

# **Report and Recommendations**

## **NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 26, 2020**

**Members: Eric Wommack (UD), Matt Wilson (WVU), Puneet Srivastava (UMD), Jan Nyrop (Cornell), Andra Johnson (PSU), Amy Ouellette (UNH)**

### *MAC decisions*

- **Jan Nyrop volunteered to serve and was selected as chair of the MAC by acclamation.**

### *Approval of the agenda*

- **The agenda was approved unanimously.**

### *Informational items*

- The MAC has a new committee member representing NEED: Dr. Andra Johnson (PSU). Dr. Pat Vittum (UMASS) has stepped down after providing years of valuable insight to the MAC.
- The results of the AA ballot voted on by NERA were reported in the July 27, 2020 NERA News. These included:
  - NE1943 *Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors* - Mark Hutton
  - NE1944 *Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug* – Mark Hutton
  - NE1727 *Influence of Ovary, Uterus, and Embryo on Pregnancy Success in Ruminants* – Dave Townson
  - NE1939 *Improving the Health Span of Aging Adults through Diet and Physical Activity* – Jean Harvey
  - NECC29 *Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference* – Margaret Smith
  - NE1720 *Multi-state Coordinated Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones* –Margaret Smith
  - NE1833 *Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species and its Pathogens and Pests* – Brad Hillman
  - NRSP4 *Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses* – Moses Kairo
  - NRSP10 *National Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research* – Margaret Smith

### *Action Items:*

#### *Request to Write (requires MAC approval only)*

- **In the future, Chair Jan Nyrop suggested assigning primary reviewers for each request to write prior to the MAC meetings.**

- **Going forward for requests to write, MAC materials will identify the participants in the writing teams along with administrative advisers.**
- NE\_TEMP2210 *Improving Forage and Bioenergy Crops for Better Adaptation, Resilience, and Nutritive Value*, 10/1/22-9/30/27. Renewal, currently NE1710 (same title as new project), AA: Eric Bishop-von Wettberg, 10/1/17-9/30/22. Note: project has submitted a request to write 1 year early.
  - Forage crops and dairy remain important to the northeast, biofuels less important.
  - Reduction in overall support for forage crops makes a multistate project worthwhile.
  - Request to write submitted over one year early to prepare for the retirement of former AA Don Viands and transfer to new AA Eric Bishop von Wettberg.
  - **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NE\_TEMP2210 request to write, the motion was approved unanimously.**
- NECC\_TEMP2103 *High tunnel specialty crop production*, 10/1/21-9/30/26. New coordinating committee; proposed AA: Anton Bekkerman.
  - High tunnel production is an important issue to the Northeast and across the country. There is a need for a northeast-centric multistate project on high tunnels.
  - The MAC recommends that the writing team consider re-writing this request as a full multistate project rather than coordinating committee
  - **Matt Wilson introduced a motion to approve the NECC\_TEMP2103 request to write, with strong encouragement to focus on developing a multistate research project and indicate a path to convert from a coordinating committee to a multistate project. The MAC will reach out in writing out to provide this recommendation and encouragement to AA Anton Bekkerman (UNH). The motion was approved unanimously.**
  - NERA will call for technical team participants to assist in the writing of this multistate project in the upcoming NERA News.
  - Amy Ouellette will reach out to Anton Bekkerman internally to discuss the recommendation to a multistate project.
- NE\_TEMP2140 *Sustainable Management of Nematodes in Horticultural and Field Crop Plant Health Systems*, 10/1/2021-9/30/26. Renewal, currently NE1640 *Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems*, 10/1/2016-9/30/2021; AA: Mark Rieger.
  - Coordination across the region and nation is important. Long-standing, active project team addressing an important need.
  - Technical team: Nathaniel Mitkowski-URI, Marisol Quintanilla-Michigan State and Jim Kotcon-WVU
  - **The NE\_TEMP2140 request to write was approved unanimously.**
- NE\_TEMP2101 *Eastern White Pine Health and Responses to Environmental Changes*, 10/1/2021-9/30/2026. Renewal, currently NE1601 (same title), 10/1/2016-9/30/2021; AA: Mark Hutton.

- There is concern about NIFA's opinion on the tie-in of commercial forestry with Hatch research.
- The project's renewal status can be used as a justification for NIFA to approve.
- **Jan Nyrop introduced a motion to approve the NE\_TEMP2101 request. Simultaneously the MAC will also seek information from NIFA to ensure this re-write has a chance to move forward and secure approval of the full proposal by NIFA. Rick Rhodes (NERA ED) will reach out to NIFA seeking confirmation of that this proposal is eligible for MRF funding and support by NIFA. The motion was approved unanimously.**

***NERA Planning Grant proposals:***

- [2021-01] Strengthening Rural Tourism (Doug Arbogast, WVU)
  - Proposal to bring together a group (7 participants) to meet and plan a submission to NIFA.
  - A number of NERA institutions have indefinite travel restrictions.
  - Recommendation from sponsoring Director Matt Wilson-WVU: plan as though the group can meet in-person, and decide on meeting format later on. The meeting format will drive the reduction in the assessment to WVU from NERA; a hybrid or virtual meeting might not spend the entire \$7,000 request.
  - **The MAC approved the 2021-01 planning request unanimously.**

***Administrative Adviser Assignment (MAC recommends to NERA)***

- NRSP3 *National Atmospheric Program*, proposed AA: Jason White (former AA: Jon Wraith.)
- NECC2001 *Sustainable Farm Energy Production*, proposed AA: Puneet Srivistava (former AA: Gary Thompson.)
- NEERA1604 *Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management*, proposed NERA AA: Margaret Smith (current NERA AA: Jan Nyrop, current NEED AA: Mike O'Neill)
- NECC\_TEMP *High tunnel specialty crop production*, proposed AA: Anton Bekkerman (new project.)
- NE1701 *Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals*, proposed AA: Rick Rhodes (former AA: Gary Thompson)

*The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.*