

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Teleconference

**September 17, 2013
10:00-11:00am**

Chair, Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH)

**Members: Tim Phipps (WV), Fred Servello (ME), Gary Thompson (PA),
Bob Schrader (MA) and Bill Hare (DC)**

1. Request to approve the Multistate Coordinating Committee proposal NE_TEMP2141: Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]

Discussion: Well written and an important project that has been going on for many years. Change CSREES references to NIFA. Need to update their participation list, and complete the Appendix E's in NIMSS.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

2. Request to approve the Multistate Coordinating Committee proposal NE_TEMP2142: Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]

Discussion: Basically, an information exchange group and activities are well defined. Change CSREES references to NIFA. Need to update their participation list, and complete the Appendix E's in NIMSS. Industry involvement could be more specific, who are they involved with and who are participating. Corn is an important issue, e.g. bio-improvement, genomics, etc. and would be good to mention current research activities in this area.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

3. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Hydrogeology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1038]

Discussion: Well written and needs for research are well defined. Area will be increasingly become more important. Project members need to make clear in their proposal the extensive ecological literature done on vernal pools and how it impacts what they propose to do.

Action: Recommends approval of the request to write a proposal.

4. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1041]

Discussion: Well written. Good focus on best management practices for private small horse farm owners. Major issue is compliance and appropriate outreach program will be addressed in proposal.

Action: Recommends approval of the request to write a proposal.

5. NRSP Review Committee Report

Discussion: For existing projects, midterm reviews were all good, NRSPs4-6-9 and were recommended to continue. All regions strongly behind renewal of NRSP8. All NRSPs will be voted on, but will be discussed in detail at the NERA meeting next week before the directors vote.

There's a new NRSP proposal, "*Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research*" (Sept. 2014-Oct. 2019) on the table, but will not make this round of review. It will be considered at the 2014 spring meeting.

Increase for the FY2014 for NRSP1 to support a fulltime impacts writer was not supported by all regions and not recommended by the NRSP-Review Committee. Accomplishments are good and impact statements have been widely used and distributed, but some members of the NRSP-RC did not feel the request for increase appropriate when budgets are being cut due to sequestration.

Action: Revisit NRSP-RC recommendations at the NERA meeting, particularly for NRSP1.

6. 2014 NERA Planning Grant

Discussion: Award has been changed to \$5000 for 2014. Will this affect the incentive factor?

We should require *good focus and vision* of research and extension activities rather than *specific and well defined* as we would expect them to have in the planning stage. RFA will be revised accordingly.

Action: Discuss at our NERA meeting and get feedback from directors on the award amount being reduced to \$5000. NERA directors will vote to approve the release of the 2014 NERA Planning Grant and the award amount.

7. Use of multistate funds for Coordinating Committees and ERA's

Discussion: Regional EDs and NIFA program staff have been discussing the use of funds for CC's and ERA's. REEport is not allowing these types of expenditures. There are broader issues involved as it's important that directors are aware that we have the administrative project NE59-Multistate Research Coordination, that can be used to cover travel of faculty participating in CC's and ERA's. They need to make sure that their associated station administrative project is still active.

Another REEport issue involves Extension participants with joint appointments. They have to be reported as AES in NIMSS so they'll appear in the REEPort. This is a temporary but not ideal way that multistate research and Hatch funds (e.g. salaries, tech. support, labs, etc.) can be expended and reported in the REEport.

Action: Important to share this with the directors at the NERA meeting next week.