Minutes Certification Board, 2005

ESA Annual Conference

December 14, 2005

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Board Members Present on-site

Bob Davis, Director (2006)

Henry Hogmire (EB 2007)

Board Members joining via phone

Greg Cronholm (SWB 2007)

Von Kaster (NCB 2005)

Patrick Weddell (PB 2006)

Stuart Mitchell (Director-elect, resigning in 2005)

Jeff Weier (Past-Director)

Others Present

Mike Merchant

Harold Harlan

Mitch Meehan (North Central Branch representative-elect 2006-2008) (by teleconference)

Robert Clements (Central Florida Duplicating, Inc.)

Judy Black (Director-elect who will serve as Director in 2007)
1. Welcome and Introductions of Participants. Bob Davis called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm, welcoming all and making introductions. Tenures of all members were reviewed (years of expiration listed above). It was noted that Davis and Jeff Weier had been asked by President Ivie to serve in their offices for an additional year, due to the resignation of Stuart Mitchell from the Director-2006 position.

2. Minutes and Old Business. Minutes from 2004 were reviewed and accepted. However some unfinished business from last year was reviewed, specifically, that last year the Board agreed to make the BCE application process electronic, start an “Entchat” process for making and passing motions among Board members, and put the ACE operations manual online. Chris Stelzig was asked and agreed to address these items as soon as possible. Chris predicted that the Entchats feature on the ESA website would be operational by mid-January and that the Board would be the first ESA members to test the new system.

3. Review of BCE Activities at Meeting. Davis then reviewed BCE activities at this year’s ESA meeting. He noted that Syngenta provided funds for this year’s BCE symposium which were used, with permission, to fund the phone conference used this year for this meeting. Mike Merchant noted that thanks were specifically due to Bob Cartwright and Dan Kidder of Syngenta. There will be a table for BCE information at the main entrance to the conference, which Henry Hogmire will be setting up, with the assistance of the Mid-America BCE association.

4. Review of 2005 Awards. Von Kaster reported that this year Neil A. Spomer, of the University of Nebraska, was the recipient of the first BCE student award. The award was made possible by a $600 donation by Springer Pest Solutions, through the efforts of Stuart Mitchell. The award is based on a written essay in addition to accomplishments in the areas of research, service to the society and academic achievements. The committee for choosing the award recipients consists of Von Kaster (Chair: rotating off this year), Henry Hogmire (2 more years), Jack Root (2 more years), Pat Copps (2 years), Rick Brandenburg (1 year), and Scott Russell (ESA Nominations Committee representative). Chris Stelzig was asked to post committee members and tenures online with other BCE committees.

Mike Merchant reported that we did not have a distinguished service to the Certification Board award this year, due to failure to meet the nomination deadline. Next year he plans to nominate Marvin Harris.

5. New Business-Central Florida Duplicating. Bob Davis then introduced guest Bob Clements of Central Florida Duplicating, Inc. who made a proposal to the Board to provide preparatory training for the ACE examination. His company uses Study View/Study Guide technology to provide continuing education programs for pest management professionals. His company currently has 2185 accounts who receive
training using their CD training programs. He presented a two part proposal to the Board, the first of which involved developing a training/preparation CD-based course to prepare ACE candidates to take the ACE exam. He noted that the courses cover a lot of material and help potential candidates to feel more comfortable with exam taking. He would take training material from the study materials provided by the Board. His company would sell the training materials for $300 with BCE receiving 20% of all sales. In exchange he is asking the Board to recommend and make information about the training available to prospective candidates through the ESA website. The second part of the proposal involved BCE also providing information about his CEU training programs to ACEs and Bces in exchange for a 20% cut of any sales to entomologists referred through our recommendation.

The Board discussed the CFD proposals. In general the Board was in favor of considering the first proposal but was not in favor of the second proposal to provide links and information about non-ACE CEU training programs. It was noted that any agreement with CFD would require approval by the Governing Board and time was requested to review examples of CFD training materials to assess whether it was of sufficient quality for ACE to want to use. All agreed that some sort of preparatory training was desirable to overcome what was seen as test anxiety among many prospective ACEs. It was decided to assign review of CFD materials to the Certification Board & possibly the ACE ad-hoc for further recommendations to the Board.

