

December 12, 2011

Chair and OPM Task Force,

I would like to address the issue of the Town Hall meetings agreed to at the October 18, 2011 Office of Pest Management (OPM) Task Force meeting. For your convenience, you will find videos of the referenced meetings at:

<http://its-our-turn.com/>

under the OPM Task Force button and I will reference the time stamps in each video so you can conveniently go back and listen to everything that was said.

Allow me to start with the October 18, 2011 OPM Task Force meeting.

Near the end of the meeting at 2:11:21, David Burns volunteered to hold Town Hall meetings and to represent the OPM Task Force. Dave Burns said (to Jack Peterson): "If you want to take this on the road, I'll represent this committee on the road." At 2:11:50, Will Rousseau said: "We need industry to be heard..." At 2:12:12, Jack Peterson says: "OK. And we will let everybody know so the small Mom and Pop operations..." At 2:12:18 Jack Peterson turns to me (I am the president of Its-Our-Turn.com) and asks for Its-Our-Turn.com to assist the OPM Task Force in getting the word out. Notice that Jack is leaning way over so he could see me when he asked for our assistance. I agree to help the OPM Task Force and the Department of Agriculture in the notification process at 2:12:18.

Three task force members, consisting of the Jack Peterson (the Chair), David Burns and Will Rousseau, expressed their approval. There was no opposition by anyone on the OPM Task Force, expressing implicit agreement. The Chair acknowledged that the OPM Task Force made a decision to hold multiple Town Hall meetings, to "let everybody know" and to let David Burns make the arrangements for the OPM Task Force.

In a follow-up e-mail to Jack Peterson dated November 17, 2011, Henry asked about OPM sending out a mailing to all license holders. He also asked about OPM putting an official announcement on the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) calendar. The response he received from Jack Peterson was: "The task force had and has nothing to do with the planning or holding of this meeting..." This is clearly not what was decided at the OPM Task Force meeting on October 18, 2011.

Per the video of the October 18, 2011 OPM Task Force meeting, the OPM Task Force clearly sanctioned these Town Hall meetings. The OPM Task Force clearly chose David Burns, as an OPM Task Force member, to organize the Town Hall Meetings for the OPM Task Force. And the OPM Task force clearly chose David Burns to represent the OPM Task Force at these meetings.

Now allow me to move to the November 16, 2011 OPM Task Force meeting.

At 2:37:05, Jay Hinman representing AzPPO (Arizona Pest Professional Organization) announced the time and location of their first Town Hall forum. The Town Hall forum was scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 5:30pm at Univar USA, 2090 E University Drive, Suite 111, Tempe, Arizona 85281, 480-894-5323. Notice that Jay Hinman states: "AzPPO is holding its first Town Hall forum." Strange - this was supposed to be an OPM Task Force Town Hall meeting - the one decided on at the October 18, 2011 OPM Task Force meeting. This is inconsistent with what was decided at the October 18, 2011 OPM Task Force meeting.

Then at 2:37:47 Jack Peterson says: "and I appreciate you doing this. I can't talk about this." What can't you talk about Jack?

I would like to remind you that Dave Burns is a member of AzPPO and past member of the SPCC (Structural Pest Control Commission) Board. David also runs Burns Pest Elimination - one of the larger pest control companies in Arizona. Several AzPPO members have already spoken at OPM Task Force meetings for maintaining their legislated barriers to entry. And two of the three structural pest control "representatives" on the OPM Task Force are AzPPO members.

These actions appear to show that the OPM Task Force is engaging in inappropriate and potentially illegal activities. The OPM Task Force appears to be in cahoots with AzPPO with the potential intent of rigging the results in favor of keeping as much of the status quo for the power hogs as possible.

As OPM Task Force members, you are jointly responsible for these actions. The OPM Task Force made a decision to hold Town Hall meetings and to notify "everyone". Then, without changing that decision in any official capacity, the OPM Task Force and Chairman have apparently reneged on that decision and perhaps behind the scenes and perhaps in violation of Arizona Open Meeting laws arranged for AzPPO to have its own forums without the participation of the OPM Task Force.

A town hall meeting is typically an informal public meeting which gives the members of a community an opportunity to get together to discuss emerging issues and to voice concerns and preferences for their community. A Town Hall meeting is normally organized and run by the governing body and publicized widely. In this case, the OPM Task Force would be the governing body and the pest control industry along with related stake holders would be the community.

Two days out from the announced meeting, there is zero notification of the meeting on the Department of Agriculture's web site. Two days out from the announced meeting, there is zero notification of the meeting on the OPM's web site. Two days out there is zero notification about the announced meeting on the AzPPO web site. On Friday, December 6, 2011, I contacted the Tucson office of Univar and they could not find any information about this meeting on Univar's internal web site where meetings are

normally listed. I also contacted a few PCOs in Phoenix and they have not heard anything about this meeting. In my opinion, there has been a complete and utter failure of the Department of Agriculture, OPM, AzPPO and Univar to proactively notify the Arizona pest control industry at large about this town hall meeting.

Doesn't this smell like the typical underhanded Structural Pest Control Commission culture that we have lived with for the past 30 years? Doesn't this smell like the power hogs doing their best to keep the small businesses in the dark? Is this another public relations tactic put on by special interests to try and manipulate and pollute the process? What can't you talk about Jack? What are you trying to hide?

The OPM Task Force should take full responsibility for the Town Hall meetings you agreed to have. The OPM Task Force should actively publicize the meetings. And the OPM Task Force should attend the meeting - even having a quorum present so the Town Hall meetings are truly official and on the record. The issue here is transparency. Freedom is an ongoing process and I am a concerned freedom fighter.

Sincerely,

Phyllis M. Farenga
Its-Our-Turn.com