



# NERA

Northeastern Regional Association  
of  
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

**Pier 5 Hotel  
Street, Baltimore, MD 21231**

**July 12-13, 2010**

## Minutes

Tom Burr, Chair

### **In Attendance:**

Tom Burr (NYG), Chair  
Cameron Faustman (CTS)  
Steve Goodwin (MA)  
Reggie Harrell (NRAC)  
Steve Herbert (MA)  
Bradley Hillman (NJ)  
Michael Hoffman (NYC)  
Ralph Otto (NIFA)  
Tim Phipps (WV)  
Daniel Rossi (NERA)  
Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)  
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)  
Jon Wraith (NH)  
Gloria Wyche-Moore (DC)  
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

### **MAJOR DECISIONS**

1. Approved the draft agenda for this meeting ---  
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2010.html>

2. Approved the minutes, after amendment of the list of attendees, of the NERA meeting held at Baltimore, MD on March 23-24, 2010 as posted in url---  
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2010.html>
3. Approved the MAC recommendations, posted in this url, and as follows:  
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportJuly2010.html>
  1. Conditional approval of proposal, NE\_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change [10/2010-2015]
  2. Approve Request to Write for NEERA1000: Northeast Pasture Consortium [10/2011-2016]
  3. Approve proposal, NE\_TEMP1661: Whole farm dairy and beef systems: gaseous emissions, P management, organic production, and pasture based production [10/2010-2015]
4. Approved the following nominations:

2011 NERA Officers [effective October 1, 2010]:

- Chair - Brad Hillman (NJ)
- Vice Chair - Jon Wraith (NH)
- Officer-at-Large - Mike Hoffmann (NYI)
- Past Chair - Tom Burr (NYG)

Committees/Liaison/Advisor Assignments:

- Multistate Activities Committee - Chair Jon Wraith (NH) and Member(s)
- ESCOP NRSP Review Committee - Jon Wraith (NH)
- NRAC Board of Directors - Dan Rossi
- Advisor for NRSP1 - Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)  
Research Planning Using the Current Research Information System (CRIS) [10/2004 - 9/2011]

**THE JOB JAR**  
**(Work Assignments for the Executive Director)**

1. Inform USDA-NIFA on actions taken by the NERA Directors
2. Assist and facilitate meetings of the Northeast Climate Change Working Group composed of two representatives each from NEED, NERA and CARET.
3. Continue preparations for the Eastern US and Canada Climate Change Collaboration Forum to be held at Syracuse, NY on August 18-19, 2010
4. Continue to 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
5. Assist in the planning for the 2011 Northeast Summer Joint Session to be hosted by the University of Connecticut

6. Continue to explore possibility of holding 2012 Summer Meeting jointly with another region [possibly the North Central]. Assist in organizing a planning committee.

## *Monday, July 12, 2010*

### 1. **Call to Order - Chair Tom Burr**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm. 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. The motion was seconded and approved.

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2010.htm>

### 3. **Approval of the March 2010 Meeting Minutes - Chair Tom Burr**

The motion made to accept the minutes posted, after amendment of the list of attendees, was seconded and approved.

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2010.html>

### 4. **Multistate Activities Committee Report distributed for consideration on July 13, 2010 - Acting Chair Kirby Stafford III**

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportJuly2010.html>

The MAC report and recommendations were distributed so the directors can review them before the discussion tomorrow.

### 5. **Review of Joint Session Discussion - Chair Tom Burr**

There was consensus that the dialog on Climate Change should continue. A working group with two representatives from each of the section will be formed. NERA will facilitate and help organize meetings for this group. The group will be charged with summarizing the discussions from the breakout groups into one document and recommend follow-up actions. Suggestions are:

- form a multistate project/activity
- hold a forum
- planning grant
- inventory of initiatives/projects/programs, strengths and gaps in the region
- regionalization - "Not easy, but we have to do it!"
- regional website
- develop consortium like they did in the Southern Region
- get faculty together on a retreat to work on proposal - get young faculty involved

University leadership needs to buy in. There is a sense of urgency as climate change/variability is here. What's society's perception? Educating and communicating to the public is an important issue to be addressed.

