



# NERA Meeting

Hilton Columbus at Easton, Columbus, OH  
**Meeting Room – Easton E**

September 25, 2013 [8:00 am – 10:00 am]

## Draft Minutes

### **In Attendance:**

Adel Shirmohammadi (MD), Chair  
Tom Burr (NYG)  
Michael Hoffmann (NYC)  
Tim Phipps (WV)  
Daniel Rossi (NERA)  
Fred Servello (ME)  
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)  
Gary Thompson (PA)  
Jon Wraith (NH)  
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

### **1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi**

Chair Adel Shirmohammadi called the meeting to order at 8:00AM. He welcomed the directors and guests to the meeting and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves.

### **2. Approval of Agenda – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi**

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAGendaSept2013.pdf>

Chair Adel S. reported that the NERA Executive Committee held a conference call on Sept. 17. He was out of the country on university business and was not able to join. Dr. Fred Servello chaired the call. The committee decided, and Chair Adel agreed, to defer discussion of the following important topics to our 2014 Spring Meeting in Baltimore, due to time constraints at this meeting.

- Review of NERA Assessments and Staff Salaries –Jon Wraith, Mike Hoffmann and Cameron Faustman will make the calculations for the two scenarios, and send them to the directors prior to the NERA spring meeting. If necessary, comments can be shared by email or conference calls. The plan is for the directors to be able to make a final decision at the spring meeting.

- Northeast Faculty Hiring Decisions Survey – Dan Rossi and Cameron Faustman will explore a potential proposal for a joint NERA/NEAPS meeting focusing on graduate education, and decide if further discussion is needed at a future NERA meeting.
- Resource Use in NE Experiment Stations Survey – Fred Servello is working on the proposed white paper and will have an update at the spring meeting.

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

**3. Approval of Minutes from the July 2013 NERA Meeting – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi**  
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesJuly2013.pdf>

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

**4. Multistate Activities Committee Report – Kirby Stafford III**  
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportSept2013.pdf>

MAC Chair Dr. Kirby Stafford III reported that his committee via teleconference on Sept. 17 to discuss the requests and proposals.

**Action:** The motion made to approve MAC’s recommendations for the following was seconded and passed.

- Multistate Coordinating Committee proposal NE\_TEMP2141: Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]
- Multistate Coordinating Committee proposal NE\_TEMP2142: Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]
- Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Hydrogeology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1038]
- Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1041]

- NRSP Review Committee Recommendations (see NRSP Review Committee Report below)  
 It was noted that the NRSPRC recommendations will be voted on at the ESCOP Meeting.

Discussion:

- On NRSP8, the Directors felt that it is appropriate to reflect the reduction due to sequestration
- There will be a request to increase NRSP1 from \$50K to \$75K to include a fulltime salary for the Impacts Writer. The NRSPRC did not approve the proposal and will put forward this recommendation. Voting ‘NO’ will mean that a proposal to increase will then be presented and the body has to vote approval or disapproval of the increase. The Directors felt that this is a good project and the output is excellent. However, with the Northeast having the least number of multistate projects, we may not benefit as well as the other regions.
- Dr. Tom Burr noted that multistate projects, such as his winegrape group, NE1020, that is well established and have submitted annual reports should take advantage of this service. He will share the info with Sara Delheimer and will request her to write the project’s impacts.

- ED Dr. Dan Rossi mentioned that he will conduct a review of our multistate portfolio and will again be visiting Stations with an analysis for each Station.
- There's a new NRSP proposal, "Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research" (Sept. 2014-Oct. 2019) on the table, but will not make this round of review. It will be considered at the 2014 spring meeting. The Directors would like to see the full proposal prior to the spring meeting. There is concern that this proposal will stretch funding for NRSPs. A comment was made that if NRSP8 is reduced to \$300K then this new NRSP can be accommodated. Dr. Dan Rossi noted that there is indeed a cap for all the NRSPs and we are getting close to reaching that cap. Funding new NRSPs will mean reducing amounts or terminating current NRSPs. The NRSPRC will certainly take the cap into consideration when approving new NRSPs.
- 2014 NERA Planning Grants
  - The proposal to reduce the grant from \$10K to \$5K per award may cause a disincentive to apply, so the Directors agreed to keep it at \$10K.

**Action:** The motion made to keep the NERA Planning Grant Award to \$10K per project and to release the 2014 RFA was seconded and passed.

- Multistate Fund Expenditures

There is a wide variation among the states/stations on how multistate funds are used administratively to support faculty. Dr. Dan Rossi reminded that the correct way of charging travel to attend Coordinating Committee annual technical meetings is to charge the Northeast central administrative project, NE59. All AES Directors in the Northeast are recorded as official NE59 participants. The business officers in the stations would be familiar and should already be using this project for travel. Only the standard multistate projects (NE####, NC####, S#### and W####), with corresponding Hatch funds allocation, can charge expenses other than travel.