6. **BCE Membership Status.** Membership status was then discussed with Chris Stelzig present. Stelzig noted that there was a slow but consistent downward trend in Board Certified Entomologist numbers. At latest count, there are 384 Bces (ahead of budgeted nos. for 2005) and 46 ACEs (57% of budgeted target of 75 for 2005) with 66 in the application process.

7. **New DMG Staff Liaison.** The Board was introduced to Nick Soto, our DMG contact for the certification program. Chris Stelzig reported that administration of the BCE program was much improved since Nick’s assignment following the departure of Dorcas Thiongo, and that things have never run smoother.

8. **Report from the Governing Board.** Shripat Kamble gave a report from the Governing Board. The GB passed a resolution this year stating that the BCE program should not be required to be self-supporting. This resolution should free the BCE program from concern that it must pay its way in order to justify its existence as a viable ESA program.

Shripat also reminded the Board that the Finance Committee had approved $500 for the BCE symposium in 2005, contingent on matching funds. Bob Davis explained to the group that matching funds had been raised this year to bring a speaker from Europe to this year’s history symposium, but that the speaker had cancelled. Consequently, the program committee dollars were not needed. Shripat recommended that the Board (Bob Davis) write a letter to the Finance Committee explaining the situation so that they understand why funds were not needed this year, so that they might be available for next year.

Shripat also noted that this year BCE was allotted column space in all ESA newsletters and that column
ideas were welcome. Finally, the GB has approved $6000 for BCE marketing activities in 2005.

A committee to look at ways to spend this marketing budget was appointed, consisting of Judy Black, Chris Stelzig and Mike Merchant.

9. Committee Reports

The Professional Maintenance and Certification Committee report was emailed to Bob Davis by Arun Sen. Sen reported that “several” reports had been audited this year and that all had been satisfactory. Bob Davis will attempt to get a more specific report as to numbers of packets reviewed. Sen also recommended some improvements to the PM&C CEU requirements. Phil Sloderbeck agreed to head up a review of PM&C requirements and make recommendations to the Board in time to put these changes in place for next year.

There were no examinations updated this year by the Examining Committee. Shripat Kamble took over as chair of this committee this year with George Schoeler’s resignation. Kamble promised to look at last revision dates and prioritize one additional exam for review this year.

The issue of reviewing renewal packages for ACEs was discussed. The process will start with the renewal information being sent to DMG, along with a FAXed copy of the ACE’s pesticide applicator’s license. DMG will review the information and issue a provisional approval to the entomologist. They will then scan the license and send everything to Stuart Mitchell as head of the ACE ad-hoc committee. He will double check to make sure everything appears in order and email his opinion to DMG. If everything looks OK the approval becomes official. There should be no need to contact the ACE again unless Stuart detects some problem with the application, at which point the ACE would be contacted for more information.

Stuart Mitchell then reported on the ACE committee. The committee consists of Mitchell, Harold Harlan BCE, Forrest St. Aubin BCE, Mike Merchant BCE, and Charlie Morarity ACE. There is space for one more ACE committee member, suggestions for whom Stuart is soliciting. As of the last count he was given, there were 43 current ACEs and 58 applicants who have not yet taken or passed the exam. Some of these applicants took the exam unsuccessfully and are waiting to retake, but most are still preparing to take the exam. The average test score this year was 80% (75% required to pass) and a 21% failure rate. If the test is failed there is a three month waiting period to retest. Mitchell has identified the nine most frequently missed questions and nine questions which were all answered correctly. The ACE committee will review these questions this year and recommend additional questions to be added to the exam.

Chris Stelzig noted that this year we have had our first ACE express interest in applying for BCE status. More are expected to follow.

Harold Harlan moved that the BCE examination fee be waived for current Associate Certified Entomologists, to provide further incentive for ACEs to attain BCE status. The motion was seconded by Henry Hogmire. The motion was then amended by Bob Davis to be retroactive for all ACEs who have
made application for BCE status. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Bob Davis indicated that his first communication to ACEs this year would include information about how ACEs can now go online to update their personal information. All communications with ACE, BCE or ESA members must pass through Chris Stelzig.

10. Other New business. Stuart Mitchell and Ted Granovsky have volunteered to organize the 2006 meeting’s BCE symposium. A title and tentative list of speakers will be needed in January. Also, Chris Stelzig was asked to make the application process electronic this year, following last year’s motion to approve electronic applications. The ESA office and the marketing committee will also look into the feasibility of BCE photo ID cards.

11. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.