

# NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

**October 16, 2019 8:00 am – 9:00 am**

Web/Mobile: <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008> Phone: (646) 558-8656  
(access code 571 774 3008)

**In attendance:** Bradley Hillman (Chair – Rutgers), Matt Wilson (WVU), Eric Wommack (Delaware), Pat Vittum (NEED – UMass), Rick Rhodes (NERA – Ex-officio), David Leibovitz (NERA – Ex-officio)

1. Reviewed projects to be approved
  - NECC\_TEMP1901 (Integrating Genomics and Breeding for Improved Aquaculture Production of Molluscan Shellfish, AA – Eric Wommack, Delaware)
    - Rick and Brad helped to get this group started to address a need for aquaculture related multistate activities
    - This northeast coordinating committee is dedicated to genomics and breeding in shellfish aquaculture
    - Complements work funded by the Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC)
    - Ideally this coordinating committee would evolve into a multistate project so Hatch funds can be dedicated toward this research
    - **Brad Hillman introduced a motion to approve NECC\_TEMP1901, the motion was seconded by Matt Wilson and NECC\_TEMP1901 was unanimously approved.**
2. Requests to write (projects that expire 9/30/2020; no requests have been received)
  - NE1501 (Harnessing Chemical Ecology to Address Agricultural Pest and Pollinator Priorities, AA – Jan Nyrop, Cornell)
    - First renewal of NE1501
    - Many references to New York state are a reflection of heavy NY participation
    - Dedicated to addressing agricultural pests and ecology-based strategies to meet pollinator priorities in the Northeast
    - Active project with robust participation
    - Jan Nyrop as NE1501 AA gives the greenlight to support the proposal
    - **Matt Wilson introduced a motion to approve NE1501 renewal request to write, the motion was seconded by Pat Vittum and the NE1501 renewal request to write was approved. The project draft will be called NE\_TEMP2001 in NIMSS.**

### 3. AA replacements

- The following AA replacements have been confirmed and the replacements are willing to serve:
  - NRSP1 – current: Shirmohammadi, suggested: Bill Miller (UMass)
  - NE1544 – current Shirmohammadi, suggested Matt Wilson (WVU)
  - NE1731 – current Servello; suggested Mark Hutton (Maine)
  - NE1962 – current Servello; suggested Matt Wilson (WVU)
- **Matt Wilson introduced a motion to move the AA replacement recommendations forward to NERA, the motion was seconded by Pat Vittum and the AA replacement recommendations were approved. The final decision on these AAs will be made by the association.**

### 4. NERA Planning Grant

- Govoni submission (2019-20)
  - Participation from UConn, PSU, Cornell
  - Timely effort to add value to male dairy calves
  - NE section of Society of Animal Science is meeting annually again in conjunction with the Penn State Nutrition Conference. Some of the planning grant participants are involved in the meeting.
  - Planning Grant budget is intended to accommodate additional time at the Penn State meeting and provide meeting space
  - PI is a successful Associate Professor moving toward applying for higher level multi-investigator grants
  - **Pat Vittum introduced a motion to approve the Govoni Planning Grant submission, the motion was seconded by Matt Wilson and the Govoni submission was approved.**
- Gomez-Chiarri final report (2018-19 planning grant, informational only)
  - The group met and applied for two large grants:
    1. \$4.3M proposal awarded
    2. \$2M proposal in queue
  - In terms of ROI, NERA invest \$7K to assist researchers in seeking \$6M in competitive funding
- Revised RFP
  - Faculty members at several NERA institutions cannot apply for NERA planning grants because of the requirement by the institution to recover F&A costs
  - Two strategies for accommodating all institutions:
    1. Principal investigator (PI) submits proposal to NERA, NERA funds proposal with a lump-sum check to the PI
    2. PI submits proposal to Station Director, Director chooses to endorse the PI and team and inform NERA of intent to fund. Funding will be provided by the PI's institution. The planning grant funds dedicated to the proposal are then subtracted from the following year's NERA assessment.

- General support for moving forward with both strategies. A new RFP has been drafted. The intent of both strategies is to raise the number of submissions and assist PI's and institutions by avoiding internal obstacles for deploying "NERA" funds.
- There will be no cap on the number of submissions from any institution
- The question of responsibilities of the NERA planning grant host institution were discussed at length. A concern was expressed about the host institution inheriting all the attendant transactional problems (e.g., travel reimbursement for individuals not associated with the host institution.) The MAC did not reach consensus.
- **The RFP discussion was tabled until the next MAC meeting.**

5. Multistate Research Award discussion

- The NE has not had a national award winner since 2010. Over the past 11 years here's the breakdown of regional winners: NC-5; S-4; W-1; NE-1. What might we do to address this and submit an award winning nomination?
- **A solicitation to the region will be included with the MAC report recommendations and ballot.**

6. Impact writing workshop

- Sara Delheimer has asked for the NE to nominate a project for which she'll do an impact writing workshop. This past year, NE1439 (now NE1939) took advantage of the opportunity.
- **A solicitation to the region will be included with the MAC report recommendations and ballot.**

The call adjourned at 9:00 am.