## 5. Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi (see OED Report below)

Dr. Dan Rossi noted the following:

- NEED will be searching for a fulltime ED, much like NERA, and the appointment will be made early in the year.
- The 2014 Joint Summer Meeting will be held in Madison, Wisconsin and will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin. Planning for the program is underway and suggestions should be sent to Dr. Tim Phipps, NERA Vice-Chair, who will represent NERA to the Planning Committee. Dr. Fred Servello that one of the primary reasons for getting together with another region is to learn best practices from each other. Suggestions were—
  - How are Extension and Research centers dealing with budget cuts and how do they manage their funds? How do they generate revenues?
  - How to deal with unproductive faculty?
  - How do we identify and keep leaders in our institutions?
  - Forward thinking, say innovative ways of maintaining a dairy herd, contracting services offsite, etc.
  - Move to data analytics and reinvention of campuses
- The Science Roadmap tri-fold brochures are finally printed, and each Station will initially get 10 copies. These can be shared with faculty, legislators and stakeholders, and can be used for setting priorities and for advocacy/marketing efforts. If more copies are needed, send requests to Rubie Mize. She will compile additional copies needed from the other regions and will order a second printing. First printing was paid for by ESCOP, but the second will have to be at-cost per region. APLU will invoice each region for the additional copies.

## **6. Eastern US-Canada Climate Change Collaboration Update – Mike Hoffmann**

- A workshop will be held in Syracuse, NY, on December 9-10. The purpose is to learn from existing networks such as the grape growers, identify if there are gaps/needs to help strengthen them, and help develop networks for other commodities such as apples, grains, vegetables, pork etc.
- Experts in social media have been invited and the concept of ‘citizen science’ is also an important focus
- Increased private sector involvement is expected. We will be reaching out to farmers/producers to participate, as well as farmer group representatives in the US and Canada.
- A USDA presenter will be invited to give an update on the Climate Hubs. No info yet on what locations were selected. However, there was only one proposal from the Northeast.
- The program description and registration info will be sent to everyone, and the Directors were requested to help reach out to their farmers.
- The workshop is supported in part by Cornell University's David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future (ACSF), so a modest support for farmers’ travel or registration is available.
- Dr. Mike Hoffmann is also actively involved in the NCSE Building Climate Solutions Conference in January 2014 at Washington, DC. Participants will share and discuss solutions to mitigate consequences of climate change and adaptation solutions for unavoidable consequences. He will share the URL with the Directors.

## **7. AES/CES Communications and Marketing Project – Dan Rossi**

A motion to be voted on at the ESCOP Meeting will be presented to approve the SAES/ARD marketing assessment for three more years at the \$300,000 level. If Extension continues as a partner in the effort at their previous level of commitment, the SAES/ARD marketing assessment would be reduced to \$200,000 per year. Hence, the total budget with Extension is \$400,000.

## **8. Significant Station Announcements**

- Groundbreaking for the new greenhouse in Geneva will be on Oct. 24. Dr. Susan Brown has been appointed new Associate Director for the NYSAES.
- With Dr. Lou Magnarelli’s passing, the Board of the State of Connecticut had formed a Search Committee to appoint a new AES Director. The AES is moving to a new building next summer.
- A new Provost at Penn State has been appointed from John Hopkins University. The search for a new Dean to replace Dr. McPherson has been reinvigorated. There will not be a new search but the committee will look at previous applicants. Then introduction of the REEport raised interesting developments on how funds are handled in campus. The AES will now handle their own funds (Hatch etc.) and the central grants office will handle unappropriated funds.
- Five departments in the School of Plant Sciences and CALS are coming together as part of Cornell’s downsizing plans.
- At WVU, five positions in 3 new schools were created. Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design were consolidated, and all three schools are under the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Design. Dr. Phipps heads the committee planning for a new \$100M building.

- The NJ School of Medicine is now under Rutgers'. A \$60M nutrition/medicine building is being planned. Medical courses associated with Food Science are now offered in the curricula.
- At UMD, the new Provost Mary Ann Rankin has an entomology background and came from the University of Texas prior to joining UMD. The overall university strategy is to 'save' not 'spend'. Building consolidations are encouraged, priorities are given for those that need repair over new construction.

## **9. Nominations Committee Report – Jon Wraith**

Sabine O'Hara (UDC Dean and AES Director) will serve as one of the three Research members to the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD).

