



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

The Admiral Fell Inn
Historic Fell's Point, 888 South Broadway, Baltimore MD 21231

March 21-23, 2011

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Brad Hillman, Chair
Tom Brady (NH)
Tom Burr (NYG)
Cameron Faustman (CTS)
Stephen Herbert (MA)
Michael Hoffman (NYC)
Hiram Larew (NIFA)
Tim Phipps (WV)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Fred Servello (ME)
Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)
Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)
Dariusz Swietlik (ARS)
Cheng-i Wei (MD)
Jon Wraith (NH)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

Tuesday, March 22 [Admiral 1 Meeting Room - 5th Floor]

Agenda Item No.	Minutes
	Call to Order – Chair Brad Hillman called the meeting to order at 8:00AM
	Introductions

1	<p>Agenda Modification (Additions/Deletions) and Approval - Brad Hillman, Chair Approval of the September 27, 2010 Minutes of the NERA Meeting held at Nashville, TN - Brad Hillman, Chair http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/neraminutessept2010Final.pdf Action: The minutes and agenda were approved as posted.</p>
2	<p>Interim Actions by the Chair and NERA Executive Committee Report – Brad Hillman, Chair Interim Actions of Chair –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in 2011 Northeast Joint Summer Session Planning Committee conference calls • Approved the release of the 2011 NERA Planning Grants RFA and the official ballot to NERA members to confirm MAC’s recommendations • Prepared the agenda of the March NERA meeting • Approved the NERA sponsorship of the Northeast Water Resources and Climate Change Forum to be held at USDA-ARS-BARC on March 24, 2011 (originally Feb. 2, 2011) • Conducted the NERA ED Evaluation
3	<p>Multistate Activities Committee Report distributed for consideration tomorrow – Jon Wraith http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/macreportmarch2011.pdf</p>
4	<p>NIFA Update – Hiram Larew, NIFA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY2011 Budget is still uncertain. CR is extended until April 8. Travel has been reduced by 20%. NIFA is looking into creative ways of obtaining funding from federal partners and the private sector, and real emphasis continues for integration of R-E-T. • The NIFA International Program is focused on solving problems at home but also beneficial abroad, enhancing competitiveness of American agriculture, and global food security. • Feed the Future - awareness of LGUs seems minimal. Meeting is by invitation only. Dr. Larew will check if the next meeting is open to broader participation. • REE Action Plan – asks for response/comment from the system but LGUs were not involved in its development. Dr. Larew will share this feedback with USDA.
5	<p>USDA-ARS Update - Dariusz Swietlik, ARS ARS is generally in the same situation as other USDA agencies and operating under a CR. Nine labs are slated for closure. The proposed budget has \$44M cut in earmarks, but actual cut may even be higher. ARS is undergoing a cultural transformation aimed at recruitment and retention of talent. ARS is also engaged in responding to the stinkbug problem in MD, PA and WV.</p>
6	<p>ESCOP Reports - Dan Rossi http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/NERAESCOPReport.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and Legislative Committee Report • System Communication and Marketing Implementation Committee Report • ESCOP Science and Technology Committee Report Science Roadmap - http://www.nera.umd.edu/escop/scienceroadmapnov172010.pdf <p>The Science Roadmap is finished and available online. 150 hardcopies will be printed and distributed to each of the experiment stations. A strategic marketing plan for the Science Roadmap is being developed by Podesta.</p>
7	<p>Report from Cornerstone - Hunt Shipman, Cornerstone http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/CornerstoneReportMarch2011.pdf The Continuing Resolution for the FY2010 budget has been extended to April 8. Earmarks will be nil or totally eliminated.</p>
8	<p>Station Reports and Updates - All <i>(The NERA Executive Committee believes the individual station updates are important and useful, however we are recommending that we limit both the time spent on this activity, and focus on the discussion. As such, the Executive Committee recommends that each station spend no more than 3 minutes providing a report, and that the focus be on the pending FY11-12 state budget situation and what the stations are expecting in funding, positions, etc. Each reporting station is asked to provide a</i></p>

