



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

The Admiral Fell Inn
Historic Fell's Point, 888 South Broadway Street, Baltimore,
MD 21231

March 23-24, 2010

Minutes

Tom Burr, Chair

In Attendance:

Tom Burr (NYG), Chair
Tom Brady (NH)
Michel Desbois (NIFA)
Cameron Faustman (CTS)
Cameron Hackney (WV)
Steve Herbert (MA)
Bradley Hillman (NJ)
Michael Hoffman (NYC)
Dan Kugler (NIFA)
Robert MacDonald (NIFA)
Bruce McPheron (PA)
Tim Phipps (WV)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Fred Servello (ME)
Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)
Dariusz Swietlik (ARS-NAA)

Michael Vayda (VT)
Jon Wraith (NH)
Gloria Wyche-Moore (DC)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

MAJOR DECISIONS

- Approved the draft agenda for this meeting, with minor modification to include Dr. Beachy's webinar on the release of the AFRI RFAs---
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaMarch2010.htm>
- Approved the minutes of the NERA meeting held at Oklahoma City, OK on September 14, 2009, as posted in url---
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesSept2009.html>
- Approved the MAC recommendations, posted in this url, and as follows:
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportMarch2010.html>
 1. Selected NE1033: Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests, to be the Northeast Region's nomination for the 2010 National Multistate Research Award for Excellence
 2. Disapproved proposal NE_TEMP1641: Invasive Plants (Renewal of NE504) [10/2010-2015] and recommended formation of a two-year Development Committee
 3. Granted conditional approval to NE_TEMP1661: Whole farm dairy and beef systems: gaseous emissions, P management, organic production, and pasture based production [10/2010-2015]
 4. Granted conditional approval to NE_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change [10/2010-2015]
 5. Approved one-year extension for project NE1025: Biology, Ecology and Management of Emerging Pests of Annual Bluegrass on Golf Courses [11/2005-2011]
 6. Approved the following regional off-the-top funding for FY09-10:
 - Approved FY2011 regional off-the-top funding for NE-9 in the amount of \$216,320.
 - Approved FY2011 regional off-the-top funding for NE-59 in the amount of \$40,788.
- Approved the following nominations:
 - Dr. Fred Servello (ME) for NE504 (New NE_TEMP1641): Invasive Plants [2010-2015]
 - Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NE1028: Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety [2007-2012]
 - Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NE1042: Optimization of Poultry Welfare and Production Systems for the 21st Century [2009-2014]
 - Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NEAC002: Animal Science Advisory Committee [2006-2016]
 - Dr. Tim Phipps (WV) for NEERA1002: Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management [2009-2014]
 - Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi (MD) for NE_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change [10/2010-2015]

- NERCRD Board of Directors - Dr. Tim Phipps (first term) and Dr. Dan Rossi (reappointment for second term)
- NERCRD Technical Advisory Committee - Dr. Kathleen Liang (VT) and Dr. Cheryl Brown (WV)
- ESCOP Communication and Marketing Committee - Dr. Mike Hoffmann (NYC) and Dr. Steve Herbert (MA)

THE JOB JAR
(Work Assignments for the Executive Director)

- Inform USDA-NIFA on actions taken by the NERA Directors
- Inform ESCOP of NERA actions on the FY2011 off-the-top requests
- Assist in the planning for the 2010 Northeast Summer Joint Session to be held at Baltimore, MD on July 11-13
- Continue preparations for the Northeast Functional Foods Forum that will be held at Beltsville, MD on May 24, 2010
- Assist in the formation of a Planning Committee for an Invasive Plants Forum. Names and contact info of experts will be requested from the directors
- Proceed with planning and working with NCRA on a Climate Change Forum that will include Eastern US and Canadian experts.
- Discuss with Dr. Leholm, NCRA Executive Director, possibility of holding 2011 Summer Meeting jointly with the North Central
- Assist Charlene Herrick in collecting comments on the POW process and annual reporting for the POW Committee Meeting in May.

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

1. Call to Order - Chair Tom Burr

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. Brief introductions were made around the table.

