



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

Holiday Inn by the Bay

88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine 04101

July 13-14, 2009

Minutes

Mike Vayda, Chair

In Attendance:

Michael Vayda (VT), Chair
Ed Ashworth (ME)
Tom Brady (NH)
Tom Burr (NYG)
Nancy Fey-Yensan (RI)
Steve Goodwin (MA)
Cameron Hackney (WV)
Ian Hart (CTS)
Stephen Herbert (MA)
Charlene Herrick (ME)
Bradley Hillman (NJ)
Diane Hyman (DC)
Dan Kugler (CSREES)
Bruce McPherson (PA)
Richard Rhodes III (RI)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Fred Servello (ME)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)

Cheng-i Wei (MD)
 Gregory Weidemann (CTS)
 Jon Wraith (NH)
 Gloria Wyche-Moore (DC)
 Northeast CARET Delegates
 Northeast Regional Center Directors
 Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

MAJOR DECISIONS

- Approved the draft agenda for this meeting as posted in url---
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2009.html>
- Approved the minutes of the NERA meeting held at Baltimore, MD on March 24-25, 2009, as posted in url---
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2009.html>
- Approved the MAC recommendations, posted in this url, and as follows:
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportJuly2009.html>
 1. Approved the following proposals:
 - NE_TEMP1561: Optimization of Poultry Welfare and Production Systems for the 21st Century (Renewal of NE1022) [10/2009-2014]
 - NE_TEMP507: Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors (Renewal of NE507) [8/2009-2014]
 2. Approved the Request to Write for project NE504: New England Center for Invasive Plants [10/2009-2014]
 3. Approved recommendations to proposed changes in the NRSP Guidelines
[Proposed Revisions to the NRSP Guidelines](#)

- Approved the following nominations:

2010 NERA Officers:

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

ESCOP Committees:

- Budget and Legislative Committee Delegates
 - Tom Brady (NH)
 - Tom Burr (NYG)

Multistate Advisor Assignments:

- Stephen Herbert (MA) for NECC1009: Multidisciplinary Evaluation of Tree Fruit Cultivars [10/2005-2010]
- Stephen Herbert (MA) for NE1038: Hydropedology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils [10/2009-2014]

- Tom Burr (NYG) for NE1020: Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones [10/2004-2017]
 - Ian Hart (CTS) for NE1022 (*New NE_temp1561*): Poultry Production Systems: Optimization of Production and Welfare Using Physiological, Behavioral and Physical Assessments
 - Brad Hillman (NJ) for NE1027: Ovarian Influences on Embryonic Survival in Ruminants [10/2007-2012]
 - Jon Wraith (NH) for NRSP3: (*New NRSP_temp3*)The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)
- Approved the following resolutions:
 - Resolution of Appreciation to the Host Institution - Maine Forestry and Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
 - Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Jeff Seemann (RI)
 - Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Bill Vinson (WV)

THE JOB JAR
(Work Assignments for the Executive Director)

- Inform USDA-CSREES on actions taken by the NERA Directors.
- Assist in compiling the presentations from the 2009 Northeast Summer Joint Session held at Portland, Maine on July 12-14, 2009.
- Assist follow-up actions of the regional center directors on future regional collaborations on water quality. Help set up a listserve. Include center directors when releasing announcement for the NERA planning grant.
- Arrange follow-up meetings for Northeast CARET and AHS.
- Continue facilitating the work of the Northeast Urban Programs Initiative by building the website and conducting the online survey.
- Assist in planning for the 2010 Northeast Summer Joint Session.
- Prepare for the NERA Meeting on Sept. 14 (3:00-6:00pm), at Oklahoma City, OK, in conjunction with the ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop, Sept. 14-17, 2009.

Monday, July 13, 2009

1. Call to Order - Chair Mike Vayda

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. The first day of the meeting was chaired by Chair Mike Vayda.

2. Agenda Modification (Additions/Deletions) and Approval - Chair Mike Vayda

The motion made to approve the draft agenda as posted, was seconded and approved.

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2009.html>

3. Approval of the March 24-25, 2009 Meeting Minutes - Chair Mike Vayda

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

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2009.html>

4. Multistate Activities Committee Report distributed for consideration on July 14, 2009 - Tom Burr

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportJuly2009.html>

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

There was a brief discussion on how NRSPs are formed and their purpose. The peer review process is being revised. Dr. Hackney inquired if it is possible to organize a global soil mapping project involving the NRCS, US, Europe and others as a NRSP. The intention is to have a higher 'national' profile than a regional multistate. Dr. Hackney will discuss this further with Dr. Rossi

A comment was made regarding NRSP1. Can we, with NIFA, no longer be charged for reporting to USDA, like other federal funding agencies such as NIH and NSF?

5. FY-09 Animal Health SF-424M Package - Chair Mike Vayda and Dan Kugler

Dr. Kugler noted that the animal health fund was reduced by half and continue to decrease, while funding for animal disease is going up. It's a zero sum game.