**Action:** The motion to approve the nomination was seconded and passed.

## **10. Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr**

**Action:** The motion to approve the resolution as read below by Dr. Tom Burr was seconded and approved.

### **Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli had distinguished himself as the Director, since 2004, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the oldest state experiment station in the United States, having been founded in 1875, and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Magnarelli's career in the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station spanned for 38 years, starting in 1975 as an Assistant Scientist, rose through the ranks and was serving as the Station's Director when he passed on July 11, 2013, and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Magnarelli was known internationally for his work and pioneering research in the field of medical entomology. His expertise covered mosquitoes, ticks, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, human and canine ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, tularemia, and serologic testing for antibodies to pathogens transmitted by ticks and mosquitoes, and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Magnarelli served as Advisor for the multistate project on plant-parasitic nematodes in horticultural and field crops for over 20 years, and was an active member of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Stations having served in committees and specifically helped new directors navigate the intricacies of advising multistate projects, and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Magnarelli was a well respected civil servant in the State of Connecticut, and was recognized by the state's leadership for his dedication and hard work in advocating for Connecticut's agriculture and green industries, ensuring the health and sustainability of their communities, environment and the people of Connecticut.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on September 25, 2013, express sincere appreciation and lauds Dr. Magnarelli's dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Association and the Land-grant system.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that an original copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Magnarelli's family and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of the meeting.  
September 25, 2013

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Signed by Adel Shirmohammadi, Chair  
Northeastern Regional Association of State  
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

#### **11. Future Meetings:**

- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting – November 11, 2013 at Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC
- ESCOP Committee Meeting – March 3, 2014, Washington, DC
- NERA Spring Meeting – March 10-12, 2014 at the Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, MD
- 2014 Northeast- North Central Joint Summer Meeting – July 7-9, 2014, Madison, WI

#### **12. Closing Remarks/Passing of the Gavel – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi**

Chair Adel S. thanked Dr. Dan Rossi and Rubie Mize for their assistance, and the Directors for their support during his term as NERA Chair. He thanked everyone for a short but productive meeting, and graciously turned over the meeting to Dr. Fred Servello.

Dr. Fred Servello looks forward to working with the NERA OED and the Directors in the coming year. He noted that there are important issues to discuss at the spring meeting, among those is NERA's future budget scenarios. He will be requesting input from the Directors, so they should expect to hear from him as we get closer to the spring meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05AM.

## **NERA Executive Committee Call**

### **September 17, 2013 [1:00-2:00PM]**

**In Attendance:** Fred Servello, Tim Phipps, Jon Wraith, Cameron Faustman, Dan Rossi and Rubie Mize (Recorder)

#### **Notes:**

1. Three discussion topics will be postponed for the spring meeting due to time constraint. We have only two hours for the NERA business meeting next week at Columbus, OH.
  - Review of NERA Assessments and Staff Salaries –Jon Wraith, Mike Hoffmann and Cameron Faustman will make the calculations for the two scenarios, and send them to the directors prior to the NERA spring meeting. If necessary, comments can be shared by email or conference calls. The plan is for the directors to be able to make a final decision at the spring meeting.
  - Northeast Faculty Hiring Decisions Survey – Dan Rossi and Cameron Faustman will explore a potential proposal for a joint NERA/NEAPS meeting focusing on graduate education, and decide if further discussion is needed at a future NERA meeting.
  - Resource Use in NE Experiment Stations Survey – Fred Servello is working on the proposed white paper and will have an update at the spring meeting.
2. Adjustments in the July 2013 minutes - Rubie will do the edits.
3. MAC Report – MAC approved the proposals and requests.
  - Also to be discussed is the use of multistate funds for CCs and ERAs. Directors need to know that their station administrative projects (NE59) should be up-to-date. There are issues on REEport that currently does not allow funds to be spent on CCs and ERAs. NEERA1306-marmorated stinkbug, was approved as an ERA and allowed to expend funds like a standard multistate research, but REEport is not accepting it as such. Another issue is Extension personnel involvement in multistate projects. They need to be reported under AES for them to show up and be authorized to use funds in the REEport.
4. NRSP Review Committee Recommendations
  - NRSP1 proposal for an increase from \$50,000 to \$75,000 in FY2014 will be revisited. NERA directors did not support the increase when this was discussed at the spring meeting. The proposal is to make the halftime writer fulltime. NERA felt that projects should be prioritized and not all terminating projects need impact statements. Some NRSP-RC members also felt that the timing of the request is not appropriate when budgets are being cut due to sequestration. The NRSP-RC recommendation **not** to increase will go to a vote. There is an update on the impacts reporting activity that will be included in the meeting packet. There's no doubt that there are benefits. The impacts feed into the system's communication and marketing initiatives. K-global uses it in their media outlets and NIFA likes the format and uses them when they get requests from Congress.

5. Station Updates – Only stations with significant announcements, like new Dean etc.
6. 2014 NERA Planning Grant - There will be a discussion on whether to adjust the maximum award. The draft document proposes a reduction from \$10,000 to \$5,000 in 2014 because of budgets, and actual costs often are below \$5,000. There are other potential factors such as effects on incentives. Another alternative is to reduce the maximum award to \$7-8K. Feedback is needed from directors.
7. Climate Change Update – Mike Hoffmann will talk about the workshop in Syracuse, NY, on December 9-10. Also to be discussed is the status of the climate change hubs. Some stations offered to participate and sent letters of support to USDA agencies that applied.
8. AES/CES Communication and Marketing – The directors need to vote for the next round of funding - 3 years @ \$300K. If Extension stays as a partner, then AES share is \$200K. Directors will receive an update at the NERA meeting prior to voting at the ESS meeting.
9. Nomination – Sabine O’Hara (UDC Dean and AES Director) has been approached and she is willing to serve as one of the three Research members to the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD).
10. Resolution – Resolution of Appreciation for Dr. Lou Magnarelli
11. Future meetings are all for information only.
12. Cameron Faustman suggested a topic, but can be deferred for the spring meeting, about the complications of joint reporting for states that have submitted separate reports in the past, such as CT and WV. They have been meeting with their counterparts and discussing strategies this fall, and would like to bring this up for discussion at the March meeting.