2. Agenda Modification (Additions/Deletions) and Approval - Chair Tom Burr

A motion was made to approve the draft agenda with modification to include Dr. Beachy's webinar at 2:00PM on the release of the AFRI RFAs. The motion was seconded and approved.

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAGendaMarch2010.htm>

3. Approval of the September 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes - Chair Tom Burr

The motion made to accept the minutes posted was seconded and approved.

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesSept2009.html>

4. Interim Actions by the Chair and NERA Executive Committee Report - Chair Tom Burr
[Actions taken by NERA Chair](#)

1. Revise the agenda, and move the 'NRSPs and Liaison Reports' to Wednesday morning under the MAC Report, to make room for the webcast at 2PM by NIFA Director Roger Beachy. To be discussed are the newly released RFAs for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.
 2. The NE Extension Directors would like to meet with NERA Directors regarding the 'integrated' requirement for AFRI. A call will be arranged this Friday.
 3. NERA needs two nominations for the ESCOP Communication & Marketing Committee
 4. Reports will be requested from the five proposals that have been awarded the NERA planning grants, before initiating plans for the release of the next round.
 5. NERA will co-sponsor meetings/conferences that will encourage and may result to the development of collaborative, integrated competitive proposals from the Northeast. The Executive Committee will decide, based on the co-sponsorship request submitted, what conferences will be supported. However, the Executive Director will have authority to decide what to support up to a \$ limit to be decided by the NERA directors. Comments will be solicited from the directors as to what \$ limit that will be.
 6. Urge the NERA Directors to send their experts to the Northeast Functional Foods Forum to be held at USDA-ARS-BARC, Beltsville, MD on May 23-24. Registration has been extended to April 30.
 7. From attending the National Specialty Crops Conference, ED Dan Rossi, is exploring an opportunity to have a similar conference at the regional level.
 8. Likewise, from the North Central Climate Variation Conference Dan Rossi attended, there is an opportunity for engaging our Canadian counterparts in Ontario and the Eastern states of Canada with the New England States [VT, Maine, NH] and NY for a conference on climate change.
 9. We should still pursue meeting with the Ag. Commissioners. Dan Rossi will ask if the NERA directors could meet with them at their annual meeting in June, possibly for two hours. We will prepare the agenda, and perhaps work on priorities.
 10. Travel support for directors with national [ESCOP, etc.] responsibilities will be made available as a 'safety net' to help defray costs. The Executive Committee will make the decision on who can avail of these travel support from NERA.
 11. It is important to hear from the Regional Advisors their perspectives of the NRSPs. It was suggested that we include brief 2-3 minute reports in future meetings, and also from the NERCRD and NRAC liaisons.
 12. For 2011 meetings, we should explore joint meetings with other regions. Spring meeting with the South and/or the West, and summer mini-land grant with the North Central.
5. **Multistate Activities Committee Report distributed for consideration on March 23, 2010 - Mike Vayda**
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportMarch2010.html>
The MAC report and recommendations were distributed so the directors can review them before the discussion tomorrow.
6. **NIFA Update - Dan Kugler, NIFA**
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/NIFAUpdate.pdf>
7. **USDA-ARS Update - Dariusz Swietlik, APS**
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/ARSUpdate.pdf>
8. **ESCOP Report - Mike Vayda and Dan Rossi**