A motion was made to approve the suggestion to move the animal health funds to AFRI and use it to support animal health related programs. The motion was seconded and approved.

6. CSREES Report – Dan Kugler

1. 1890s are now eligible for McIntyre Stennis funds.
2. AFRI encourages the use for Research and Extension for family sciences and youth development within the existing RFAs.
3. On RFA planning - 6-7 committees on major issues were formed across the agency and major stakeholders to ensure good representation in RFAs.

7. Review of Joint Session Discussion - Chair Mike Vayda

The following are actions suggested as a follow-up to this year's session:

1. Summarize reports/presentations and assign 1-2 people who will draft paper/summary to highlight talks. Prepare white paper on how to collaborate better.
2. Get PIs to work together but first determine stakeholder needs. Submit proposal for planning grants.
3. Talk to state agencies and work with them. Get Ag. Commissioners together for next year's summer meeting. Work with Ag. Commissioners on setting priorities. Are there examples of successful collaborations with these partners, and best practices in region that we can learn from?
4. Include the Academic programs in the joint session. Their teaching workshop is winding down.
5. USAID has an \$18B food security program in Africa and Southeast Asia. We should take this as an opportunity to reinvigorate our breeding programs.
6. Suggestions for 2010 topics are---
 - Working with State Partners - NEASDA
 - Water Quality and Quantity
 - International Programs - USAID

The 2010 Planning Committee will meet to work on the theme. Dr. Burr will represent NERA and Dr. Hackney will represent AHS.

8. **Comments from Chair (before closing the day's meeting) - Chair Mike Vayda**

Chair Mike Vayda thanked everyone for the short, but fruitful discussion and reminded the members to think about the discussions tomorrow with the regional center directors and CARET delegates. He adjourned the meeting for the day at 4:35 pm.

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

9. **Collaboration with Regional Centers**

The regional centers already have the structure to support regional collaborations and have mechanisms to collect stakeholder inputs.

Prospective collaborations discussed were:

- Organic agriculture - composting and other farming techniques can cause water quality problems
- IPM, Water Quality and SARE can get together to work on a planning grant. Art Gold also agreed to finance travel.
- Stephan Goetz volunteered to take the lead on New Farmers Initiative.
- Nursery and greenhouse on specialty crops and golf courses (NJ, MD and ME)- develop organic golf courses reducing use of herbicides and pesticides specially in urban areas. Turf standard is high and may be hard to do organically. Northeast should be the leader in this area. We should address water issues within the green industry (turf related). Doug Parker and Chris Obropta can serve as the champions.
- Build listserve for Center Directors - necenterdirs@aesop.rutgers.edu

10. **Joint Meeting with CARET**

Ken Nicewicz gave a brief summary of the CARET delegates' meeting with the Deans. Both groups are evaluating their expectations, and how to improve CARET's impact and effectiveness at the Hill.

Issues discussed were--

- CARET is an expense so they should have measurable results. Should that be increase in land grant funding? What is CARET doing right/wrong?
- What programs have been eliminated? We should capture information on restructuring taking place in our institutions due to eliminated programs. How do we strengthen our institutions? Will restructuring make us better? What is CARET's role in bringing this message to members of Congress?
- Will NIFA/AFRI be the right balance for national and regional priorities? CARET is conflicted as they are mandated to work on federal funds. However there are regional and state specific needs that should also be addressed.
- Institutions provide specific examples that feed into national issues/priorities. Members are only interested in what's happening in their districts. There should also be mechanism to provide feedback from Hill to states.
- We should utilize that marketing efforts by Podesta. NJ, VT, ME and RI have key players. Podesta can help bring these members to visit research farms/facilities in these states. CARET should also be involved, and they can help identify local champions.
- E-newsletter from Podesta that goes to members/staff at the Hill will be useful for success story-telling. States are encouraged to support this activity and provide stories to Podesta.

- CARET and AHS will continue meeting to discuss these issues and answer the questions raised by the Northeast CARET representatives:
 - What the AHS expect from CARET? [For CARET: What does CARET expect from the AHS?]
 - What is and should CARET be?
 - How can CARET become more effective?

The NERA office will assist in organizing the follow-up meetings for CARET and AHS.

11. **Multistate Activities Committee Recommendations and NRSP Report - Chair Mike Vayda**

- [Summary of NERA and NRSP-RC Recommendations](#)
- [Proposed Revisions to the NRSP Guidelines](#)

12. **OED Report - Dan Rossi**

[OED Report \[PDF\]](#)
[Local and Regional Foods Conference Summary \[PDF\]](#)
[Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting Summary \[PDF\]](#)
[Two-fold NERA Brochure \[PDF\]](#)
[Northeast Functional Foods Initiative Conference \[PDF\]](#)

13. **Best Practices Session - Tom Burr**

The directors discussed relationships that they build with their state departments. At Cornell, the Office of Land-grant Affairs was cut but the responsibility is now under the AES Director. "How do we professionally interact with agencies and represent our universities?" In New York, the State Commissioner is a member of the university's advisory board. Participation in councils and associations are very important. However, our partners do not necessarily understand what collaborations are happening cross-institutional, within the region and outside.