Acting Chair Fred Servello adjourned the meeting at 2:00PM.



# NERA Meeting

**Hilton Columbus at Easton, Columbus, OH**  
**Meeting Room – Easton E**

**September 25, 2013 [8:00 am – 10:00 am]**

## **Draft Agenda**

- 8:00 am Welcome and Introductions – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi
- 8:05 am Approval of Agenda – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi
- 8:10 am Approval of Minutes from the July 2013 NERA Meeting – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi  
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesJuly2013.pdf>
- 8:15 am Multistate Activities Committee Report – Kirby Stafford  
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportSept2013.pdf>
- MAC Recommendations for Proposals and Requests to Write
  - NRSP Review Committee Recommendations
  - 2014 NERA Planning Grants
  - Multistate Fund Expenditures
- 9:00 am Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi
- 9:10 am Eastern US-Canada Climate Change Collaboration Update – Mike Hoffmann
- 9:20 am AES/CES Communications and Marketing Project – Steve Herbert/Dan Rossi
- 9:30 am Significant Station Announcements
- 9:40 am Nominations Committee Report – Jon Wraith
- 9:45 am Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr
- 9:50 pm Future Meetings:
- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting – November 11, 2014 at Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC
  - ESCOP Committee Meeting – March 3, 2014, Washington, DC
  - NERA Spring Meeting – March 10-12, 2014 at the Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, MD
  - 2014 Northeast- North Central Joint Summer Meeting – July 7-9, 2014, Madison, WI
- 9:55 am Closing Remarks/Passing of the Gavel – Chair Adel Shirmohammadi
- 10:00 am Adjournment

# Report and Recommendations

## NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

**Via Teleconference**

**September 17, 2013  
10:00-11:00am**

**Chair, Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH)**

**Members: Tim Phipps (WV), Fred Servello (ME), Gary Thompson (PA),  
Bob Schrader (MA) and Bill Hare (DC)**

1. Request to approve the Multistate Coordinating Committee proposal NE\_TEMP2141: Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]

**Discussion:** Well written and an important project that has been going on for many years. Change CSREES references to NIFA. Need to update their participation list, and complete the Appendix E's in NIMSS.

**Action:** Recommends approval of the proposal.

2. Request to approve the Multistate Coordinating Committee proposal NE\_TEMP2142: Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]

**Discussion:** Basically, an information exchange group and activities are well defined. Change CSREES references to NIFA. Need to update their participation list, and complete the Appendix E's in NIMSS. Industry involvement could be more specific, who are they involved with and who are participating. Corn is an important issue, e.g. bio-improvement, genomics, etc. and would be good to mention current research activities in this area.

**Action:** Recommends approval of the proposal.

3. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Hydrogeology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1038]

**Discussion:** Well written and needs for research are well defined. Area will be increasingly become more important. Project members need to make clear in their proposal the extensive ecological literature done on vernal pools and how it impacts what they propose to do.

**Action:** Recommends approval of the request to write a proposal.

4. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1041]

**Discussion:** Well written. Good focus on best management practices for private small horse farm owners. Major issue is compliance and appropriate outreach program will be addressed in proposal.

**Action:** Recommends approval of the request to write a proposal.

#### 5. NRSP Review Committee Report

**Discussion:** For existing projects, midterm reviews were all good, NRSPs4-6-9 and were recommended to continue. All regions strongly behind renewal of NRSP8. All NRSPs will be voted on, but will be discussed in detail at the NERA meeting next week before the directors vote.

There's a new NRSP proposal, "*Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research*" (Sept. 2014-Oct. 2019) on the table, but will not make this round of review. It will be considered at the 2014 spring meeting.

Increase for the FY2014 for NRSP1 to support a fulltime impacts writer was not supported by all regions and not recommended by the NRSP-Review Committee. Accomplishments are good and impact statements have been widely used and distributed, but some members of the NRSP-RC did not feel the request for increase appropriate when budgets are being cut due to sequestration.

**Action:** Revisit NRSP-RC recommendations at the NERA meeting, particularly for NRSP1.

#### 6. 2014 NERA Planning Grant

**Discussion:** Award has been changed to \$5000 for 2014. Will this affect the incentive factor?

We should require *good focus and vision* of research and extension activities rather than *specific and well defined* as we would expect them to have in the planning stage. RFA will be revised accordingly.