- ESCOP Report
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/ESCOPReport.doc>
 - Budget and Legislative Committee Report
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/BudLegAgendaBriefMarch2010.doc>
 - System Communication and Marketing Implementation Committee Report
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/MarketingAgendaBriefFeb2010.doc>
 - ESCOP Science and Technology Committee Report
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/SciTechAgendaBriefFeb2010.doc>
 - Science Roadmap Development Homepage
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/landGrant/2010ScienceRoadmap.cfm>
9. **Report from Cornerstone - Hunt Shipman, Cornerstone**
NIFA FY 2011 President's Budget Proposal -
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/FY2011PresBudget.pdf>
10. **Station Reports and Updates - All**
11. **OED Report - Dan Rossi**
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/OEDReport.doc>
- Planning Grants -
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/PlanningGrantsProgram2008-2010.pdf>
 - Co-Sponsorship -
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/NERACoSponsorshipForm.doc>
 - Functional Foods Forum -
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/NortheastFunctionalFoodsForumRev3.doc>
 - National Specialty Crops Conference -
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/SpecialtyCropsConference.doc>
 - National Water Quality Conference -
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/NationalWaterQualityConference.doc>
 - Adapting Agriculture to Climate Variation -
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/ClimateVariationConference.doc>
12. **Proposed NERA Budget for FY2010-2011 - Chair Tom Burr**
There was no increase proposed for the FY2010-2011 the assessments. The NERA budget was approved, as presented.
13. **OED Evaluation - All**
The directors gave the following comments for Dr. Dan Rossi and Rubie Mize:
- For Dr. Dan Rossi -
- Outstanding job! NERA is organized and pro-active
 - goal oriented
 - finds ways to improve NERA operations
 - takes initiative and steps up to plate
 - very responsive!
 - his work has led to new opportunities
 - had established appropriate connections with national leaders
 - represents NERA well
 - has good connection with NEED

- high level energy and brings focus to group

For Rubie Mize -

- same as above
- directors appreciate finding answers for them and staff
- personally interacts with people
- appreciates help with planning and resolving issues regarding summer sessions and committee meetings
- institutional knowledge is very valuable to NERA

The directors expressed that they were lucky to have this team at NERA, and have no suggestions for improvement.

14. NIFA Webinar - Dr. Beachy

Dr. Beachy spoke via webcast and answered questions about the AFRI RFAs. The directors had concerns about the focus of the RFAs, and how very limited the options are for basic research and for smaller institutions to compete for funds. Big institutions that are capable of positioning their faculty and have organized experts around these topics will be in a better position to compete in this round of AFRI.

15. Best Practices: *Adoption of a "culture of sustainability" in our institutions: Practical examples of how to reduce energy costs and environmental impacts* - Mike Hoffmann and Steve Herbert

[Dr. Mike Hoffmann's presentation - NERAHoffmannPresentation.pdf](#)

[Dr. Steve Herbert's presentation - UMassSustainableCampus.pdf](#)

16. Final comments and adjournment for the day's meeting - Chair Tom Burr

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

17. Multistate Activities Committee Report - Mike Vayda

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportMarch2010.html>

A motion was made to accept, after thorough discussion of each of the items, the following MAC recommendations. The motion was seconded and passed.

1. Selected NE1033: Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests, to be the Northeast Region's nomination for the 2010 National Multistate Research Award for Excellence
The directors felt that the nominations submitted for NE1027 and NE1042, although both strong projects with proven track record, were missing some vital points to be able to compete with the other regions. They lack details on their impacts to the stakeholders and integration of work among the participating states.
2. Disapproved proposal NE_TEMP1641: Invasive Plants (Renewal of NE504) [10/2010-2015] and recommended formation of a two-year Development Committee
There are several invasive-type projects going on in the experiment stations and experts

(including the nursery industry) in the region who would benefit from participating in this project, but were not captured in this proposal. A Development Committee will be the appropriate structure to get these experts together, and to organize a forum like the NE Functional Foods. Dr. Servello agreed to serve as the Advisor and to lead this effort. This is a good time to look at this issue, and the multistate process will be good for this area of study. The directors will be asked to submit the names and contact info of their experts. A planning committee will be organized.

3. Granted conditional approval to NE_TEMP1661: Whole farm dairy and beef systems: gaseous emissions, P management, organic production, and pasture based production [10/2010-2015]
The proposal needs to be revised specifically addressing integration and interdependence. Revised proposal to be submitted to MAC for final approval.
4. Granted conditional approval to NE_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change [10/2010-2015]
The objectives and procedures sections need to be better organized. Revised proposal to be submitted to MAC for final approval.
5. Approved one-year extension for project NE1025: Biology, Ecology and Management of Emerging Pests of Annual Bluegrass on Golf Courses [11/2005-2011]
6. Approved the following regional off-the-top funding for FY09-10:
 - Approved FY2011 regional off-the-top funding for NE-9 in the amount of \$216,320.
 - Approved FY2011 regional off-the-top funding for NE-59 in the amount of \$40,788.

