

Bob reported that he is organizing a fly-in of member directors on June 26 to meet with White House and USTR officials to discuss Doha; Farm Bill; and, Liberty Link.

V. Program Area Updates

International Trade Policy

Bob gave an update on the DOHA talks and said Secretary Johanns and Ambassador Schwab are trying to bring a deal together before the summer break.

International Promotion

Jim Guinn reported that he has a meeting scheduled with FAS administration and his senior staff on July 10. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce Betsy, talk about PL480 title I sale to the Philippines, greater focus on Title II as directed by the RMA Board of Directors, and trade issues including a ban on rice exports to Russia. Hartwig is traveling there to discuss getting US rice back into the country.

The International Promotion Committee (IPC) is working on the issue of rice brands and varieties are promoted. Chairman John Valpey has asked the IPC subcommittees to hold conference calls to discuss the issue and bring recommendations to the IPC meeting in Dallas in order to present recommendations to the Federation Board of Directors for resolution.

He is working to set up an Import Task Force meeting prior to the July business meetings.

Member Services

Trish Alderson reported that the USA Rice Millers' Conference in the Bahamas concluded with attendance of more than 400. An evaluation is being sent to participants.

The 2007 USA Rice Outlook Conference will be held at the Buena Vista in Orlando, Florida in December. The room block is open and ready for members to make reservations.

Session II of the Rice Leadership Development Program will be held next week. The itinerary includes meetings with members in Arkansas as well as visits to sponsor John Deere's headquarters in Moline, IL, and to the Chicago Board of Trade.

Domestic Promotion

Anne Banville reported that the 2005-06 Domestic Usage Report showing rice shipments to market channels will be released in July.

She reported that USDA is expected to release the new rule on Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program in September, and that it is expected to include brown rice as an alternate whole grain choice. Staff will meet with USDA to request information on the specifications for brown rice and will inform rice companies.

Communications

David Coia reported that staff is working on the new *Rice Notes* brochure that will include rice facts about U.S. Rice. He asked that USA Rice board members notify him about receiving copies. Chairman Montna asked David to send an e-mail to the BOD reiterating the request.