

MINUTES OF THE
IPM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD
April 6, 2012

The meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2012, at Structural Pest Control Board, 2005 Evergreen Street, Lake Tahoe Room, Sacramento, California, commencing at 10:04 A.M. with the following members present:

Darren Van Steenwyk, Chairperson
Dave Tamayo
Caroline Cox
Nita Davidson
Bob Rosenberg

Board staff present:

Bill Douglas, Interim Executive Officer
Susan Saylor, Assistant Executive Officer
Ronni O'Flaherty, Staff Services Analyst

Departmental staff present:

Nita Davidson, IPM Program Representative

ROLL CALL

Mr. Douglas read roll call. Luis Agurto, Jim Steed, and Mike Rust were not in attendance. There were no public attendees at any of the locations.

OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING IPM CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Van Steenwyk stated that since the last committee meeting the committee has received legal input regarding the Board defining "certification". He stated that as soon as a pest control technician discusses IPM, there is currently enough in regulation to pursue and enforce any misleading claims. He summarized the legal opinion received that the Board can not endorse a certain program, company, or certification program standards over another. He added that if the committee wants "certification" to really mean something then they would have to put standards into regulation. He suggested not adding a definition of "certification" into regulation because there are several other certification programs available that pest control companies can participate in that have

nothing to do with IPM. He added that he is afraid to put too many limitations on the term so that they would affect these other certification programs.

Mr. Tamayo asked Mr. Van Steenwyk what other types of certification programs are available that may be affected.

Mr. Van Steenwyk responded that Pest Control Operators of California have Africanized Honey Bee and Master Termite Inspector certifications.

Dr. Davidson suggested that the committee define “3rd party IPM certification” rather than just “certification”.

Ms. Cox commented that since this is not a controversial issue at this time that creating a definition would be easy.

Mr. Tamayo stated that he would like to see this committee make a recommendation to the Board that the lack of a definition for “certification” could potentially tie their hands in the future should a bogus certification program come along and that it is desirable to have a legit certification.

Mr. Douglas stated that with DPR, legal has not been participating in committee meetings but if the Board goes back to DCA, legal counsel will be present at the committee meetings.

Mr. Rosenberg commented that the Board already addresses the committee’s concerns with their definition of IPM and the regulations in place regarding false and misleading advertising. He questioned the Board’s authority to certify a certifying program and what standards would be required to do so. He added that what is being proposed is extremely unnecessary and suggested developing outreach materials to help consumers choose a company for IPM service.

Mr. Douglas stated that Mr. Rosenberg is correct in that the Board can not endorse any person, company, or program.

Mr. Tamayo stated that it is hard to justify the effort it would take to add a definition of “IPM certification” when there are currently not any problems with IPM misrepresentations. He suggested that the committee does not draft any regulation at this point.

Dr. Davidson stated that she receives a lot of phone calls from consumers looking for green services and asked if the Board could put something on the website to direct people towards these certification programs.

Mr. Douglas responded that the Board is unable to endorse any person, company, or program.

Mr. Tamayo asked if the Board has the ability to recommend to consumers what to look for in a certification program.

Mr. Douglas stated that a fact sheet could be put together, similar to the Termite Fact Sheet that is currently on the website.

Ms. Saylor stated that these fact sheets contain information to the consumer in regards to what to look for and what questions to ask.

Mr. Rosenberg agreed with the suggestion to create a fact sheet for consumers because there is a lot of confusion in the marketplace and there are a lot of technicians that claim to do IPM that are not certified but can still provide a legit IPM service.

Mr. Tamayo suggested making a recommendation to the Board to direct staff to draft a fact sheet to be placed on the Board's website.

Mr. Van Steenwyk summarized that the committee recognizes that there is no definition in place for certification but due to the lack of current need and resources that the committee recommends that the Board works with Mr. Tamayo to develop a fact sheet as outreach.

Mr. Tamayo offered to draft the recommendations for the committee to recommend to the Board.

Mr. Douglas stated that there must be another meeting for the committee to approve the draft recommendations.

Dr. Davidson stated that there are already California specific fact sheets available.

Mr. Tamayo stated that he is discussing drafting recommendations to present to the Board, not actually draft the fact sheets.

Ms. Cox asked if she could write a letter to the Board.

Mr. Douglas responded that writing a letter to the Board would be appropriate.

Mr. Van Steenwyk asked Mr. Tamayo to move forward with drafting the recommendations of the committee to present to the Board.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Mr. Van Steenwyk stated that he would like to present the committee's recommendations at the next board meeting on April 25 and suggested having the next committee meeting on April 23 or 24.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

Darren Van Steenwyk, Committee Chairperson

William Douglas, Interim Registrar / Executive Officer

DATE