18. NRSP Reports and Discussion

Request for off-the-top funding for FY10-11 for NRSPs

[Summary of NRSP requests](#)

- NRSP-1 Research Planning Using the Current Research Information System (CRIS and NIMSS), 2004-2010 [AA-Mike Vayda]
[One year no-cost extension request to 2011](#)
Motion made, seconded, and approved MAC's recommendation for a one-year no cost extension. CRIS will no longer be funded under NRSP1. NIMSS will submit a separate proposal to continue funding off-the-top after FY2011.
- NRSP-3 The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), 2009-2014 [AA-Jon Wraith]
[\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) [\[NRSP3 Annual Report\]](#)
Motion made, seconded, and approved MAC's recommendation to approve FY2011 off-the-top funding request at \$50K.
- NRSP-4 High Value Specialty Crop Pest Management, 2004-2010 [AA-Mark Robson]
[Please note that there is a new proposal]
[\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) [\[NRSP_temp4 proposal\]](#)
Motion made, seconded, and approved MAC's recommendation to approve the proposal and the FY2011 off-the-top funding request at \$481,182.
The proposal underwent an extensive external review that was used to re-write the proposal and the development of the strategic plan.

- NRSP-6 Inter-Regional Potato Introduction Project: Acquisition, classification, preservation, evaluation and distribution of potato (*Solanum*) germplasm, 2005-2010 [AA-Ed Ashworth] *[Please note that there is a new proposal]* [\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) and [\[Agenda brief for regional associations\]](#) [\[NRSP temp6 proposal\]](#)
No motion will be made at this point. The participating stations' directors - NY, MA, ME, MD and PA - were asked to send feedback to Dr. Mike Vayda on how relevant these collections are to their research.
- NRSP-7 A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs, 2009-2014 [AA-Margaret Smith] [\[FY2011 Budget Request with Justification\]](#)
Motion made, seconded, and approved MAC's recommendation to approve the FY2011 request at \$325K, with stipulation that if funds equal to or less than this amount become available to NRSP-7 through a Congressional special grant during FY'10, that amount will not be distributed to NRSP-7 from Hatch MRF.
- NRSP-8 National Animal Genome Research Program, 2008-2013 [AA-Tom Burr] [\[FY2011 Budget Request\]](#) and [\[Justification\]](#)
Motion made, seconded, and approved **not** to fund NRSP8.
How are they using funds? Need to strengthen the review criteria. This project is not truly supporting the community. Who's using this and what is the relevance/value to disciplines involved? NRSP8 does not meet these conditions.
- NRSP_TEMP161 National Animal Nutrition Program *[New Revised Proposal]*, 2011-2016 [\[Revised proposal with budget\]](#)
Motion made, seconded, and approved to **disapprove** the proposal.

19. Liaison Reports

- NERCRD Report - Dan Rossi
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/NERCRDReportMarch2010.doc>
- NE9 - Tom Burr
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2010Meeting/NE9Report.doc>
Phil Forsline had just retired. ARS will hire a new curator.
- Northeast Region Aquaculture Center - Adel Shirmohammadi
Dr. Shirmohammadi serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of NRAC. Dr. Fred Wheaton is the current Executive Director.

20. Discussion: *Positioning NERA Institutions and Scientists for the New AFRI RFP* - Jon Wraith

The directors agreed that using the "Development Committee" multistate format will facilitate getting experts in the Northeast together to help position themselves for competitive funding like AFRI.

Five DCs for the following program areas were proposed. Find PIs who will take the lead and write the DC outline to authorize travel support. Review and approval will still go through the MAC process:

- NEDC0001 Childhood Obesity Prevention
- NEDC0002 Climate Change - "Adapting Northeast Region to Climate Variation"

- NEDC0003 Food Safety
- NEDC0004 Global Food Security
- NEDC0005 Sustainable Bioenergy

21. REEport Presentation and Discussion – Michel Desbois and Bob MacDonald, NIFA

REEport is the new NIFA standardized reporting system. There will be two phases: 1-grants and 2-formula projects. The target is to have the formula group fully transitioned by October 2011. By October 1, 2010, AD416 and 417 can be submitted through REEport. By January 15, 2011, all functionalities should be operational. AD419s will not be required for grants. All approvals will be electronic.

