



Inspector Training Committee Report
August 22, 2023
Whitney Peak Hotel
Reno, NV

On 08/22/23, the Inspector Training Committee met at the Whitney Hotel, Conference Room 3, at 11:00am. The meeting was scheduled to end at 12:00pm, but the conversation lasted until approximately 12:30pm. Present at the meeting were: Dave Huber (VT), Brian Kennedy (AZ), Janine Runfalo (CO), Dave Harris (MN), and Christine Wicks (MN). Dave Huber reported the Committee's discussion to the Board.

1. Cost was confusing to some Agencies.

The first part of the conversation revolved around the confusion that some state Agencies had regarding the cost of sending an inspector to the ASPCRO Inspector Training. The email sent out to members talked about a "nomination process" and apparently many members immediately thought of PREP and PIRT, both of which are training courses where all expenses are covered by the Agency. For this Inspector Training, registration was covered but not travel or lodging. Potentially, the Planning Committee can check hotels for adequate IT capabilities for hybrid training in case states wish to have their staff trained but not incur the costs of travel and lodging. The Committee recognizes that in-person trainings are important for networking, to provide a mechanism for allowing inspectors to take part in regular policy discussions that they might not otherwise be privy to, and that this topic may have been discussed in the past, but the Committee also recognizes that more and more trainings are moving to the hybrid model.

Alternatively, the Inspector Training could be separate from the ASPCRO Annual Meeting and made into a series of presentations (1 presentation every 2 months) to ensure that staff aren't overwhelmed with trainings during their busy season and not to sit for an entire day for a full-day training. Potentially, these bi-monthly meetings could be recorded and hosted on ASPCRO's website for members to view later.

2. Competition with PREP/PIRT

The Inspector Training has to compete with other free training courses. The Inspector Training needs to be marketable and perhaps made specific to structural inspectors. Maybe industry officials would be amenable to training inspectors on what best management practices are in their line of work.

For a prime example of why we need to be competitive with free training, Jay Kelley presented on a topic at the Inspector Training that he will be presenting to PREP next week. PREP will reach a wider audience and is free. We need to stay competitive.

3. ASPCRO survey for inspectors

The Committee wishes to create a survey for ASPCRO members about how to get a more robust and well-rounded training that allows inspectors to say “Wow! I learned a lot and can’t wait to bring this information back to my Agency.” Perhaps our survey asks inspectors what cases they had this past year that presented a challenge and they wished they knew more about, what cases were lost that could have been won with better inspector skills, or what structural pest problems are present in their state that they want to know more about.

The Committee posed two questions to the Board upon reporting out:

1. What is the ultimate goal of the Training?
2. Is networking and in-person attendance more important than disseminating the information?

End report.