



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
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Subject: Minutes of the Environmental Management System Committee Meeting on June 9, 2010
To: ARS Tifton Location Employees
From: Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

The EMS Committee met on June 9, 2010, at 11:00 AM in the CPMRU conference room. T. Snipes, T. Strickland, T. Hendricks, K. Marchant, J. Merriman, T. Maze, R. Scarborough, and P. Timper were the committee members in attendance.

The meeting began by discussing some highlights of the iSHEM conference that was held in Charleston, SC the week of April 26. The acronym, iSHEM, stands for integrated Safety, Health and Environmental Management. The overall theme of the conference was that all of these - safety, health, and environmental management are interconnected. Since EMS was introduced in 2005, Washington has issued many mandates making environmental factors part of everything we do from facilities maintenance to farm operations to laboratory work. The push was for each location to move toward a more integrated approach to safety, health and the environment. Sustainability of programs and greenhouse gas reductions were also big topics during the week.

K. Marchant is currently working on the Annual EMS Awareness training presentation. The committee agreed that it would be a good idea for the presentation to focus on EMS as it relates specifically to the Tifton location. This will give employees clear information of what they should do to support EMS as part of daily operations. The training will likely be scheduled for August with several training dates available in order to accommodate the schedules of all employees.

The committee was updated on the status of the FY10 goals. The incandescent exit signs have been retrofitted with LED bulbs which completes one of the three goals. T. Snipes is working on compiling data to compare the FY09 and FY10 fleets. This will hopefully show an increase in fuel economy following the massive fleet purchases at the end of FY09. R. Scarborough agreed to start work on summarizing the recommended temperature limits for all buildings.

P. Timper updated the committee on the next issue of the environmental newsletter, The Green Gazette. It was suggested that as part of the iSHEM movement that we include some safety and health issues from time to time in the newsletter.

Lastly, the suggestion was made to designate each committee member with a particular aspect of EMS. They would be the contact person for that particular aspect and would be responsible for goals, etc. that are associated with their assigned aspect. For instance, one committee member might represent energy, another might be recycling, and another could represent water conservation. Since we are being required to do more each year this would distribute the work load more evenly and create more accountability of committee members.

The next meeting of the Location EMS Committee will be tentatively scheduled for late July 2010.



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