There was a question about the Plan of Work reporting. Would a comprehensive 10-paged report be more valuable than entering/reporting per code? Bob MacDonald explained how these reports are used by NIFA, but agreed that the POW process needs to be reviewed. POW and CRIS reports are used to respond to queries from congressional staffers. Bart Hewitt had just released the 2008 Plan of Work Report. Web conferences are held bi-monthly to get feedback from the administrators [nifa.usda.gov/rwc]. A POW Committee has been formed and will meet in May. Charlene Herrick and Mary Jane Willis are the members from the Northeast. The directors were requested to submit their comments to Charlene so she can bring those issues to the table. NERA will help collect these comments.

22. 2010 Summer Session Program – Adel Shirmohammadi

The Joint Session Planning Committee composed of the following had met a few times by teleconference:

Planning Committee Members:

Host Institution (UMD) – Dr. Cheng-i Wei, Dr. Nick Place, Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi, Robert Frazee, Guy Moore, Theresa Simmons

NEED – Dr. Paul Bonaparte-Krogh and Dr. Larry Katz

NERA – Dr. Tom Burr, Dr. Brad Hillman, Dr. Dan Rossi

AHS – Dr. Cameron Hackney and Dr. Greg Weideman

CARET – Ken Nicewicz [Chair], Diane Lennon [Vice-Chair], Jim Shirk [Secretary]

Dates: July 11-13, 2010

Place: The Pier 5 Hotel, 711 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21202

Group rate is \$179 per night per room

Registration information will be released shortly.

Theme: "Climate Change and Water Resources – Mitigation and Adaptation in the Northeast"

23. 2011 Summer Session Proposal - Dan Rossi

CARET Rep. Jim Shirk raised a proposal to Dr. Rossi to hold the summer mini-land grant meeting jointly with another region, perhaps with the North Central. The CARET Reps. would like to hear what other regions are doing and look at common interests. Dr. Rossi will explore this with his counterpart at NCRA, perhaps PA or OH will be good locations.

24. Nominations Committee Report – Mike Vayda

A motion was made, seconded, and the directors approved the following nominations:

- Dr. Fred Servello (ME) for NE504 (New NE_TEMP1641): Invasive Plants [2010-2015]
- Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NE1028: Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety [2007-2012]
- Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NE1042: Optimization of Poultry Welfare and Production Systems for the 21st Century [2009-2014]
- Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) for NEAC002: Animal Science Advisory Committee [2006-2016]
- Dr. Tim Phipps (WV) for NEERA1002: Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management [2009-2014]
- Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi (MD) for NE_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change [10/2010-2015]
- NERC RD Board of Directors - Dr. Tim Phipps (first term) and Dr. Dan Rossi (reappointment for second term)
- NERC RD Technical Advisory Committee - Dr. Kathleen Liang (VT) and Dr. Cheryl Brown (WV)
- ESCOP Communication and Marketing Committee - Dr. Mike Hoffmann (NYC) and Dr. Steve Herbert (MA)

25. Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr

There were no resolutions. The resolution for Dr. Ian Hart (CT), who is retiring effective July 1, will be presented at the summer meeting.

26. Future Meetings – Dan Rossi

- Summer Meeting – July 11-13, 2010 at the Pier 5 Hotel, Baltimore, MD
http://www.harbormagic.com/Pier5/pier5_default.asp
- ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop and NERA Fall Meeting – Sept. 27-30 at the Hilton Nashville Downtown, Nashville, TN
<http://nashvillehilton-px.trvlclick.com/>

27. Summary Comments and Closing - Chair Tom Burr

Chair Tom Burr thanked everyone for the lively and fruitful discussions, and wished them safe travel.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



[Back to Workroom](#)