After consultation with NEED and CARET, the Northeast Climate Change Working Group will be composed of:

- NERA - Adel Shirmohammadi and Mike Hoffmann
- NEED - Paul Bonaparte-Krogh and Larry Katz
- CARET - Diane Lennon and Phyllis Carter
- also include two reps. from NE-ACOP

## 6. Northeast Climate Change Collaboration - Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi

[Eastern Climate Change Collaborations \[PDF\]](#)

Drs. Hoffmann and Rossi encouraged the directors to attend the forum to be held at Syracuse, NY, on August 18-19.

## 7. ESCOP Reports

- [ESCOP Report \[PDF\]](#)
- [Budget and Legislative Committee \[PDF\]- Tom Burr](#)  
[2012 Farm Bill Recommendations Survey - Final Results](#)
- [Science and Technology Committee \[PDF\]](#) - Mike Hoffmann and Tom Brady
- [Communications and Marketing Committee \[PDF\]](#) - Steve Herbert

Chair Tom Burr reported that a meeting with Dr. Beachy with the regional chairs was organized by ESCOP. In that meeting, concerns were expressed about AFRI funds and AES support for capacity funds in AFRI. Dr. Beachy saw benefits in partnering with the SAESs to expand AFRI funds to include capacity building.

Other questions that need to be addressed in near and future discussions of the next Farm Bill [Dr. Harrington's comments] are:

- The Regional IPM Centers, which have facilitate excellent regional collaborations among research and extension faculty, will apparently be lost this year. Should these be formalized and funded in legislation?
- Should the Minor Use Animal Drug Program (NRSP 7) be formalized similar to the IR-4 Project so that sufficient funding to meet the needs can be obtained?
- Should the Regional Water Quality Programs be redistricted to correspond with the regional associations? Can we get behind a major initiative in water quality, quantity and policy?
- If funding were not available to maintain the mandatory programs (Biomass, Specialty Crops, Beginning Farmer Rancher and Organic Ag) what would the priorities be?
- Is there a single issue that all AES Directors can support?
- How do we maintain competitiveness in these adverse economic times?

The meeting adjourned for the day at 6:00pm.

*Tuesday, July 13, 2010*

## 8. NEED - NERA Meeting

Discussion Topic - *"Tools available to the Northeast Region to effectively respond for successful integrated proposals"*

- Formal Consortia - Viticulture Consortium - Tom Burr  
[Proposed Offerings for Regional Viticulture & Enology Extension \[PDF\]](#)
- Collaborative Work Space – eXtension - Dan Cotton
- Forums of Scientists and Educators – Functional Foods
- Multistate Activities – Coordinating Committees, Extension and Research Activities
- Planning Grants – NERA Planning Grants Program
- Other examples

## 9. Multistate Activities Committee Recommendations - Acting Chair Kirby Stafford III

Discussion of NE\_TEMP1681: Design, Assessment, and Management of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change [10/2010-2015]

The methodology needs to be more concise. The objectives and tasks are interwoven. The need is clear and the project is timely as it relates to climate change, but the state of the current technology and the design to be used are not clear. Drs. Shirmohammadi and Rhodes will help guide the committee in revising the proposal.

A motion granting conditional approval with MAC giving the final approval after reviewing the revision, was seconded and approved.

The motion made to approve MAC's recommendations to approve the following was seconded and passed.

- Request to Write for NEERA1000: Northeast Pasture Consortium [10/2011-2016]
- NE\_TEMP1661: Whole farm dairy and beef systems: gaseous emissions, P management, organic production, and pasture based production [10/2010-2015]

A suggestion was made that proposals that need further discussion at the NERA meeting be flagged so that the directors can read them beforehand.

#### 10. **ESCOP National Research Support Project Review Committee Report - Dan Rossi** [NRSP Review Committee Report \[PDF\]](#)

Dr. Rossi noted that NRSP\_temp6 was given an August 1 deadline to revise the proposal and the NRSPRC will reconsider their recommendation.