	<p><i>'best guess' analysis of how the station, the university and higher education is expected to fare in their individual FY11-12 legislative sessions.)</i></p>
9	<p>OED Report - Dan Rossi http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/OEDReportMarch2011.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US-Canada Climate Change Collaboration • Northeast Forum - Adapting to Climate Change in the Northeast: Water Quantity and Quality Challenges for Agricultural and Natural Systems http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/ProgramMarch2011NEWaterClimateChangeForum.pdf http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/NEWaterResClimateChangeSummaryJuly2010.pdf - July 2010 Northeast Joint Summer Session Report • Land Grant & Sea Grant National Water Conference http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/NatWaterConf2011.pdf • NIFA's National Outcomes and Indicators Workshop http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/NIFAOutcomesWorkshop.pdf • Draft Research, Education and Economics (REE) Action Plan http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/DraftREEActionPlan.pdf <p>There is a need to document the leveraging of Formula funds and tell our success stories. Dr. Rossi has a copy of the Cornell study. He also made an analysis of the 2009-2011 AFRI grants and will share these with the directors.</p> <p>A crosswalk of the REE Action Plan's goals with the Science Roadmap's challenge areas was prepared by Dr. Steve Slack [http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/REEGoalsMatrix.pdf]. The REE Action Plan is more comprehensive, but there was lack of opportunity for the Land-grant system to give their input. Dr. Maw and Eddie Gouge requested feedback. The Executive Directors will organize the response from their regions.</p>
10	<p>Proposed NERA Budget for FY11-12 – Brad Hillman, Chair [<i>The proposed budget was distributed at the meeting.</i>]</p> <p>The proposed budget was discussed by the Directors in a closed meeting. There is no increase proposed in the total amount requested. Additional expenses, including salary increases, can be covered by NERA's FY2002 carryover funds.</p>
11	<p>OED Evaluation – All The evaluation was extremely positive. http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/EDEvaluation.pdf</p> <p>Two motions were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vote for Dr. Dan Rossi to continue as the NERA Executive Director for another 5-year term 2. Approve the proposed FY2011-2012 budget with possible amendment to include salary increases for the staff at the mandatory and highest merit range that will be allowed by Rutgers <p>The motions were seconded and passed. Chair Hillman will execute the new contract with Dr. Rossi.</p>
12	<p>Enhancing Collaboration with Extension – Dan Rossi http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/JointCOPsDraft.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the new model for Extension in the 21st century? Increasing use of social media will redefine Extension. • “If you reduce the scope of Extension, do you retain the agriculture mission?” • Integration works well for other institutions and more effectively for faculty with joint appointments. It is complicated to maintain linkages if departments are separate and the institution is more research driven. • Extension should be involved from the start of the process and not as an afterthought to satisfy the “integrated” requirement for a competitive proposal. • A Grants Facilitator is essential in putting the proposal together. Issues about overhead and resource commitment need to be resolved prior to the process.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants-writing training should also be extended to Extension staff. • Emerging areas that can benefit from R&E collaboration are – climate change, nutrition and childhood obesity, food security, and sustainable agriculture.
13	<p>Best Practices Session I <i>Supporting Campus Dairy Operations in the Region</i> Tom Brady/Jon Wraith</p> <p>A regionalization of dairy operations and course offerings was discussed. UNH operates an organic dairy but does not have enough faculty/courses to fulfill a 4-year dairy major. Most stations have closed their dairy operations. Penn State, ARS and UVM faculty are doing research at UNH. Cornell needs faculty for some animal science courses. Cornell is also planning to dispose their dairy processing equipment. Dr. Hoffmann will inform Dr. Brady if a decision has been made.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to pick a course and for two schools in the region to work out an arrangement, and inform everyone in the region. If it works out, then it could be replicated by others.</p>

Wednesday, March 23 [Admiral 1 Meeting Room - 5th Floor]

