

**Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force
Subcommittee on Public Policy
December 17, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

In attendance

Matt Beal
Donnie Blake
Norman Goldenberg
Dr. Susan Jones
Cindy Katsis
Mike Katz
Mark Sheperdigian
Rich Stevenson Jr.
Gene Harrington
Bob Rosenberg

The meeting convened at 11:04 am (EST).

The group reviewed the draft White Paper on Bed Bug Related Public Policy. The group liked the format and the brevity of the draft document. They felt it was easy to read and digest.

The group discussed specific aspects of the White Paper such as the order in which the bullet points were listed. The group suggested that the bullets points about 25b/minimum risk pesticides and the requiring of certain settings to retain commercial applicators be moved up. The group also discussed rewording the bullet point about defining bed bugs as “vermin.”

The group strongly supported the concept of statewide bed bug policies, legislation or initiatives as opposed to a patchwork of differing local requirements that often conflict and create confusion in the marketplace. The group also reviewed the five issue specific position papers covering “right to know”/disclosure, government funded research, registering additional pesticides for bed bugs, formation of bed bug task forces, and assigning specific responsibilities to landlords, tenants, and PMPs. The

group suggested changes to the various documents. The group asked that the phrase “Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only” appear in bold lettering at the top of the draft White Paper and draft issue specific position papers.

The group discussed at length two other issues not mentioned in the draft White Paper or issue specific position papers: minimum competency standards for persons performing bed bug related work and mandatory wood destroying insect report type inspections for bed bugs.

Some in the group strongly supported the concept of everyone performing non-chemical bed bug related work (i.e., heat treatment, freezing, canine inspections, etc.) being subject to licensing or other minimum competency standards. Others in the group expressed concern with the concept. The group discussed the difference between “pesticide use regulation” states and “pest management regulations” states and the type of activities subject to oversight or regulation in each. The group agreed that the issue needed more consideration but wanted to wait until the NPMA Bed Bug Best Management Practices was closer to adoption before considering the matter further.

The group unanimously opposed the idea of states requiring WDI report type inspections for bed bugs. Members of the group express concern about increased liability, practical concerns with such an inspection, and the value of such work. The group felt that the industry should fight any such proposals outright.

The group discussed moving up the timetable for completing the White Paper and at least some of the issue specific position papers from March 13-15 NPMA Legislative Day to the February 1-2 Second Federal Government Bed Bug Summit. Members of the group cautioned against moving too hastily and stated that the date of certain events should not influence when the White Paper and associated documents were finalized.

The group agreed that the documents would be revised to reflect the changes discussed during the call and sent back out to the group for review. The group also discussed holding one last conference call before the January 5-7 meeting in Denver to finalize the various draft documents for the Denver meeting.

The group adjourned at 11:55 am (EST).

