

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Tuesday, April 07 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Russ Evans
Peter Gamache
Chuck Rice
Dave Brandt
Blair McClinton

Agenda:

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Message Committee report

- Review draft brochure

Operations Committee report

- Draft proposal for AGCO...need statement, what are we asking for?

Member updates

Message Committee

Brochure – no pink/peach line...change to brown. Pictures are fuzzy. Replace front picture. Check with Brian. Dave talk with Randall. Add CASA web site. Make pledge an insert sheet.

Operations Committee

Finalize letter over Karen's signature. Dave will add another letter with his signature. Will send to local dealership, planter division lead and executive vice president.

Bill K submitted two abstracts for poster presentations to SWCS.

Need more details on August CASA meeting – opportunity to invite funding groups to see CASA and give \$\$

Member Updates

Dr. Rice gave briefing to senate ag committee on carbon sequestration. Sen. Specter's staff dominated questions. Next week go to Soil Science Society of American briefing on house and senate on carbon sequestration.

Met with World Bank in Jan; want more international activity on ag markets, carbon credits. Needs push to inform delegations from other countries. Brazil, China, African – increase awareness that ag has something to offer. Ag and forestry seem to be left out of discussion of mitigation opportunities. Copenhagen meeting (second round of Kyoto) Nov/Dec. CASA could help get this going, reach out to CA orgs in those countries. IPCC reported highlighted value of ag.

Ohio No-Till Council – Annual field day Sept 1 in Delaware County, Ohio. 60-acre wheat field with cover crop; planting late corn to show guidance and sprayer technology; soils pit; attachments to make no-till work better for corn planters and drills. Expecting 250 attendance. Norm Widman will be key speaker. Delaware SWCD, NRCS, City of Columbus working on water quality trading; having event close to field day.

Reduced Tillage LINKAGES: Conservation energy and efficiency survey – getting field data and cooperators in place. Will provide small flow meter to producers. Evaluate HOLOS greenhouse gas calculator. Will be closing organization in August 2009. Thinking about transition and who will take over things.

PNDSA: Dealing with CRP take out. 750,000 acres coming out of contract over next 5 years. Met with NRCS and FSA; neither committed to doing anything. Working with Hans Kok to develop BMPs to taking out CRP with direct seeding. Tour on June 29-30 in Spokane-Central Idaho, includes evening panel discussion. Dealing with carbon issues and keeping ag involved with trading.

SSCA: Attended Canadian consultation on Copenhagen negotiations related to agriculture, forestry and other landuse. (Information attached) Looking for discussions on ag's role in carbon trading, leading up to Copenhagen. Lot of interested in govt and other groups in moving this forward. Still groups that object to sinks in general. International development agencies (World Vision, CARE) are on ag's side. Contact at World Vision:

Christopher Shore

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Also involved with Landscape Transformed conference Landscapes Transformed: The Quiet Triumph of Conservation Tillage and Direct Seeding
<http://www.kis.usask.ca/CTConference.html> – evolution of conservation tillage in Canadian prairies. Papers will be posted on a web site (peter will send link). Funding approval to resample benchmark sites (100 sites, thru eco regions in Saskatchewan) tracking carbon stock changes; will begin next spring. Released journal -- www.PrairieSoilsandcrops.ca. One issue published per year. \$15/year. Planning next conference for Feb 11-12, 2010. National Soil Conservation Week is April 19-25, 2009.

CTIC: Need nutrient management success stories for our Upstream Heroes information campaign. Conservation In Action Tour will be July 29, 2009 in Moline, Illinois. Submitting a proposal to EPA Office of Pesticides to get funding for CASA.

Next Steps:

- Send photos to KS for brochure
- KS finalize brochure
- KS finalize proposal for AGCO and send to Dave
- Dave write own letter and send proposal to AGCO
- Chuck send email on what is needed to move ag carbon trading forward; Message Committee to take lead