- We need to identify associations that work and if not, find a way out. Faculty members should be encouraged to join, and report back to the college.
- Need a better cataloging of regional projects: multistate, IPM, SARE, Water Quality, etc.
- Need to capture vibrant interactions locally - Commissioners of Ag., surveillance projects, regulatory process, etc.
- Prepare a publication that NERA and NEED can put together for our Ag. Commissioners, a consolidated report on impacts of multistate and other projects [SARE, IPM, NERCRD etc.]
- Encourage proposals for planning grants to involve local partners, organizations, regional centers, etc.

14. **ESCOP Reports**

- [ESCOP Report \[PDF\]](#) - Chair Mike Vayda
- Budget and Legislative Committee - Chair Mike Vayda
- Science and Technology Committee - Tom Brady and Mike Hoffmann
 - [Funds for Excellence in Multistate Research Award \[Word\]](#)
[Northeast Institutional Shares of Proposed Multistate Award Funding](#)
 - Science Roadmap

15. **Nominations Committee Report and Elections - Chair Mike Vayda**

2010 NERA Officers:

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

ESCOP Committees:

- Budget and Legislative Committee Delegates
 - Tom Brady (NH)
 - Tom Burr (NYG)

Multistate Advisor Assignments:

- Stephen Herbert (MA) for NECC1009: Multidisciplinary Evaluation of Tree Fruit Cultivars [10/2005-2010]
- Stephen Herbert (MA) for NE1038: Hydropedology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils [10/2009-2014]
- Tom Burr (NYG) for NE1020: Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones [10/2004-2017]
- Ian Hart (CTS) for NE1022 (*New NE_temp1561*): Poultry Production Systems: Optimization of Production and Welfare Using Physiological, Behavioral and Physical Assessments
- Brad Hillman (NJ) for NE1027: Ovarian Influences on Embryonic Survival in Ruminants [10/2007-2012]
- Jon Wraith (NH) for NRSP3: (*New NRSP_temp3*) The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)

The motion made to accept the above nominations was seconded and approved.

16. Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr

Resolution of Appreciation to the Host Institution - Maine Forestry and Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agriculture Experiment Station Directors participated in an engaging and productive meeting at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland, Maine, and

WHEREAS, the Directors also were involved in a dynamic and well-organized joint meeting with the Northeast Extension Directors, Deans, Regional Center Directors and members of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching on July 13-14, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the scenic cruise on Casco Bay, and a taste of the delightful and luscious Maine cuisine at the Lobster Bake on Peaks Island,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors acknowledge their appreciation to Dean and Director Edward Ashworth, Associate Director Fred Servello, Executive Director

John Rebar, Associate Director Doug Babkirk, Charlene Herrick, Shannon Johnson and their staff for making the meeting a great success and a very enjoyable experience.

Signed July 14, 2009

Michael Vayda, Chair

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Jeff Seemann (RI)

WHEREAS, Dr. Jeff Seemann has distinguished himself as Dean of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences at the University of Rhode Island, as well as Director of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension since 2001, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seemann served as Chair of the Northeast Administrative Heads, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seemann served as NERA Chair in 2005, 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 Portland, Maine, on July 13-14, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Seemann for his dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Association, and wish him success in his new role as Vice President of Research at Texas A & M University.

Signed July 14, 2009

Michael Vayda, Chair

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. William E. Vinson (WV)

WHEREAS, Dr. William Vinson has distinguished himself as the Associate Director of the West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station since 2003, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vinson served with distinction and utmost commitment as a Member from 2003 to 2005, and then Chair of the NERA Multistate Activities Committee from 2005 to 2009, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Vinson very effectively represented the Northeast Region at the national level on the National Research Support Projects Review Committee, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vinson generously served as the administrative advisor on several multistate projects, and more recently on the following:

NE1022- Poultry Production Systems: Optimization of Production and Welfare Using Physiological, Behavioral and Physical Assessments,

NE1026- Weed Management Strategies for Sustainable Cropping Systems, and

NE1027- Ovarian Influences on Embryonic Survival in Ruminants;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agriculture Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Portland, Maine, on July 13-14, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Vinson for his dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Association, and wish him happiness and success in his future personal endeavors.

Signed July 14, 2009
Michael Vayda, Chair
Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

The motion made to accept the above resolutions was seconded and approved. The resolution for Dr. Bill Vinson will be modified to mention his achievements and contributions in animal science, particularly dairy.

17. Future Meetings:

- July 28-29, 2009: Joint COPs Summer Meeting, Minneapolis, MN
- September 14-17, 2009: ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop, Oklahoma City, OK
Note that NERA meeting will be Monday, Sept. 14, 3:00-6:00pm.
- March 23-24, 2010 NERA Spring Meeting, Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, MD

18. Summary Comments and Closing - Chair Mike Vayda

Chair Mike Vayda thanked everyone for the interesting and engaging discussions, and wished everyone safe return.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.



[Back to Workroom](#)