**Action:** Discuss at our NERA meeting and get feedback from directors on the award amount being reduced to \$5000. NERA directors will vote to approve the release of the 2014 NERA Planning Grant and the award amount.

#### 7. Use of multistate funds for Coordinating Committees and ERA's

**Discussion:** Regional EDs and NIFA program staff have been discussing the use of funds for CC's and ERA's. REEport is not allowing these types of expenditures. There are broader issues involved as it's important that directors are aware that we have the administrative project NE59-Multistate Research Coordination, that can be used to cover travel of faculty participating in CC's and ERA's. They need to make sure that their associated station administrative project is still active.

Another REEport issue involves Extension participants with joint appointments. They have to be reported as AES in NIMSS so they'll appear in the REEPort. This is a temporary but not ideal way that multistate research and Hatch funds (e.g. salaries, tech. support, labs, etc.) can be expended and reported in the REEport.

**Action:** Important to share this with the directors at the NERA meeting next week.

## **Agenda Brief 5.0: NRSP-RC Report**

**Presenter: Arlen Leholm (for Abel Ponce de León, NRSP Chair, 2013)**

1. The NRSP-RC met by phone on June 3 and made the following project recommendations for the full ESCOP vote at the Fall ESS Meeting:
  - **NRSP-1 budget increase, as proposed by WAAESD office:** 4/3 against increasing the project's budget to support a full-time impact writer. A vote of YES supports the NRSP-RC recommendation to NOT increase the NRSP1 budget; a vote of NO supports increasing the NRSP1 budget.
  - **NRSP\_temp281:** Budget and business plan reviews were favorable and the proposal is recommended for approval/renewal as-is. A vote of YES supports the NRSP-RC's recommendation to renew NRSP\_temp281 (NRSP8) with their requested budget (see below table)
2. In addition, the group evaluated the midterm review forms for NRSP4, 6, and 9. All midterm reviews were favorable and the three committees were recommended to continue as-is.
3. Also included on the NRSP ballot is the vote to approve the FY14 budget of \$15,000 for Excellence in Multistate Research Award to: SERA005 - Sweet Potato Collaborators Conference, as recommended by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee.
4. Updated NRSP Guidelines, rev. 2012, have been uploaded to the ESCOP webpage here: <http://escop.ncsu.edu/EZcontainer.cfm?pg=guidelines.htm>
5. Bret Hess (Western Region, WY) is the incoming NRSP-RC Chair for FY2014, effective 10/1/2013

## NRSP 2013-2014 Summary

Project	Request FY2011	Authorized FY2011	Request FY2012	Authorized FY2012	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Revised FY2013 funding amounts based on sequestration cuts (7.62%)	†Request FY2014 (assuming a return to FY12 levels)
NRSP1	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	46,190	75,000
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	46,190	50,000
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	444,516	481,182
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	138,570	150,000
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	300,235	325,000
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	461,900	-
NRSP9	350,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	161,665	175,000
NRSP_temp281							-	500,000

†Assuming an acceptable midterm review during year three, all NRSP budgets were approved during 2012 Fall ESS Meeting for the duration of their current, five-year cycle.

		Project Period	Midterm Review Year
<b>NRSP-1</b>	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2011-2016	2014
<b>NRSP-3</b>	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2009-2014	-
<b>NRSP-4</b>	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2010-2015	2013
<b>NRSP-6</b>	The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm	2010-2015	2013
<b>NRSP-7</b>	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2009-2014	-
<b>NRSP-8</b>	National Animal Genome Research Program	2008-2013	-

<b>NRSP-9</b>	National Animal Nutrition Program	2010-2015	2013
<b>NRSP_temp281</b>	National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP8 renewal)	2013-2018	2016

**Action requested: Vote on NRSP-RC's recommendations for NRSP1's budget and NRSP\_temp281's renewal proposal and 5-year budget.**

## Agenda Brief 19.0

### National Impact Reporting Update July 2013 – September 2013

**Since March 1, 2013, NRSP-1 has supported 0.5 FTE (20 hours per week) for the Impact Communications Specialist. The following update tracks progress for this effort since the previous update in July 2013 to September 1, 2013.**

- 4 Impact Statements have been finalized since July 2013 update
  - 7 out for review
  - Grand total: 56 total Impact Statements
    - 18 North Central, 6 Northeastern, 11 Southern (includes NRSP-8), 21 Western
- 3 press releases have been written and distributed for 2013 Excellence in Multistate Research Award nominees
- 3 stories about key impacts from multistate research projects have been pitched as news/feature stories for media outlets:
  - University of Alaska, Fairbanks, involvement in WERA-1016, “Adaptation, Quality and Management of Sustainable Cellulosic Biofuel Crops in the West”
    - Arranged media outlets:
      - UAF Division of Agriculture newsletter, November issue
      - *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*
  - Colorado State University participation in NC-170, “Personal Protective Technologies”
    - Interviewed Dr. Juyeon Park on August 22.
    - Invited to attend Human Body Dimension Lab open house in late September
    - Invited to observe and interview firefighters participating in study in late September
    - Working with contacts to publish story in:
      - College of Health and Human Sciences newsletter/magazine
      - “Today @ Colorado State” newsletter
      - *Denver Post*
  - WERA-1012, “Managing and Utilizing Precipitation Observations from Volunteer Networks”
    - Pitching in progress
    - Currently auditing existing media attention

