

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2008 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Tim Healey
Bill Kuenstler
Jerry LeMunyon
Joel Myers
Sjoerd Duiker
Brian Lindley
Peter Gamache
Karen Scanlon

Agenda:

Message Committee report

Operations Committee report

Member updates

Discussion topic: The top three characteristics of a successful conference. Please think about the critical steps in conference planning and share tips for success (and lessons learned) with fellow CASA members.

Message Committee

Working on principles of CA. Draft will be sent out to the group. With approval, the committee will begin work on a CASA brochure.

Operations Committee

Teleconference on Dec. 2 discussed – immediate need for promotional material supplying information about CASA; make material into downloadable PDF that members can post on web site; SARE contact has moved on, so CASA needs to build relationship with new person in position; who is going to write proposals?; updated list of funding sources; encourage CASA members to work regionally on issues between full CASA meetings; proposed action for CASA to recommend systems approach to research (need more on-farm research based on advancing goals of conservation agriculture), need working paper of what research should look like and direction it should take.

CTIC sending out news release for use by members.

CTIC will continue in its role as coordinator and will submit proposals on behalf of CASA. CTIC has sent idea for funding to Howard G Buffett Foundation.

CASA plays role in helping member groups reach out to other countries.

No-Till on the Plains hosting CAAPAS in August, just after the CTIC tour in July 29.

Member Updates

Reduced Tillage LINKAGES: finished conferences; 200 people attended Direct Seed Advantage with keynote speaker Robert Ruwoldt, Victorian No-Till Association; another 200 attended a different regional meeting. Early January is another meeting. Farm Tech conference is Jan 28-30. Finished series of four Carbon 101 meetings to keep farmers

informed on carbon trading in Alberta (in second year). Provided 25% of offsets needed in market. Coordinated through Alberta environment ministry. Web site, www.carbonoffsetsolutions.ca , includes protocols and more information.

PANTA: Many regional no-till meetings planned for this winter. Franke Dijkstra, one of four pioneering no-till farmers from Brazil, is coming to Pennsylvania (Jan 27, 28, 29) and to PNW. Jill Clapperton will speak at professional crop producers conference., Feb. 17-18 in State College. www.panotill.com has a calendar of events.

NTOP: Working on conference – Jan 27-28. Planning CAAPAS meeting for August 2009. Involved with air quality task force.

Next Steps:

- CTIC final edit on principles
- BL update funding sources table
- Make informational flyer
- Develop letter for initial contact with potential funders
- Develop mission statement
- Pledge on Google docs
- CTIC work on calendar of events to post CASA events and post on web site. Use in addition to CTIC web site calendar.
- Put news release on CASA web site
- Need to update contact list to include cell phone numbers.