



NERA Meeting

Sheraton Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

September 24, 2012 [3:00-6:00pm] - Gardner Room

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Jon Wraith (NH), Chair
Cameron Faustman (CTS)
Tom Burr (NYG)
Stephen Herbert (MA)
Brad Hillman (NJ)
Michael Hoffman (NYC)
John Kirby (RI)
Ian Maw (APLU)
Tim Phipps (WV)
Mark Rieger (DE)
Richard Rhodes III (RI)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Fred Servello (ME)
Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)
Gary Thompson (PA)
Thomas Vogelmann (VT)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Jon Wraith

2. Approval of Agenda – Chair Jon Wraith

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAGendaSept2012.pdf>

Action: Dr. Ian Maw was invited to give an APLU Update after the NRSPRC Report. The motion made to approve the revised agenda was seconded and passed.

3. Approval of Minutes from the July 10, 2012 NERA Meeting – Chair Jon Wraith

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesJuly2012.pdf>

Action: The motion made to approve the minutes was seconded and passed.

4. ESCOP Report – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/ESCOPReport.pdf>

- ESS Rules of Operation Changes

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/ProposedChangesESSRules.pdf>

ESS Rules of Operation (Rev. 2008) – <http://escop.ncsu.edu/docs/Rules2008%202.pdf>

The Directors will vote on the proposed changes at the ESS Meeting.

- Crop Protection Program Update

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/CropProtectionUpdate.pdf>

A working group of over 40 members representing key stakeholders was appointed by the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) and the Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) to make recommendations on the budget authorization process and implementation of a new crop protection program. The group will continue working through the fall on a final report that will be reviewed by the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee and then to BAC.

- ESS Business Meeting Agenda and Briefs

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/2012ESSMeetingAgendaAndBriefs.pdf>

5. Multistate Activities Committee Report – Kirby Stafford III
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportSept2012.pdf>

Action: The motion made to approve Items 1 and 2 of the MAC Report was seconded and passed.

- Approval of Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project entitled, “Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development”, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1035]
- Conditional approval of Request to Write a Proposal, pending submission of midterm review of NE1033, for a Multistate Project entitled “Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests”, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1033]
- Involvement of Extension Directors in Multistate Projects/Activities
 - Extension Directors are set up in NIMSS just like the AES Directors, but are not approving faculty participation. AES Dirs. are approving Extension faculty with joint appointments. This needs to be sorted out at the institution level as AES approval do not mean committing AES funds for Extension participants. As all other non-AES participants, Extension provides their own fund (expressed in FTEs) when participating in multistate projects.
- Monitoring of Submission of Annual Reports – inclusion of impact statements
 - The Western region has hired a staff (paid under NRSP1) to prepare impact statements for terminated multistate projects. The quality of the impact statements depend on the quality of the annual reports. Dr. Dan Rossi encouraged

the Advisors to review the annual reports and discuss the impacts at their annual meetings.

- Meeting authorizations should not be authorized by Advisors if annual reports are missing from previous meetings.
- New Impact Reporting System
 - The NIMSS Programmer is working on the Impacts Reporting function in NIMSS. Impact Statements will be uploaded and can be viewed in NIMSS.
 - An impact statement for NEERA1000-Northeast Pasture Consortium was recently completed by the WAAESD impacts writer, Sara Delheimer.
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/NEERA1000ImpactStatement.pdf>

6. NRSP Review Committee Recommendations – Kirby Stafford III

- Budgets and Recommendations on Operations
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/AgendaItem4NRSPRC.pdf>
- FY11 Station Shares of National and Regional Trusts
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/FY11StateTrusts.pdf>

See agenda brief item #4 above in ESS Agenda. Dr. Kirby Stafford gave a brief summary of the NRSP Review Committee's recommendations. The votes on the NRSPs will take place at the ESS Meeting.

The new operational guidelines will be in effect in the next round of NRSP reviews. There will be no more yearly approval of budgets after the five-year projected budget is approved. NRSPRC will monitor closely the NRSPs that require matching funds. The committee will also participate in third year midterm reviews of all NRSPs, with the regional advisors.

