Minutes from the ESA Plant- Insect Ecosystem Governing Board Meeting

June 18, 2024

In attendance:

- Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, President; Anjel Helms, Vice President; Tim Nowatzki, Treasurer; Surendra Dara, Past President; Hailey Shanovich, Student Representative; Whitney Crow, Secretary; Monica Farfan, Science Policy Committee; Lauren Diepenbrock; Vice President Elect; Rosina Romano; ESA Liaison.

Business:

- ESA Committee Updates:
  - Science Policy Committee May Update
    - As 2024 is a big election year, ESA SPC representatives are updating ESA’s Transition Documents on key policy priorities that are sent to campaigns, transition teams post-election, and newly elected members of Congress. Current Transition Documents can be found at: https://www.entsoc.org/advocacy-initiatives/science-policy/resources/transition-documents
    - The current Farm Bill under consideration was set to be marked up by the House of Representatives starting 23 May 2024. The Senate has yet to set a date for their mark-up of the Farm Bill. The likelihood of a Farm Bill being signed this year is low making it two years overdue if not signed this year.
    - Highlights from Farm Bill under consideration:
      - SNAP funding will be reduced
      - Title 7: funding to RFA will double money for scholarships for those in food and agricultural science at 1890 universities. More in Title 7 here.
      - Funding to Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) programs will be cut from $21 mil to $3 mil this year. This will affect regional IPM center funding, which is a Farm Bill Priority for ESA.
      - The NIFA Explanatory document with this information can be found here.
  - From ESA Liaison to the EPA, Silvana Paula-Moraes
    - In February, the EPA has released a proposed interim decision (PID) on the cancellation of all but one use of the pesticide acephate. More information can be found here on the repeal. Comments by the public can be made through 1 July 2024 here. The EPA is also making efforts to mitigate use of chlorpyrifos, diazinon, malathion.
    - The EPA plans 2-3 new webinars on new topics including row crops and the acephate repeal. More information coming soon.
    - The Weed Science Society of America & American Phytopathological Society (APS) are collaborating with ESA on a 1-page document on the Endangered Species Act and what EPA is doing to help by mitigating pesticide use.
    - See more information on all these topics in the EPA-OPP Liaison Report website.
  - Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) information
    - Erin Cadwalader, Director of Strategic Leadership & Policy for ESA, met with representatives of the IRAC. Representatives of the pesticide industry are
concerned that private consultants and extension personnel aren’t aware of the extent of the changes EPA is proposing. One can stay in touch by subscribing to the latest news from the EPA: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/forms/contact-epa#subscribe

- You can learn more about ESA and its Policy Initiatives anytime here. As a member, you can also stay up to date through the ESA Science Policy News emailed right to your inbox monthly. Check your email preferences in your ESA account to make sure you receive the Science Policy Newsletter.
  - The P-IE representative to the Science Policy Committee is Monica Farfan, monica.farfan@idiv.de.
  - A summary of the science policy committee update will be added to the next newsletter.

- Entomology Games Committee
  - Preparing for the 2024 entomology games at the annual meeting in November.

- Student Affairs Committee
  - Meeting monthly and are preparing for the upcoming meeting. Hosting a mini workshop and symposia. Student debates registration has been low, trying to determine what to do if there are not enough submissions. New networking event, more details will be available soon.

- Publications Committee
  - Artificial Intelligence committee will be hosting a program symposium at the annual meeting. Entomology AI to aid in research and teaching.

- July Newsletter:
  - Letter from the President
  - Plan to add:
    - P-IE Representative Updates
    - Sketchapod Update/Report: 13 undergrad or graduate students attended.
    - Call for WIG and Tour Proposals.

- ESA Annual Meeting Gifts
  - Design logo has been selected by the Governing Board.
  - Planning to get a mockup of the chosen design on a 16oz travel mug, a swing USB drive, or a pin.
  - Determine the number of gifts that were ordering last year.