

Draft

Minutes of the
Research Advisory Panel
October 4, 2007

The meeting was held on Thursday, October 4, 2007, at the Structural Pest Control Board, 1418 Howe Avenue, Suite 18, Sacramento, California, commencing at 10:21 AM with the following members constituting a quorum:

Cris Arzate
Nita Davidson
Mary Louise Flint
Michael Lawton
Jim Steffenson

Board Staff Present:

Kelli Okuma, Executive Officer
Susan Saylor, Assistant Executive Officer
Karen Costley, Staff Services Analyst

The meeting was delayed until 10:21 AM pending the arrival of all panel members.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Saylor read the roll call.

ELECTION OF RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL CHAIRPERSON

Jim Steffenson was unanimously elected as chairperson.

DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION OF SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

The Research Advisory Panel (Panel) reviewed and evaluated proposal submitted in response to the Solicitation Notice for the control of a specific structural pest or type of structural pests which is/are of concern to structural pest control licensees and California consumers of structural pest control services. The term "structural pest" is intended to include non-cropland pests which invade or damage structures or its contents, or which have a harmful effect on the health or welfare of inhabitants of structures. The panel made the following recommendations:

1. University of California, Berkeley Dr. Vernard Lewis

"Field Evaluations of Localized Treatments for Controlling Drywood Termite Infestations in California." Term of proposal submitted was for two years with costs of \$399,544.

Recommendation:

Dr. Vernard Lewis and Dr. Michael Rust submitted similar proposals regarding evaluations of localized treatment for drywood termites. Thus, the Panel felt a comparative review was important.

The Panel believed that Dr. Lewis' proposal had a stronger field study component. The Panel recommended that Dr. Lewis be awarded the fieldwork component, however, the Panel also recommended reducing the number of chemical active ingredients (AI's) tested from ten (10) to the most commonly used five (5) AI's because these are the most commonly used by the industry. The Panel also recommended eliminating the third component, which would have evaluated previously treated structures to determine efficacy of previously treated properties. This component was eliminated because the Panel believed it is impossible to determine exactly how the structure was previously treated without having been present at the time of treatment, and questioned the sound scientific data that could be derived from this component of the study.

The term of the contract was reduced to 11 months, with total costs reduced to \$189,441.

2. University of California, Riverside Dr. Rust

"Evaluation of Chemical Localized Treatment of Drywood Termite Control." Term of proposal submitted was for two years with costs of \$129,273.

Recommendation:

The Panel recommended that Dr. Rust's proposal be awarded the laboratory component of the research proposal. The Panel felt that Dr. Rust's and Dr. Lewis submitted similar proposal regarding evaluations of localized treatment of drywood termites and felt a comparative review was important. Therefore, the Panel recommended that Dr. Rust be awarded the laboratory component of his proposal.

The term of the contract was reduced to 14 months, with total costs reduced to \$73,964.

3. University of California, Riverside Dr. Klotz

"Developing Low Risk Management Strategies for Argentine Ants." Term of proposal submitted was for three years with costs at \$244,363.

Recommendation:

The Panel expressed concerns with quality control variables, i.e. different pressures of water, different ground surfaces, different distances of runoff from source to gutter. While not opposed to the proposal and its results, the panel did express concern regarding experimental design issues. The panel was also not convinced that the third-year element was necessary to the desired end results.

The Panel recommended reducing the contract term from three years to two years based on concerns shared with Dr. Klotz as to the relevancy of the use of barriers to prevent runoff. The Panel also recommended reducing the numbers of chemicals being

monitored to better reflect only those products being used in the structural pest control industry and also recommended reducing the monthly monitoring intervals.

The term of the contract was reduced to two years, with total costs reduced to \$119,923.

Mary Lou Flint moved and Cris Arzate seconded to recommend funding of all three research proposals at the reduced levels of objectives, time and costs. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 PM.