7. APLU Update – Ian Maw

- The APLU Annual Meeting will be on November 11-13 at Denver, CO. Attendance is not measuring up as in previous years. The publication of the program has been delayed.
- Overall BAA assessments paid are nearly 100%. The problem is the E-extension assessment.
- APLU has good relations with Canadian universities and are working on getting them to become APLU members. We can partner in climate change as we're doing in the Northeast, and in other agriculture programs, academics and mining. He's requesting feedback from the directors.
- A question was raised to Dr. Maw about the double-dipping issues from OMB. He replied that it is a matter of educating OMB. There is no duplication. ARS and NIFA programs complement each other. The system is ready to respond and clear the misconception.

NERA directors suggested inviting Canadian and 1890's colleagues at our summer or fall meetings. This will be brought to the attention of the planning committees.

8. Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/OEDReport.pdf>

Dr. Dan Rossi noted that he is working with Linda Kay Benning to conduct grants training in the region for teams that are already organized. As seen in other regions' workshops, grants training is more effective and beneficial for research and extension faculty that have started to form groups and are actively interacting. There is an apparent weakness in writing proposals that are truly integrated, as required by RFPs. Dan and Linda are working on the details of the workshop.

9. NERA Planning Grants Update – Dan Rossi
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/2013NERAPlanningGrant.pdf>

Action: MAC had reviewed the RFA, and the Directors approved the release of the RFA for the 2013 NERA Planning Grant right after the meeting.

On the proposed 2013 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant focused on Regional Food Systems, NERA and NEED should be equal partners. Proposals should be problem-led with co-leaders from research and extension, with “real” research, not just “applied” research component and with clearly defined activities within a feasible timetable.

Action: The motion made to grant conditional approval of NERA's \$4000 share upon review of the RFA for the 2013 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant was seconded and passed. NERA also proposed having equal number of members represented in the joint review committee. MAC will review the RFA and give final approval.

10. Eastern US-Canada Climate Change Collaboration – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/Sept2012Meeting/July2012SyracuseMtgSummary.pdf>

A small advisory meeting made up of the core members of the US-Canada climate change group and representatives from food companies, insurance, farm credit and farmers will meet in Montreal, Canada in early December. McGill University will host the meeting.

The plan is to come up with a definitive list of projects that can be funded bi-nationally. A question was raised whether we're limiting funding prospects to USDA-NIFA when EPA, ESF, DoD and other federal agencies are also engaged in climate change issues. These agencies will also be considered and brought into the fold, but for now, Ag-Canada and USDA are the ones actively involved in the discussion.

The planning committee is still seeking suggestions for farmers who should be invited. Dr. Tom Vogelmann will approach a dairy farmer in Vermont. Dr. Gary Thompson will recommend a farmer from Pennsylvania.

11. Station Updates – All
Brief updates on programs, fiscal status and administrative changes in their respective institutions were given by the Directors.

12. Nominations Committee Report – Brad Hillman

Action: The motion made recommending Dr. Gary Thompson to be appointed as one of the two NERA Delegates to the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee was seconded and passed.

Dr. Gary Thompson will replace Dr. Tim Phipps. Dr. Tim Phipps had been appointed NERA delegate for the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee.

13. Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr

No resolutions were put forward at this meeting.

14. Future Meetings:

- NERA Spring Meeting – March 12-13, 2013 at the Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, MD
Note that meeting dates will be changed in 2013 and will be on the second and not the third week of March, as in past years.
- 2013 Northeast Joint Summer Meeting - July 7-9 or July 14-16 to be hosted by Cornell – Ithaca
Action: NE-CARET will be informed that the 2013 Summer Meeting will not be held jointly with another region. The planning committee will be meeting soon to finalize the date and venue.
- ESS Meeting – September 23-25, 2013, Columbus, Ohio

15. Other Business

There was discussion about forming a 500-series multistate research project on Spotted Wing Drosophila. Dr. Tom Burr offered to serve as Advisor. Drs. Servello, Phipps, Stafford III and Hillman will also help in developing the proposal.

[After the meeting, a search in NIMSS showed that the Western region already had a 500-series project that has now evolved to multistate project, WERA1021: Spotted Wing Drosophila Biology, Ecology, and Management [October 2012 to September 30, 2017]. Interested Stations in the Northeast will be joining this project instead of forming a new one.]

16. Closing Remarks/Adjournment – Chair Jon Wraith

Dr. Jon Wraith thanked everyone for the lively and productive discussion, and welcomed Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi as the new Chair for NERA, effective after this meeting.