

Premium Standard Farms  
Community Advisory Panel  
Meeting Minutes: 6/24/04

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ron Hinds, Robert Rathe, William Schnelle, Dave Thomas, Jack Tucker, Mark Yungeberg

**ALSO PRESENT:** Debbie Hinds, Kathy Rathe, Mary Schnelle, Diane Thomas, Linda Tucker, Cindy Yungeberg; from PSF – Wendy Bradley, Kelly Busker, Erin King, Jason Helton, Bill Homann, Jeff Hill, and John Meyer.

A CAP member appreciation dinner began at 6:00 p.m. CAP members and their spouses as well as representatives from PSF were in attendance. The formal meeting began at approximately 7:00 p.m. and Ron Hinds was elected chairman of the meeting. On behalf of the group, Ron thanked the company for the meal and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide input to the company and the sharing of information.

### **Approval of Minutes**

After review, Robert Rathe moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Jack Tucker, and approved by the group.

### **Hotline Report**

Jason reported two calls to the hotline since the last meeting. One caller claimed a company truck and trailer passed her in a 45 mph zone with on-coming traffic nearly causing an accident. After investigation, including a retired state patrolman as a witness, it was determined the pass did not take place as claimed, no on-coming traffic was approaching, and was not a dangerous situation. The caller was informed of the outcome and seemed pleased that the call was taken seriously and follow-up with her took place. The second call was to report that a truck trailer door was open while traveling on the highway. After investigation, it was determined to be cargo truck hauling new flooring to a farm location. No contact information was left to allow a return call.

Bill Homann reported that two additional calls were received this month that were non-hotline calls but still involved odor complaints. These sort of calls are treated the same as hotline calls where the nature of the situation is investigated and follow-up with the caller takes place. A property owner south of the South Meadows farm called twice and Bill responded to the second call. Bill provided his direct phone numbers and asked the individual to call the next time he felt the odor was objectionable so that Bill could visit. No additional calls have been received since then.

### **Incident Reports**

No incident reports were ready for this meeting. Bill updated the group that a notice of violation was received for release at Terre Haute earlier in the spring. A plug in the barn caused the nursery to back up and some seepage occurred. The majority was caught in the secondary containment although approximately 2000 gallons escaped onto the neighbor's property. The water did not reach any ditches or waterways and the water was contained and properly cleaned up by company crews. The notice of violation was the first received since May, 2002.

A question was asked if the extra rainfall has caused any problems with lagoons or other structures. Bill responded that on a positive note, the lakes are full for the first time in a while. Lagoons do not receive any runoff, just what falls in it. Since land application is reduced or delayed during wet weather, some water has been transferred to other lagoons. Secondary containment structures do catch runoff and that water has to be tested before it is released.

### **Operations Update**

Company CEO John Meyer thanked the group for being part of the CAP which beneficially serves as a conduit to neighbors and communities. He appreciates the opportunity to receive a community perspective and suggestions while sharing company facts and activities honestly and bluntly. John reported that the first quarter was good financially and that production increases have been the best in some time. On a national basis over the last six months, demand for pork is up overall and recent prices have increased 28% while production is up 3% – a rather unique situation. John also updated the group on the status of litigation against the company.

Bill reported that the depop/repop project at Terre Haute is wrapping up for the nurseries. Tests are being conducted to check the cleaning efforts. More focus is being placed on the east side of the company operations for herd health improvement. A question was asked of how the depop activity effects production. Bill responded that it can be a challenge to keep the plant full during the process but through planning and some re-organization, minimal impacts should be seen. Overall better production improves employee attitudes, safety, animal weights, etc. Another question asked if the depop/repop activities were being studied by anyone. Bill stated that the University of Minnesota has been keeping records of the efforts but this case study would not necessarily translate to another farm. Another question focused on whether there is still uncertainty of the depop plan or if the efforts are wasted if the clean sites are contaminated. John responded it is still worth the effort based on results from the west side operations and that even one day PRRS negative results in extra production and benefits.

### **Comments**

Jason informed the group that the groundbreaking for the Crystal Peak fertilizer plant was planned for July 15 and the group will be receiving invitations.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting date was set for 7:00 p.m., July 22, 2004 at the PSF Education Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Helton