



Current Issues and Outreach Committee Report/Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

9:00 – 10:15 PM

San Antonio, Texas

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

ASSOCIATION ACTIONS:

None

Committee Participants:

Members Present: Richard Ten Eyck, Chad Linton, Ben Jones, Meagan Davis, Steve Gramlich, Kent Kitade, Tim Lyons, Jennifer Godwin and Ali Kashani.

Advisors Present: David Ailor, David Dzanis, David Fairfield, David Meeker, Matthew Gibson Scott Ringger and Kurt Gallagher.

Committee Report/Minutes:

With approximately 295 attendees present, Ali Kashani opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees. Ali then invited and encouraged members, advisors and guests to submit agenda topics for discussions for future meetings and to contact him if there were suggested changes to the committee make-up. He requested all committee members and advisors to complete a survey questionnaire he had forwarded earlier by email on the current committee structures and changes made in 2010.

Anita MacMullan, Agriculture Program Specialist with North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services made a presentation. Ms. MacMullan provided information on Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) of 2011 and the proposed implementing rules with a focus on State implementation activities currently underway under the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) FSMA Technical Working Group (TWG).

The NASDA FSMA TWG was established in 2013 under the direction of the NASDA Food Regulation Committee and operates under the leadership of Bob Ehart, NASDA Senior Policy Advisor and Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. The TWG is consist of approximately 70 members from 23 State Departments of Agriculture, NASDA, Association of American Feed Control Officials, Association of Food and Drug Officials and International Food Protection Training Institute and

currently has two main focus areas: developing comments to the proposed rules and drafting a state FSMA operational plan. The TWG prepared comments for all 7 original and 4 supplemental proposed rules that identified overarching concerns, specific issues and included proposed revised language. The TWG is prepared to conduct a review and analysis of the finalized regulatory language following the release of the final rules in 2015 and 2016. The state FSMA operational plan is currently under development and outlines the components, processes and best practices for the development of a state FSMA inspection program. While the initial focus is on the produce safety rule, the elements of the operational plan will have application to other FSMA rules such as the animal food preventive controls rule. Development on the operational plan is ongoing with a strong emphasis on collaboration and cooperation among state agencies and with FDA. Once completed, the operational plan will assist in establishing uniformity and consistency among state regulatory programs in FSMA implementation efforts.

Meeting adjourned at about 10:15 am.