NRSP8 was not supported by NERA, but we were outvoted by the other regions.

NRSP\_temp161 National Animal Nutrition Program - should be an ERA, not a NRSP. The NRSPRC will have further discussions with Dr. Nancy Cox to clarify some of the issues raised, more importantly, why this activity has to be a NRSP.

The NRSCPRC identified new areas of research support needs relating to a national data repositories for the following areas: plant germplasm, climate change, bioinformatics, sustainable lifecycle analysis, and functional foods. It proposes to establish "NRSP Development Committees" for these five areas. The committees would be created for a maximum of two years. The expectation would be that the committee would develop strategies for implementing these ideas along with strategies for long term funding. A report would be expected after the first year of their initiation. Funding in the range of approximately \$75,000 would be provided to each of the development committees to support project coordinators and meeting expenses. Each committee would have a regional Executive Director assigned to it but the coordinators would be expected to provide the key facilitation to the teams. Members of the NRSP-RC volunteered to develop concept papers, key scientists and potential leadership for these proposed NRSP Development Committees. The maximum budget request would be for this proposal would be \$375,000. This will be discussed with ESCOP to determine if this proposal should be included in the September vote.

There was also a change of leadership at the NRSPRC with the departure of Dr. Mike Vayda. The new Chair is Ralph Cavalieri. He will finish Dr. Vayda's term for another year so NERA will continue to provide administrative support.

#### 11. **CARET - NERA Meeting**

- CARET would like to pursue the formation of a Regional Viticulture Consortium. The stakeholders need to be on board.
- CARET felt it was good to see what the Univ. of Maryland is doing, and would like the "project visit" portion of the Joint Meetings to continue.
- CARET initiated the idea of a Joint Meeting with another region. It is too late to plan for 2011, but a planning committee for 2012 should be organized. The 2012 Planning Committee will be composed of:
  - CARET - Jim Shirk and Diane Lennon plus two from North Central
  - NEED - Linda Kay Benning and 2012 NEED Chair, plus North Central
  - NERA - Mike Hoffman and Dan Rossi
  - NCRA - Arlen Leholm and 2012 NCRA Chair
  - NE-ACOP - Cameron Faustman plus NC-ACOP
  - NE/NC Administrative Heads
- CARET fully supports the formation of a Northeast Climate Change Working Group and urges the group to continue the dialog.

#### 12. NIFA Update - Ralph Otto

Dr. Catherine Woteki has been confirmed as the new Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics. Joani Walsh is her Chief of Staff.

#### 13. OED Report - Dan Rossi

[OED Report \[PDF\]](#)

[Northeast Functional Foods Forum Summary \[PDF\]](#)

#### 14. Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center Update - Reggie Harrell, NRAC Executive Director

<http://www.nrac.umd.edu/index.cfm>

#### 15. Best Practices Session

Are we doing enough for our faculty to encourage collaborations?

- We have the NERA planning grants, NERA hosted forum/conferences, and regional/national multistate activities
- Which ones are effective?
- Where do we invest our time and resources?
- Are there other mechanisms we can use?

Should we change the RFA for the NERA planning grant and make it more focused, i.e. functional foods or climate change? Target groups that are already organized, e.g. functional foods, and encourage them to apply for the planning grant. Continue areas of focus, keep one year award duration with another 1-year no cost extension. Awardees should be required to submit a formal report on how funds were used and if competitive proposals were submitted, and the outcome.

Other areas to look at are--

- Invasive plants - move forward to form Committee [Fred Servello]
- Climate change - adaptation and mitigation
- Mixed hardwood - target for possible group now

- Biofuel consortium - similar to the North Central [Did they bring in \$ from foundation/state govt./institutions/industry?]
- Viticulture consortium

A suggestion was made to prepare a White Paper with a statement of purpose, goals, strategies for continuing/stimulating regional collaborations.

