

CASA Conference Call - January 8, 2008

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance Conference Call Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Karen Scanlon
David Brandt
Brian Lindley
Norm Widman
Peter Gamache
Randall Reeder
Larry Wright
Russ Evans
Alan Ness
Randy Raper

Agenda:

Review results and decisions from December meeting

- o Name
- o What CASA does, doesn't do, who it serves and who it doesn't serve
- o Goals
- o Next steps

Comments about Dec meeting

Brian L: good meeting, got through the name thing, we are moving forward, a very positive step forward. Nice to work with everyone there, put faces to names, gain a deeper understanding of other groups (enjoyed ppts) and their methods, etc. Missed those that couldn't attend.

David B: enjoyed it because it was first time away from home for a long time. Enjoyed name discussion. Talked to council members in OH; they are enthused to get it off the ground and moving forward.

Peter G: enjoyed meeting others. Getting name is catalyst for moving forward. Excited to see how it grows.

Alan N: went to see what we could accomplish. Left more enthused than I thought I would be about pulling alliance together. Neat things it can do for the organizations and good things org can do for alliance. At MANDAK Feb board meeting will share info about CASA.

Russ E: great meeting; expectations were certainly met. Interaction with people from other groups really shows what organization can do and is the "meat" of what we can gain from this organization. Finding out what's happening with other groups. PNSDA board meets Jan 22 and thinks they will be supportive.

Brian L: NTOP had board meeting already. They are really excited about opportunities that may come out of CASA. Very supportive. Sounds like this is going to work this time. Thanks for your efforts and fortitude.

Randall R: good session, well organized, good job moderating and facilitating. Next issue of Ohio's Country Journal (20,000) no-till page says Ohio part of national no-till network.

Randy R: enjoyed interactions. Very impressed with way meeting managed and that reached consensus. Everyone had say and could walk away satisfied.

Review notes/goals from Dec. meeting

Clarified "All CASA members add..." Under "Everyone To Do"

Brian L started letter to CAAPAS and APPRESID that will be submitted to Operations Committee. Enlisting suggestions, definitions, funding structures to learn how they are set up and funded.

Teleconference line in CTIC board meeting to have CASA participants included in discussion of proposal to board.

Russ E: message committee. Need feedback from CAAPAS and others. Plus PNDSA has meeting in 2 weeks.

Funding?
CIG proposal?

Norm W: met with Bill Puckett, new Deputy Chief for science and technology. Most important are rotations, conservation tillage and cover crops

Alan N: what we're doing is new. We can write letters to heads of agencies to explain what we're doing – system – as for earmark grant to get us up and running. Then we can go to private industries to continue to help us.

Russ E: agree with Alan. Other option is foundations around that might like idea of international component of this. Representation on international level that this group proposes to provide. Kellogg Foundation, Bill Gates, Ted Turner?

Randy: SARE grant? From a national perspective? Will contact Jill Auburn to tell her about group and ask for opportunities for support.