



Green Industry Council Forms In Cleveland

Fourteen men, all spokesmen for various organizations within the Green Industry, met in Cleveland, Ohio in mid-November to form the nucleus of a newly organized Green Industry Council.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways for better coordination of and communication between all Green Industry organizations in dealing with aspects of the current environmental situation. Particularly important to the discussion was use of environmental protection chemicals by commercial applicators as it relates to the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA).

Those attending included: John J. Spodnik, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; F. Farrell Higbee, National Agricultural Aviation Association; Philip J. Spear, National Pest Control Association; Hyland R. Johns, International Shade Tree Conference; Leo D. Creed, Public Utility Arborists Association; F. Raymond Brush, American Association of Nurserymen; William P. Lanphear, National

Arborist Association; Edwin E. Irish, National Arborist Association; Albert W. Ray, Michigan Pesticide Applicators Association, Lewis F. Sefton, International Pesticide Applicators Association; Charles Beckwith, Ag. Organic Sales; James A. Sample, WEEDS TREES AND TURF; Arthur V. Edwards, WEEDS TREES AND TURF. Moderator for the meeting was William L. Owen, International Pesticide Applicators Association.

Each man reviewed for the group the activities in which his organization is engaged. In addition, Hyland Johns, who has been active in compiling and assembling information about FEPCA, reported on the current status of pending legislation.

The group summarily agreed that there is a need for more effective lobbying at state and Federal levels. The voice of the Green Industry is generally not being taken into account in matters concerning pesticide use, noise control, air and water programs and other environmental concerns. Also mentioned was the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

Additionally, it was brought out that communications between members needs to be improved within organizations as well as externally. Members of some organizations have had few educational sessions of Federal laws and little or no knowledge of state laws and their impact on the member. Federal legislation adopted and enforced by states could have far-reaching effects on members and their businesses.

Another fact presented was that no one organization was large enough to act as spokesman for the entire Green Industry at this time. Yet, it was pointed out that the tie that binds all organizations together is that nearly everyone uses environmental protection chemicals to one degree or another in his business. The concern about environmental legislation, and specifically pesticides, touches everyone who owns a sprayer.

Thus, the consensus was to form a Green Industry Council which would act as the umbrella organization for all Green Industry associations and organizations. Its function would be advisory, both to the organizations represented — and thus the members—and to those needs affected by current and proposed state and Federal legislation.

The pilot group of 14 proposed a number of ideas to meet the objective of a united Green Industry voice. Better alignment of committee duties within member organizations, contact persons who actively work with state legislative groups, pesticide user conferences at the state level, a formal lobbying organization in Washington D. C. which represents the Green Industry, a challenging public relations program aimed at the consumer, more direct lobbying by Green Industry organizations at the state level, and others were suggestions to accomplish the objective.

Of particular note was a discussion of the Pesticide User Conference (PUC) by F. Farrell Higbee. He said that this informal gathering came about to increase the understanding of pesticide legislation among concerned manufacturers of environmental protection chemicals and member organizations.

It was decided that the Green Industry Council attend a working meeting of the PUC, if possible, to gain a better appreciation of this group. The Council would then meet separately and elect permanent officers and appoint committees.

Temporary chairman of the Green Industry Council is Bill Owen, General Spray Service, Clackamas, Ore.