Cont. #3	<p>Multistate Activities Committee Report and Discussion – Jon Wraith http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/macreportmarch2011.pdf</p> <p>Action: A motion was made to approve MAC’s recommendations for items #1 to #10 [refer to MAC Report]. The motion was seconded and approved.</p> <p>Action: A motion was made to approve the FY2012 regional off-the-top funding for NE-9 in the amount of \$224,973 and NE-59 in the amount of \$40,788. The motion was seconded and approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRSP Discussion <p>NRSP_temp1 – NIMSS</p> <p>Action: The motion made to approve the proposal was seconded and passed.</p> <p>NRSP3, NRSP4, NRSP7, NRSP8 and NRSP9</p> <p>Action: MAC recommended approval of off-the-top requests [refer to MAC Report for details of each recommendation]. All agreed without further discussion except for NRSP6.</p> <p>NRSP6 – The US Potato Genebank</p> <p>When the proposal was originally approved, the NRSP Review Committee questioned why commercial users were not expected to pay for services. The proposal was approved after the Univ. of Wisconsin made a commitment to work with the technical committee on devising a mechanism on how to charge the private sector. There was concern that that strategy has not been laid out. The Directors want this added as a caveat before approving their off-the-top request.</p> <p>The NERA Directors also raised the issue of putting a cap on each of the NRSPs. Is there a strategic approach to putting a cap on the NRSPs? This cap issue and concerns about NRSP6 will be raised at the next NRSPRC meeting.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NERA Planning Grant <p>The Directors are pleased with the outcome of the NERA Planning Grant and expressed their support to continue the program. They also thanked the MAC members for their diligent review of submissions and selection of successful proposals. An update will be given at the next meeting as we are still receiving reports from the grant recipients.</p>
14	<p>Stinkbug <i>Halyomorpha halys</i> Infestation in the Northeast – Kirby Stafford III http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/InvasiveBMSB.pptx The Directors approved MAC’s recommendation to form a 500-series Rapid Response Multistate Research project.</p>
15	<p>Invasive Species Update – Fred Servello and Cameron Faustman A planning committee led by Drs. Servello and Faustman will be formed. The committee will decide what specific areas of invasive species will be covered. Faculty will be involved in the planning process. A regional forum/workshop, a “Northeast Invasive Species Forum”, was suggested to provide a venue for the faculty to collaborate on areas of common interest that may lead to a multistate project, a proposal for competitive funding or to form teams to go after funding opportunities. Possible topics may include strategies for management of invasives using a systems approach, and may include terrestrial & aquatic plants, economics, remote sensing, social science research, human health, etc. The planning committee will be charged to develop the theme. The Directors will be asked to submit names of faculty, 1-2 per station with their specialties. Ecologists and economists will be needed. NERA will help facilitate the meetings and work of the committee.</p> <p>Dr. Tim Phipps and Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi will share information on past workshops related to invasive species that the committee may find useful in planning for the regional forum.</p>
16	<p>Best Practices Session II <i>Intellectual Property: How It is Handled and the Role of Experiment Stations</i> Brad Hillman and Tom Burr - Cornell’s Limited Exception Policy For Plant Breeding Programs http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/CornellPlantBreedersLimitedException.doc - Procedure to Request for Cornell’s Limited Exception Policy http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2011Meeting/CornellPlantBreederLimitedExceptionExplanation.doc</p>
17	<p>2011 Summer Session Program – Cameron Faustman The theme for this year’s joint summer session is “<i>Assessing Regional Competitiveness with a Focus on Renewable Energy, Climate Change, and Local Foods/Obesity</i>”. The objective is to survey and assess where we are. Are we competitive enough in these areas? What collaborations are already in place? There are teams working on these three areas. Peggy Brennan at Rutgers will give a report on alternative energy. The Directors were asked to respond to survey questions that may come their way as preparation for the summer meeting.</p>
18	<p>2012 Summer Session Proposal for Bi-regional conference The North Central and Northeast CARET Reps. want a joint meeting. Talks have been initiated with counterparts in the North Central. Possible venues are PA, NY or OH. Action: A motion was made to form a planning committee and proceed with arrangements for the 2012 joint summer meeting with the North Central. The motion was seconded and passed.</p>
19	<p>Nominations Committee Report – Tom Burr Directors have been approached for advisor assignments for the new multistate projects, but have yet to confirm.</p>
20	<p>Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr There were no resolutions presented at this meeting.</p>
21	<p>Future Meetings – Dan Rossi</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Meeting – July 10-12, 2011 at Mystic, CT http://www.cag.uconn.edu/nejss/• Joint COPs Meeting – July 20-21, 2011 at Boston, MA• ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop and NERA Fall Meeting - September 26-29, 2011 at Estes Park, CO https://regstg.com/Registration/RegForm.aspx?rid=0aa0b6ed-369b-4ea2-a9f6-2e6999549976
	Summary Comments and Closing - Chair Brad Hillman

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Last Updated May 10, 2011