.

Frank asked about a motion to move forward with talking to FASS about doing this. Sharon asked how much it might cost. Frank will get a quote and the committee will discuss further afterwards.

Web server changes – see Powerpoint slides

Number of labs reporting – see graph (70-105 range); no samples due to covid-19 (200611)

Reporting is down for Turf Fert w/Si and 8-5-5 organic

Number of active clients (125-141 range); some shipping is restricted to some international labs

Number of paid clients (0-135 labs range; currently 123 paid labs)

Active labs = 141; US public = 43; US private = 37; International = 61

Will resume discussion after break.

15 minute BREAK

Frank provided clarification on unpaid accounts. He has been sending out notices but has not stopped sample shipments this past year (due to shipping restrictions and the pandemic). There is a lot of uncertainty in this; don't know what the future holds. We bill in October for next year. Need to discuss

further. The ones in the US we can pursue and for the others, we should have a discussion prior to October.

Survey results (46% response rate)– questions included their lab category, what fertilizer materials are preferred for program, what analytical tests are preferred, shipping process, overall ranking (4.4 stars).

Sale of Reserve Samples – Sharon & Frank

Sharon indicated we haven't been as busy as we normally have been; sent several samples out; becoming more regular to send samples out.

Nominating Committee Report – Frank

Reviewed Magruder Class Roster

Everyone agreed to serve on 2023 class

Pending one confirmation on 2024 class list

From Chat:

Solomon Kariuki – Frank have you noticed Robust Stdev differences between organic vs. inorganic samples

Frank said he has not noticed it but it would be good to explore.

Tim said he may not be able to do this for 2024; promoted to another position; will be dealing with feed products, however David Collier will be moving into my old position (may be a possibility for a replacement)

Bill indicated that Sanford Siegel has retired from Anuvia. Teresa Grant has taken another position. Dennis is interested but need a state representative. Could add Dennis Sebastian as replacement for Sanford Siegel. Still need a state person. Maryam Khosravifard from CA would like to be on the committee. Dennis said he will go for 2021.

Bill Hall would like to have Frank Sikora as Chair of Magruder and Job Fugice with IFDC to become vice-chair.

Motion to approve committee roster made by Sharon Webb and seconded by Hugh Rodrigues – motion approved.

Chat:

Matthew Hay – If state spot opens, Oregon would like to have a participant.

David Collier – Good afternoon guys, I should not have any problem filling in for Tim Fau next year. Who should I send my contact info to?

There are several interested folks on wait list for next year (see notes on roster)

Need a new motion for roster list.

Sharon moved to withdraw the old motion and approve updated roster list; Ametra seconded – motion approved.

Validation of AOAC 2017.02, AOAC 2015.18 & 2017.08 Using Mag. Data – Bill & Champions

Bill said he would like to be able to use Magruder data to forward these methods. He asked for a 30 second update from the method champions on where they feel they are with the method and would they like to go forward or wait on Magruder data

James – did collect data; would be satisfactory for AOAC but not for ISO; has adequate samples and labs and just needs to write up

Sharon - has been involved with ISO assessment but will have more time after to focus on project; would like to use Magruder data for this.

Total S – starting to collect more data on these. There is a new champion on this and will discuss with him.

Maryam asked for some clarification on the methods (and scope). Said CA has developed a P and K method (for organic and inorganic) that has been validated independently. Bill said we could get a method code and if enough labs have done the method, could look at data. Ammonium citrate EDTA extraction on hot block and filtration followed by ICP. Bill said we should see how much is similar to James's method. Maryam would like to get some labs to do an interlaboratory comparison. Another option would be to define this a little further and discuss.

Regarding S, Maryam asked how they are doing it and which instrument. There is a journal article that is available to look at.

Use of IA Index – Explanation & Acceptance – Frank/James

Bill asked if there were any updates. No updates. Will include in next newsletter.

Newsletter, Marketing, Advertising, Brochure – Bill

Bill asked for someone to volunteer to put a virtual newsletter together for Magruder. Frank will oversee it and ask for volunteers. Audience to be all of AAPFCO. Anyone interested, get your topics to Frank. Frank said this will be a good outreach for the program. He's thinking twice a year.

James Bartos recommended the newsletter to share information on methods that are performing poorly. Bill said could also add method proficiency.

Bill indicated we will need to update brochures, etc. with new Chair's name. If anyone has an interest in brochures, contact Frank Sikora.

2020/2021 Sample Review/Modification – Bill & Frank

Bill asked if there are any problems related to sample supply, etc. Frank said there is one open slot for fertilizer (December); otherwise is complete. Any suggestions for what someone would like to see, contact Frank.

Public Comment/Input/Issues - Guests

Committee Member's Comments and Issues - Members

Next Steps, Assignments & Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Bill/Group

Sharon Webb thanked Bill for his years of dedicated service to Magruder Committee. Nick Young also thanked Bill for his service.

Motion to adjourn by James Bartos with second by Ametra Berry. Motion approved.

Magruder committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm EST