#### Visibility & Reach:

- 12 Impact Statements have been added to Ag Is America website
  - Grand total: 50
    - 18 North Central, 5 Northeastern, 12 Southern, 15 Western
  - ~50 views/Impact Statement story
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> most visited page on website
- Each of the 12 Impact Statements added to Ag Is America website has been featured in a facebook post
  - Reaches 3,868 followers
  - ~655 views/post
- Each of the 12 Impact Statements added to Ag Is America website has been featured in a series of tweets
  - Reaches 26,651 followers
- 8 Impact Statements featured as weekly research spotlight in “Why Ag Matters” weekly e-newsletter
  - Reaches 364 subscribers
- Each finalized Impact Statements has been uploaded to NIMSS “Impacts” page
- Each finalized Impact Statements has been uploaded on the corresponding regional website

## 2014 NERA Planning Grants Program

The Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) announces the sixth round of its regional competitive planning grants program. These grants are to be used to organize Northeast researchers and Extension educators into teams to develop new mission-oriented, cross-disciplinary, multistate problem-solving programs. The programs are to be needs driven and include clearly defined research and outreach components. They must focus on new and promising research collaborations or integrated research and extension activities that bring together specialists in diverse fields to apply complementary approaches to work on an important well-defined problem. Proposals in support of programs that are forward looking/anticipatory are especially encouraged.

While we will not have a specific focus to this year's round of proposals, we ask that you keep in mind the AFRI priority areas and the four competitive funding initiatives mandated in the 2008 Farm Bill. The AFRI priority areas are:

- Keep American agriculture competitive while ending world hunger
- Improve nutrition and end child obesity
- Improve food safety for all Americans
- Secure America's energy future through renewable biofuels
- Mitigate and adapt agriculture to variations in climate

The four mandated funding initiatives are:

- Organic Agriculture Research & Extension
- Specialty Crops Research Initiative
- New Farmer and Rancher Development
- Biomass Research and Development

Proposals (not to exceed **three** single spaced pages) will be due on **December 6, 2013**. The NERA Multistate Activities Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the NERA Directors. Final decisions will be made by December 20, 2013. Funding up to \$10,000 will be available to support transportation and meeting expenses to bring the team together. As the funds come from the NERA operational budget so they cannot be used to pay F&A., and we reimburse **only** the actual expenses. The funding will be available to the teams for a maximum of one year from the date of the award notification. The funds will be administered by the Office of the NERA Executive Director and can only be used to reimburse actual expenses. Unused funds will be returned to our pool for future planning grants.

Proposals for planning grants should include:

- Mission and goals of the proposed program
- Justification for the program relative to stakeholder needs and potential for sustained external funding
- Activities to be engaged in by team members towards a more complete definition of the program

- Timetable for completion of the planning activities and preparation of a competitive proposal
- Team members from two or more Northeastern State Agricultural Experiment Stations and an explanation of their roles on the team
- Team leader with a demonstrated track record of leading cross-disciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations
- Budget for planning activities not to exceed \$10,000

An expected outcome of a planning grant will be a proposal submitted to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture in response to the FY2014 or 2015 RFA's or other funding sources specified in the proposal. Grant recipients will be expected to provide a written report at the end of the grant period and subsequent periodic reports on the status of resulting proposals.

The specific criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals are:

- Addresses an important need in the region
- Stakeholder supported justification
- Consistent with goals of competitive funding programs of USDA, NSF, NIH, etc.
- Potential for sustained funding
- Clearly defined activities
- Integrated research and extension activities
- Realistic timetable
- Team members appropriate to proposed activities
- Team leaders with demonstrated track record
- Leveraged support
- Overall quality of proposal

In order to provide guidance and feedback from the previous rounds of grant proposals, the following are some of the reviewer comments on those proposals:

- Goals not well defined
- Not clear what specific major compelling issues will be addressed
- Priority not well established
- Needs not clearly justified by stakeholder support; did not identify specific clientele being served
- Good focus, but vision of research and extension activities not well defined
- No specifics on what activities are being planned – what are the key approaches to be used
- Strategy of individual proposal development and then consolidation not clear
- Proposed collaboration not well described
- Deliverables not clear
- Potential for sustainable funding not clear

Please submit planning grant proposals by c.o.b. on **December 6, 2013** to Rubie Mize at [rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu).

