

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

**The Admiral Fell Inn - Board Room [5th Floor]
Historic Fell's Point, 888 South Broadway, Baltimore MD 21231**

**March 9, 2015
2:30pm to 4:00pm**

Chair, Fred Servello (ME)

Present: Chair Fred Servello (ME), Tim Phipps (WV), Gary Thompson (PA), Cameron Faustman (CT), Dan Rossi (NERA/ED) and Rubie Mize (Recorder)

1. Request to approve a proposal for a new multistate Coordinating Committee
NE_TEMP2241: Sustainable Farm Energy Production and Use, 04/2015-9/2020

Action: MAC is pleased that the group addressed committee's concerns and submitted a much improved proposal. The justification has been strengthened, demonstrated importance of work, technical feasibility and expanded participation in the region bringing sustainable energy experts together. MAC recommends approval of the proposal.

2. Request to approve the proposal for a new multistate project NE_TEMP2201: University-Community Intermediaries: Supporting Informed Decision-Making Around Polarized Issues, 10/2015-9/2020

Action: MAC recommends approval as an ERA (Education/Extension and Research Activity) with expectations to develop more defined research activities if goal is to become a standard multistate activity. Proposal is well developed with strong membership but still lacking details in research activities. MAC expects that as group starts working together that research and methodology will be better defined.

3. Request to approve the proposal for a new multistate project NE_TEMP2261: Harnessing Chemical Ecology to Address Agricultural Pest and Pollinator Priorities, 10/2015-9/2020

Action: MAC recommends approval and encourages additional participation in the region.

4. Request to approve the Request to Write a proposal entitled, Addressing the Challenges to Continued Use of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems in a Changing Climate, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1045]

Action: MAC recommends approval of the Request. MAC advises the team to include in their full proposal how proposed activities build on accomplishments of NE1045, and include details of stakeholder input to demonstrate importance of project in the region. MAC also encourages the technical committee to reach out to experts in the region, particularly those in urban areas.

5. Request for off-the-top funding for Northeast Multistate Projects:

- NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources
FY2016 Budget Request = \$254,908
- NE59: Multistate Research Coordination, Northeastern Region
FY 2016 Budget Request = \$ 40,788
The funding requested is to support the Northeastern Regional Center for Rural Development.

Action: MAC recommends approval for both projects in the amounts requested for the FY2016 regional off-the-top.

6. NRSPs

Note that NRSP Review Committee representative, MAC Chair Fred Servello, is gathering input on the proposed NRSPs to bring to the meeting on May 28 in Denver. However, due to university commitments, he is unable to attend this fly-in. Tim Phipps will attend and represent NERA.

- NRSP_TEMP004: Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses, 10/2015-2020

This project has a very strong stakeholder group, and continues to evolve through the years. The NE IR-4 Center from Cornell has relocated to Rutgers. Dan Rossi serves as the Regional Advisor, but has been approached to be the IR-4 Northeast Director. A new regional NRSP-4 Advisor needs to be assigned to replace Dan Rossi.

Northeast directors have repeatedly voiced their concern over NRSPs that are not sunseting or having 'entitlement' expectation. Is this one of those that we should start to wean? This is a very valuable project but should we continue to fund it at the same level or reduce it further to a minimum cap? Yearly off-the-top funding requested is \$481,182. NRSP-4 has been very successful in obtaining funds from other sources including industry, and keeping its special grant, \$11.9M.

- NRSP_TEMP006: The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm, 10/2015-2020

MAC members would like to see the progress NRSP-6 had taken to address concerns from the previous 5-year proposal:

- A budget plan that shows increased monetary support from other sources, not just in-kind, specifically from Univ. of Wisconsin and industry.
 - Provide more specific quantifiable documentation of its impact on the industry
 - Understand ARS policy of ‘No fees for service’, but explore other ways that industry, that’s significantly benefitting from this project, can help support and make NRSP-6 financially sustainable
- NRSP_TEMP007: A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs, 10/2015-2020

NRSP-7 lost special grant funding in 2013 and turned to the system for an annual support at a minimum of \$325K to keep it operational. It was allowed a 1-year extension as the committee works on obtaining additional funding. NRSP-RC comments from last year’s submission – “NRSP-7 must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting a renewal proposal”. Has the committee met this requirement?

- NRSP_TEMP009: National Animal Nutrition Program, 10/2015-2020
- NRSP-9 up for termination in 2015, but no proposal and peer reviews submitted yet.

7. 2015 National Multistate Research Award Nominations

- NE-1201: Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (MDA)
- NE1227: Ovarian Influences on Reproductive Success in Ruminants

Action: MAC recommends NE1201 to be the Northeast region nomination. This group is relatively new, but already very active and very engaged in their research arena. They have a tremendous list of accomplishments, and will be a strong contender in the national level.

8. Advisor assignments:

New Projects:

- NE_TEMP2241: Sustainable Farm Energy Production and Use, 04/2015-9/2020
 - Advisor – Gary Thompson (PA)
- NE_TEMP2201: University-Community Intermediaries: Supporting Informed Decision-Making Around Polarized Issues, 10/2015-9/2020
 - Advisor – Margaret Smith (NYC)
- NE_TEMP2261: Harnessing Chemical Ecology to Address Agricultural Pest and Pollinator Priorities, 10/2015-9/2020
 - Advisor – Pat Vittum (MA)

Also need Advisors for the following:

- NRSP_temp4: Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses
- NEERA1004 - Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management
- NE1332- Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds

9. 2015 NERA Planning Grant

Action: MAC will review in July the revised proposals from the two that were given conditional approval.

NE1504 – Assessing and promoting “food agency,” a construct for helping individuals navigate the food environment (Funding Request = \$7,250)

NE1506 - Terrestrial biomonitors to assess changing climate & honey bee health (Funding Request = \$10,000)

Current MAC members:

- Fred Servello, ME (2012-2015) - Chair
- Tim Phipps, WV (2013-2016)
- Gary Thompson, PA (2012-2015)
- Cameron Faustman, CTS (2014-2017)
- Pat Vittum, MA (2014-2017)
- Ken La Valley, NH/NEED (2014-2017)