For the March 2011 Meeting, a suggestion was made for a Best Practices topic on "Dairy" -- "How do we want to handle dairy support in the region?" For example, Rutgers and UDEL are sharing dairy farms. [Possible presenter - Larry Katz is involved in this joint project.]

#### 16. **Nominations Committee Report and Elections - Chair Tom Burr**

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

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Research Planning Using the Current Research Information System (CRIS) [10/2004 - 9/2011]

#### 17. **Resolutions Committee Report - Tom Burr**

The motion made to approve the resolutions below was seconded and passed.

- **Resolution of Appreciation to Host Institution - The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) and University of Maryland Extension (UME)**

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors participated in an engaging and productive meetings at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute's Center of Marine Biotechnology (COMB) and the Pier 5 Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, and

WHEREAS, the Directors also were involved in a dynamic and well-organized joint meeting with the Northeast Extension Directors, Deans and members of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching on July 11-13, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the interaction and look forward to future collaborations fostered in the area of Climate Change and Water Resources – Mitigation and Adaptation in the Northeast, as a result of this meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the tour and reception at the Baltimore National Aquarium and the scenic and delightful dinner cruise along the Chesapeake Bay aboard the Duchess of Pintail yacht, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors acknowledge their appreciation to Dean and Director Cheng-I Wei, Associate Dean/Director Nick Place, Associate Dean/Director Adel Shirmohammadi and Theresa Simmons for making the meeting a great success and a very enjoyable experience.

July 13, 2010

Signed Tom Burr, Chair

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

◦ **Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Ian Hart (CTS)**

WHEREAS, Dr. Ian Hart has distinguished himself as Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies at the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Director of University of Connecticut Research Initiatives, and Associate Director of the Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station since 2002, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hart served as Advisor to multistate research projects NE504, NE505, NEAC002, NE1024, and NE1028, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hart played an important role and was heavily involved in state industrial and technology development activities. As Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education he sat on the Building & Grounds Committee which was central to the strategy and planning behind "UConn 2000", a \$1.0 billion State capital commitment to improve the infrastructure of the University. He managed all aspects of research within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and established a new Small Business Incubator Program across all campuses of the University, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hart authored over 130 scientific publications on the hormonal control of metabolism and has 3 patents to his name, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on July 11-13, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Hart for his dedicated service to agriculture in his state and the region, and for his many valuable contributions to the Association, and wish him success in his future endeavors.

July 13, 2010

Signed Tom Burr, Chair

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

◦ **Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Michael Vayda (VT)**

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Vayda has distinguished himself as Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Vermont and Associate Director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station since 2004, and



WHEREAS, Dr. Vayda served as Chair of NERA, the NERA Multistate Activities Committee, the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee, and the ESCOP National Research Support Project Review Committee, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vayda served as Advisor to regional [NE1015 and NE1033] and national [NRSP1] multistate research projects, was active in several state, regional and national advisory boards and committees, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agriculture Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on July 11-13, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Vayda for his leadership, enthusiasm, commitment and dedicated service to the Land-grant system, and his many valuable contributions to the Association, and wish him success in his new role as Dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and Associate Vice President for academic programs in the Division of Agriculture in the University of Arkansas.

July 13, 2010

Signed Tom Burr, Chair

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

**18. Future Meetings:**

- July 19-22, 2010: Joint COPs Summer Meeting, Seattle, WA
- September 27-30, 2010: ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop and NERA Fall Meeting at the Hilton Nashville Downtown, Nashville, TN  
*Note that NERA meeting will be Monday, Sept. 27, 3:00-6:00pm.*  
Hotel info, registration and draft agenda are at URL --- <http://escop.ncsu.edu/>
- 2011 NERA Spring Meeting - proposal is on table to hold jointly with another region, South or West.
- 2011 Northeast Summer Joint Session - University of Connecticut [Host]
- 2012 Joint Summer Meeting - at Ohio or Pennsylvania if to be held jointly with the North Central Region.

**19. Summary Comments and Closing - Chair Tom Burr**

Chair Tom Burr wished all safe travel and thanked the directors for a productive meeting.

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



[Back to Workroom](#)