**NERA Meeting**  
**September 25, 2013**  
**Hilton Easton, Columbus, OH**

**Report of the Office of the Executive Director**  
**July 6 – September 26, 2013**

NERA and Regional Activities

- Eastern US and Canada Climate Change Collaboration
  - Continue facilitation of this collaboration through regular conference calls
  - Coordinated with USDA agencies in the development of proposals for regional USDA Climate Change Hubs
  - Continue to coordinate with the NC US and Canada Climate Team
  - Assisting in the planning and organizing of a climate change workshop focused on improving partnerships and regional communications networks, December 9-10, 2013 in Syracuse, NY
- NERA Planning Grants Program
  - Supported 2013 award recipients including the joint NERA-NEED food systems planning grants
  - Prepared 2014 Planning Grants announcement
- 2014 Northeast Summer Session
  - Initiating the planning for the joint Northeast-North Central summer session scheduled for July 13-15, 2014 in Madison, WI
- NERA Chair Support
  - Assisted in the development of the September 2013 NERA meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
    - Prepared NERA Chair's Interim Actions report
    - Prepared NERA OED report
  - Assisted in the development of the July 2013 NERA Executive Committee meeting agenda
  - Initiate planning for the March 10-12, 2014 NERA meeting
- Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
  - Continue to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors
  - Participated in monthly Center leadership conference calls
  - Participated in quarterly Center Technical Advisory Committee conference calls
  - Assisted in the planning and participated in the NE Food Systems Webinar, September 13, 2013
- Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center Mid-Atlantic
  - Member of Board of Directors
  - Approved as necessary appointments to the Industry and Technical Advisory Committees
- IR-4 (NRSP-4)
  - Serve as Regional Administrative Advisor

- Participated in a three Project Management Committee conference calls July 16, 17, and 18, 2013
- Assisting in the planning for the development of a strategic planning effort and a new five year NRSP-4 proposal
- NE-1049
  - Serve as Administrative Advisor
- Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) Support
  - Assisted MAC Chair in developing agenda and compiling materials for the MAC meeting
  - Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting their proposals for the following projects:
    1. NE\_TEMP2141: Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]
    2. NE\_TEMP2142: Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]
  - Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting the following Requests to Write:
    1. Hydropedology: Genesis, Properties, and Distribution of Hydromorphic Soils, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1038]
    2. Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1041]

### National Activities

- ESS Awards Programs
  - Provide overall coordination to the programs
  - Prepared announcement for the 2014 Multistate Research Award program
  - Prepared the new ESS Leadership Excellence Award description and announcement
- ESCOP Chair Support
  - Serve as the Executive Vice-Chair of ESCOP
  - Assisted in the planning, organizing and development of the agenda of the ESCOP meeting, July 24, 2013
  - Assisted in the planning of the joint ECOP-ESCOP session during the Joint COP's meeting, July 24, 2013
  - Scheduled and assisted in planning and developing agenda for monthly Chair's Advisory Committee conference calls
  - Assisted in the development of the ESS business meeting agenda
  - Compiled input from directors on the proposed NIFA strategic planning proposal and prepared a report for NIFA
- 2013 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting
  - Coordinated with other ED's in the development of the workshop program
- ESCOP Science and Technology Committee Chair Support
  - Continued to serve as the Executive Vice-Chair of the Science and Technology Committee
  - Prepared a committee report for the July 2013 ESCOP meeting

- Prepared monthly reports for ESCOP CAC calls
- Prepared a committee report and presentation for the 2013 ESS meeting
- Secured ESCOP funding of the design, printing and distribution of the Science Roadmap brochure, *Meeting 21st Century Challenges*
- Contracted for the printing of the brochure
- NRSP-1 Management Committee
  - Provide support to the NRSP-1 management committee
  - Facilitated quarterly conference calls of the NRSP-1 management committee
- NIMSS
  - Negotiating a contract with the University of Maryland to rewrite the NIMSS programming
  - Serve as regional NIMSS Coordinator
  - Provided national level support for the operations of NIMSS
  - Oversee upgrades to NIMSS
  - Supported NIFA Management Dashboard access to NIMSS data
- New Deans/Directors/Administrators/NPL's Orientation
  - Assisted in the development of the program of the Orientation
- LEAD 21 Program
  - Serve on Board of Directors (currently Secretary/Treasurer)
  - Prepared a three year budget plan of the program
- Program Monitoring and Feedback
  - AES-CES Communications and Marketing Project
  - Farm Bill development
  - NIFA budget developments
  - NIFA competitive grants programs
  - NIFA operational web and teleconferences
  - NIFA Hatch MRF utilization

#### Travel

- July 6-9, 2013, Ithaca, NY – Northeast Joint Summer Session and NERA Meeting
- July 23-25, 2013, Manhattan, KS – Joint COP's and ESCOP Meetings



# Eastern US-Canada Collaboration - Developing Networks for Agricultural Adaptation to Extreme Weather

## Comfort Inn and Suites

6701 Buckley Road, Syracuse, NY 13212

**December 9-10, 2013**

### **Purpose:**

- To further raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities for agriculture with a changing climate
- Learn what is happening on farms and what changes are occurring.
- Build additional partnerships across northeastern North America with individuals/organizations with interests in climate change and who should be aware of this regional initiative
- Lay the foundation for a communication/knowledge network using traditional methods and social media

