

Report and Recommendations
NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING

August 22, 2018
1:00-3:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Chair - Fred Servello (UME), Pat Vittum (UMass), Amy Ouellette (UNH)

Action Items:

Request to Approve Peer Reviewed Multistate Research Project

1. NE_TEMP1838: *Development of a Weed Emergence Model for the Northeastern United States*, 10/2018 – 09/2023 [Renewal of NE1338, AA: Margaret Smith – Cornell]
 - The technical team responded appropriately, point by point, to the comments and suggestions of three peer reviews (one excellent, one positive, one unacceptable).
 - A strong array of Experiment Stations participating on this project.
 - **Pat Vittum introduced a motion to approve this project, seconded by Amy Ouellette, and approved unanimously.**

2. NE_TEMP9: *Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources*, 10/2018 – 09/2023 [Renewal of NE9, AA: Jan Nyrop – Cornell]
 - Budgets for this genebank come from regional off-the-top funds and that requires NERA approval.
 - The proposal is well-crafted; the purpose is sound.
 - **Pat Vittum introduced a motion to approve this project proposal, separately from the budget request. The motion was seconded by Amy Ouellette and approved unanimously.**

3. NE_TEMP1836: *Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies*, 10/2018 – 09/2023 [Renewal of NE1336. AA: Chris Watkins – Cornell]
 - The MAC encouraged the team to expand its breadth beyond apples for this postharvest project.
 - The proposal expands into stone fruit, berries, and controlled environment technology.
 - Peer reviews were generally positive. Some suggestions about bridging out into health/nutrition aspects were provided.
 - This has been a longstanding, historically successful project.
 - **Pat Vittum introduced a motion to approve this project proposal, seconded by Amy Ouellette, and approved unanimously.**

Request to Approve Peer Reviewed Multistate Coordinating Committees and Extension and Research Activities

1. NECC_TEMP1812: *Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing*, 10/2018 – 09/2023 [Renewal of NECC1312, AA: Rick Rhodes – NERA]
 - Representation within and outside the Northeast is strong and members are active.
 - The group is viewed as a network of expertise in soil testing.
 - Peer reviews were supportive across the board.
 - This is a strong foundational coordinating committee which many of our stations participate in.
 - AA Rick Rhodes confirmed that the group is active and requires little guidance.
 - **Pat Vittum introduced a motion to approve this Coordinating Committee proposal, seconded by Amy Ouellette, approved unanimously.**

2. NEERA_TEMP1806: *Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug*, 10/2018 – 09/2023 [Renewal of NEERA1306, AA: Ted Andreadis – CTAES]
 - For years, this committee coordinated an annual meeting in conjunction with a USDA meeting.
 - The previous iteration involved 80 participants and the proposal mentions plans to grow the group.
 - Reviews were shared with the technical team. One reviewer commented on the academic component of the ERA and sought opportunities for developing a “homeowner focus”. Despite a potential need for such focus, that activity might be outside the scope of this ERA.
 - We can endorse the ERA, but inform the committee about the suggestions from the one reviewer.
 - **Amy Ouellette introduced a motion to approve this ERA proposal, seconded by Pat Vittum, approved unanimously.**

3. NECC_TEMP29: *Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference*, 10/2018 – 09/2023 [Renewal of NECC29, AA: Margaret Smith – Cornell]
 - NERA historically has seen value in this well-attended conference with strong leadership.
 - Peer reviews were generally positive.
 - **Amy Ouellette introduced a motion to approve this CC proposal, seconded by Pat Vittum, approved unanimously.**

MAC Action Item

1. Resolution of proposals that require MAC/NERA approval anticipating a 10/1/2018 start date. Expedited review? Electronic voting?
 - Three proposals are under revision in response to peer reviews; one is new (broccoli), two are renewals (biocontrol and chestnut).
 - Can we approve via teleconference? Electronic ballot?
 - **Via Email, NERA OED will circulate the revised proposal, peer reviews, responses to peer reviews, and initial MAC comments on the proposals.**

Administrative Adviser Assignment

1. NE_TEMP1839: *Development and Evaluation of Broccoli Adapted to the Eastern US*, 10/2018 – 09/2023 [New project] Jan Nyrop – Cornell, willing to serve
 - **This AA assignment was approved by acclamation.**

Operating Modifications

1. Review of editorial changes to the *Northeastern Supplement Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities*.
 - Section IV: consider inserting “Associate Directors” into the list of those who can serve on the MAC.
 - Regarding Appendix E approval: Change “employing” to “participating” station.
 - **Rick Rhodes will incorporate these changes into the NE Supplement to the Guidelines.**

Budget Approval

1. NE59: Support for the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (see memo of 7/6/2018, Thompson to MAC, \$40,788)
 - The budget request is identical to previous years’ requests.
 - NERCRD is housed at Penn State University.
 - Director Stephan Goetz is working on behalf of the entire region and has made his way to multiple NERA institutions.
 - NERA thinks highly of the NERCRD and is generally supportive of its budget.
 - **Pat Vittum introduced a motion to approve the NE59 budget, seconded by Amy Ouellette, and approved unanimously.**
 - **NERA will have an opportunity to vote on this budget during the 8/30 Zoom meeting.**

Informational Items:

1. Amy Ouellette (UNH) is joining the MAC as the NEED replacement for Dennis Calvin.