

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Karen Scanlon
Blair McClinton
Sjoerd Duiker
Russ Evans
Peter Gamache
Brian Lindley

Agenda:

Message Committee Report

Pulling together definitions of conservation agriculture. Exchanged emails and information. Next teleconference on July 11 at 11am.

Question arose about whether CASA should define "sustainability" or leave it alone. Concerns about Leonardo Academy's effort and standards it is developing. Peter says his group doesn't have official position. Thinks there is confusion about what term means. If there is concern and it is being pushed by another agenda, then CASA should consider publishing own definition. Russ thinks better to be proactive. Blair says in his area it's a non-issue. When using "sustainability" in farm community, its perceived as economic not environmental issue. Useful to make our own definition and make other people respond to it, as opposed to accept something another group has developed. Brian agrees. Sjoerd doesn't get into fight over definition. In Pennsylvania, term "sustainable" been hijacked by organic community. Makes sense for CASA to define the term and the network's purpose related to it.

Ask message committee to explore sustainability issue/definition on next teleconference.

Operations Committee Report

Teleconference on July 3 (Brian L, Peter G, Dave B). Made recommendations to establish sub committees (1) develop by-laws [Jason Bergtold, Dave, Brian, Peter] by Aug 8 draft to committee, full approval by CASA members by Sept 1; (2) identify potential funding sources (corporations, agencies, etc) through letters; have list by July 18; send letters by July 25; (3) develop and distribute CASA Pledge [Brian Noyes, Alan Ness, Bill Kuenstler, Randy Raper, Randall Reeder, Karen Scanlon], draft due by Aug 1, approval by full CASA network by Aug 14

2008 CASA meeting

Set for Oct. 31, after Conservation Ag Carbon Offset Consultation. Will work on agenda and promotion. CASA members will attend Consultation and offered to provide assistance.

Level of Involvement

Core group of CASA members will encourage other member organizations to increase participation and active involvement. Discussed installing requirement for participation to be a CASA member.

Sjoerd -- May not want to “kick out” groups that aren’t active. Perhaps create regional meetings to make it easier for CASA members to participate.

Operations Committee to look at CASA structure and levels of involvement. Now, we need to communicate need for involvement as this network is developed.

SD: could Operations Committee form sub-committee to provide input to research communities on conservation agriculture priorities.