PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 19, 2009, Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
1001 I Street
Sierra Hearing Room, Second Floor
meeting notes for the last agenda item only

Agenda item
Discussion of the results of consultant interviews with PMAC members on improving the committee's role and functions (facilitated by Joseph McIntyre, The Akous Group).

Ground rules for meeting
Listen for Opportunity
Respect Diversity
Suspend Certainty
Share All Relevant Info

Highlights from PMAC report
- Clear focus to guide PMAC committee toward specific outcomes
- Clear communication between PMAC and DPR
- Ability to proactively work on important and impending Pest Management issues
- A meeting structure that enables members to have deep dialogue, problem solving, and take advantage of PMAC members' expertise

Question: Is there an opportunity for PMAC to do more than perform the grant review committee role?

PMAC member responses
Use PMAC members as communication channel
DPR could bring PMAC challenges to solve (short and long term issues)
DPR could involve PMAC early on issues that are coming up
PMAC members find it very valuable to get input from other members and to understand different perspectives
Relax/remove consensus expectation of PMAC members
Would like to structure PMAC meetings for more free flowing dialogue
PMAC could do more work in subcommittees
PMAC should be driven by what DPR needs
Would like to have DPR vision/outcomes out in front to guide our work

PMAC does best when we look at long range/vision not detailed implementation
PMAC could evaluate DPR's effectiveness
PMAC could focus on innovation
PMAC could focus on most pressing issues
DPR could use us for problem solving – we can identify certain issues & problems that we can impact

PMAC member comments & questions
Does DPR need or want this committee to do more? Is DPR willing to change the constitutional or regulatory structure to do so?

Since DPR exists to serve the public, doesn't PMAC exist to serve the public?

The consensus structure gets in our way. If we don't have to come to consensus or vote, we won't have to feel like we have to get our point across or feel like we are not fairly represented. We can then have a discussion, with the understanding that DPR will make decisions based on our input from those discussions.

Does PMAC have the right kind of people who can balance this difficultly?

Use the Strategic Plan & 21st Century document concepts to drive/guide/focus PMAC to work on Pest Management outcomes

Use email to communicate updates to PMAC members. Members could use this to make recommendations about agenda items.

Ask some PMAC members to serve as an advisory committee beyond the statutory grant review process. Could use "floating members" to fulfill this role.

Instead of PMAC members meeting more often, perhaps we can look at strategies to build relationships and get to the heart of what is important, so that we can work better together.

How can DRP best use PMAC?
DPR could really benefit from an opportunity to put forward more complex issues and have a body to help us deal with rule making, legislative oversight and direction.

DPR is not looking to create another venue for lobbying positions; we have several groups that work well for that function.

Within DPR there is a tension point where we are looking for a level of assurance and commitment from PMAC stakeholders to come to a resolution that is in the public's interest, and not for any particular constituency. Currently, DPR has little confidence in this happening because it has not been successful with these conversations or experienced a candor that moves us beyond positions.

We hope that DPR reflects the best interests of California and the body politic.

Does the way (DPR or PMAC) are organized affect us?

DPR has not done a good job in letting PMAC members know we heard you, and communicating our decisions.

DPR may need to open up to the idea that dialogue may be more effective than consensus decision from PMAC.

DPR Online list serves and announcements, 8-10 news releases, online list serves
Rule making calendar

Joseph McIntyre asked PMAC members: What are the top five things that would make the next meeting of PMAC more effective and serve the needs of DPR?

PMAC member responses
DPR could provide updates in writing
Each PMAC meeting could identify 1-2 overarching issues; we could then have in-depth discussions
Alternate PMAC meetings to focus on Ag Issues and Urban issues
Create a 2009 Priority list – 3 things this group has the talent to address
Look at list of issues from PMAC interviews report, tackle one at a time, bring in presenters, etc
Meet more than 4 x a year (consider conference and webinar call formats)
PMAC meetings could have clear desired outcomes articulated by DPR
DPR could provide reference materials prior to PMAC Meetings
DPR could be more focus on grant funding
PMAC meetings could be structured to encourage give and take dialogue
A facilitator would help us have meaningful dialogue
PMAC meetings could be longer meeting with lunch break (doesn't work for all members)