### **Outcomes:**

- Strategically expand the level of engagement in this initiative to insure greater awareness and support
- Lay the groundwork for development of a communication/knowledge network.
  - Gain an appreciation for existing networks - what is working now?
  - Strengthen and foster linkage of existing networks through traditional methods and social media where appropriate. The ultimate network(s) would facilitate the rapid exchange of climate change adaptation and mitigation information/knowledge and help identify opportunities for the region's agriculture and food system
- Provide the foundation for a proposal to government agencies and/or other sources of funding

### **Participants:**

Approximately 40 people will be invited to this workshop. Invitees will include previous attendees of Eastern US-Canada conferences, and specifically –

- Farmers and agricultural advisors
- Extension/public service
- US, Canadian government (State, Provincial, Federal)
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service, Economic Research Service, Regional Rural Economic Development, Risk Management Association
- University Climate change scientists, social network specialists
- Selected leaders from key agricultural organizations
- Representatives from existing networks
- Students

### **Acknowledgment:**

*This work was supported in part by Cornell University's David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future (ACSF).*

## **Agenda:**

### **Monday, December 9**

6:00-9:00 pm - Meet and greet dinner reception

- 7:30 pm - Regional, national and global perspectives on climate change and agriculture
- Karimah Hudda, Sustainability Manager, Mondelēz Canada
  - Art DeGaetano, Director Northeast Regional Climate Center, Cornell University - Current Status of Climate Change in NE North America

### **Tuesday, December 10**

07:00 am Breakfast

08:00 Welcome and Charge – John Oliver and Mike Hoffmann

Brief Introductions - All

- 08:30 Sharing information - Networks – How they work. What can be achieved?
- Stephan Goetz, Director, Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
  - Donna Gibson, Research Leader, USDA-ARS, Ithaca, NY, USDA Climate Change Hubs

- 09:15 Grape Growers' Network - A Model for Climate Change Adaptation and Collaboration
- Tim Martinson, Department of Horticulture, Cornell University
  - Kevin W. Ker, KCMS Applied Research and Consulting Inc.
- Q & A

10:00 Break

- 10:30 Panel Response:  
Different perspectives – opportunities and challenges with a changing climate.  
Experiences/observations, adaption and mitigation. What networks exist?  
What networks need to be developed?
- Todd DuMond – Corn and soybean producer
  - Bill Cox, Extension Agronomist - grain crops
  - Mario Miranda Sazo – Extension Specialist - apple industry
  - Jenny Pronto – National perspectives - animal agriculture and climate change
  - Paul Salon – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service – mitigation network
  - Keith Tidball – Extension Disaster Education Network - AgSentinel Program

Discussion and Q & A

11:45 Working Lunch

- 12:30 pm Facilitated breakouts: Building a network
- Discussion of network concept paper and “open source” agriculture
  - Identify additional partnerships – who else should be involved, directly or indirectly?  
Farmers, farm advisors, processors, food chain, etc.
  - What networks exist and how to coordinate?
  - What kind of network would work for you?
  - Funding opportunities

2:00 Break

2:15 Breakout reports and discussion

2:45 Wrap up and next steps

3:00 Adjourn

**Agenda Brief 7.0:** AES/CES Communications & Marketing Committee (CMC)

**Presenters:** Nancy Cox, Bruce McPheron, Hunt Shipman, Darren Katz,  
and Arlen Leholm

**Overview:**

The Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) and the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) joined together in 2012 to coordinate a targeted educational effort to increase awareness and support of basic and applied research and transformational education provided by land-grant universities through the Agricultural Experiment Stations (AES) and Cooperative Extension System (CES). [kglobal](#), a public affairs/marketing firm, in cooperation with [Cornerstone Government Affairs](#), are assisting with this educational effort.

Cornerstone and kglobal have worked in close coordination to advance the FY 2014 budget and the Farm Bill. ESCOP started this marketing effort in April of 2008. CMC members believe more impact has been achieved now than at any time in the past five years.

Guided by the AES/CES Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC), ESCOP and ECOP entered into a two-year agreement effective May 1, 2012 with kglobal and Cornerstone, with annual renewal. The annual commitment is \$400,000 split equally between ESCOP and ECOP.

During our ESS business session on September 25, in Columbus, Ohio, a vote on continuing the AES/CES Communications & Marketing Project effort will be held. The SAES/ARD marketing assessment for the past three years has been \$300,000. One year remains on this assessment. The September vote will be to continue the Marketing assessment for the next three years.

At the Joint COPs meeting in July, 2013, ESCOP recommended the following motion be acted on at the ESS September Business meeting.

**Action Requested:** A motion to approve the SAES/ARD marketing assessment for three more years at the \$300,000 level. If Extension continues as a partner in the effort at their previous level of commitment, the SAES/ARD marketing assessment would be reduced to \$200,000 per year.