



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

**The Renaissance Hotel
Providence, Rhode Island**

July 9-10, 2007

Minutes

Steve Goodwin, Chair

In Attendance:

Steve Goodwin (MA), Chair
Edward Ashworth (ME)
Tom Brady (NH)
Stephan Goetz (NERCRD)
Ian Hart (CTS)
Bradley Hillman (NJ)
Michael Hoffman (NYC)
Diane Hyman (DC)
Ian Maw (NASULGC)
Bruce McPheron (PA)
Anna Palmisano (CSREES)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Jeffrey Seemann (RI)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)
Dariusz Sweitlik (USDA-ARS-NAA)
Michael Vayda (VT)
William Vinson (WV)
Gloria Wyche-Moore (DC)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

MAJOR DECISIONS

- Approved the draft agenda for this meeting as posted in url---
<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2007.html>
- Approved the minutes of the NERA meeting held at the Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, MD on March 27-28,2007, as posted in url---
<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2007.html>
- Approved the MAC recommendations, posted in this url, and as follows:
<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/MACReportJuly2007.html>
 1. Approved the Request to Write a Proposal entitled,"Plant-parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs In Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems" 10-2009 to 2014. Submitted by Louis Magnarelli (CTNH).
 2. Disapproved a one-year extension of NE1014:"Development of New Potato Clones for Improved Pest Resistance, Marketability, and Sustainability in the East" to 9/2008.
 3. Approved the proposal, NE_temp504: "New England Center for Invasive Plants" 8-2007 to 2009. Submitted by Ian Hart (CTS).
 4. Approved the proposal, NE_temp505: "Private Strategies, Public Policies, and Food System Performance" 8-2007 to 2009. Submitted by Ian Hart (CTS).
 5. Approved the proposal, NE_temp506: "Wood Utilization Research on US Biofuels, Bioproducts, Hybrid Biomaterials Composites Production, and Traditional Forest Products" 8-2007 to 2009. Submitted by Edward Ashworth (ME).
 6. Approved the proposal, NE_temp507: "Mosquitoes, Disease and Public Health" 8-2007 to 2009. Submitted by Bradley Hillman (NJ).
 7. Deferred decision and returned the Request to Write a Proposal entitled,"Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds" 10-2007 to 2012. Submitted by Richard Rhodes III (RI).
- Approved the following nominations:
 - Slate of NERA Officers for 2008:
 - Chair - Dr. Robin Morgan (DE)
 - Vice-Chair - Dr. Mike Vayda (VT)
 - Officer-at-Large - Dr. Tom Burr (NYG)
 - Edward Ashworth (ME) for NRSP3: The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), 10/2003-9/2008
 - Michael Vayda (VT) for NRSP8: National Animal Genome Research Program, 10/2003-9/2008

THE JOB JAR (Work Assignments for the Executive Director)

- Inform USDA-CSREES on actions taken by the NERA Directors.

- Facilitate activities of the Task Force appointed to follow-up on actions from the 2007 Northeast Summer Joint Session.
- Recommend to ESCOP to include One Solution Update in ESS/SAES/ARD agenda, follow-up with Dr. Bruce McPheron. Dr. Palmisano will inform Dr. Greg Crosby.
- Post Joint Session PowerPoint presentations and group reports in the NERA webpage and inform participants.
- Follow-up with NERA Chair the appointment of a Northeast Extension Director as a member of the Multistate Activities Committee
- Assist in the planning for the 2008 Northeast Summer Joint Session.
- Assist in the planning for the ESS Meeting to be held at Philadelphia, PA on Sept. 16-19.
- Prepare for the NERA Meeting in March 2008 to be held at the Admiral Fell Inn in Baltimore, MD.

Monday, July 9, 2007

1. Call to Order - Chair Goodwin

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

2. Comments from the Members (States/stations Updates) - Chair Goodwin

Each member gave a brief summary of administrative and budget issues in their institutions and states.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda - Chair Goodwin

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

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/NERA/workshop/NERAagendaJuly2007.html>

4. Approval of the March 27-28, 2007, Meeting Minutes - Chair Goodwin

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

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2007.html>

5. Interim Actions by the Chair and NERA Executive Committee Report - Chair Goodwin

[Actions Taken by NERA Chair](#)

Review of Joint Session discussion and issues:

There is potential for greater collaboration on the renewable energy issues raised in the Joint Session discussions. The institutions in the Northeast are already engaged in research activities but the scientists are not working together. It may be worthwhile to have an inventory of on-going projects and scientists involved. We can create a mechanism in which these scientists can collaborate, not artificially removing competition, but at least they are aware of what others are doing and are not duplicating efforts. We need to go after the 'big picture' addressing all aspects of bioenergy, set up a consortium and go after funds as a region. Switchgrass, for example, is unique in the Northeast. Concentrate on what Northeast needs - biological and economic

aspects. Institutions are gearing up for competition and are opening faculty positions, it is imperative that we approach this as a region so we can share and maximize resources.

The Northeast Sun Grant is a good starting point for building up the inventory. Mike Hoffman will confer with Larry Walker, Northeast Sun Grant Director.

6. **CSREES Update - Anna Palmisano**

Dr. Anna Palmisano gave a brief update on CSREES.

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/NERA/workshop/CSREESJuly2007.pdf>

- Farm Bill update: House Agriculture Committee Chair Collin Peterson, D-Minn. plans to bring two versions of the farm bill to the full committee after the Fourth of July recess. One, extending the current law and the other allocating \$20 billion reserve fund for various farm programs.
- FY2008 Budget: NRI will see an increase in the President's budget. 406 money will be moved to NRI, about 40M-45M for administrative purposes. About 19M-22M is for bioenergy, focussed on sustainability - environmental and impacts on communities.
- One Solution update: Dr. Greg Crosby has been holding teleconferences on One Soltuion reporting system. Ultimately, One Solution will be used for data mining. The directors were concerned that the experiment station system had no representation or input in the development of the reporting system. Dr. A. Palmisano will ask Dr. Greg Crosby to give a One Solution update at the ESS Meeting, September 16-19, in Philadelphia. Drs. Rossi and McPheron will work on the schedule to include the One Solution update. Dr. Palmisano will inform Dr. Crosby.

7. **NERCRD Report - Stephan Goetz**

Dr. Stephan Goetz distributed the handout.

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/NERA/workshop/NERCRDJuly2007.pdf>

Dr. Ian Maw, NASULGC, praised and thanked Dr. Goetz for his work in coordinating the Transatlantic Land Use Conference, Sept. 24-26, 2007.

8. **OED and ESCOP Report - Dan Rossi**

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/OEDReportJuly2007.pdf>

Dr. Rossi had met with NPLs. Visiting the stations is a high priority for the NPLs as noted by Dr. Palmisano. Stations not yet visited should contact Dr. Palmisano so she can follow up.

9. **Comments from Chair before closing the day's session - Chair Goodwin**

Chair Goodwin thanked everyone for the fruitful discussion, and asked the directors to consider the nominations and MAC report for tomorrow's discussion.

NOTE: Dr. Mike Vayda will preside Tuesday's meeting.

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

10. **Multistate Activities Committee and NRSP Report - Bill Vinson**

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/NERA/workshop/MACReportJuly2007.html>

A motion was made to approve the MAC recommendations for item nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The motion was seconded and approved.

Item #1 - Request for extension was denied. The technical committee will be requested to proceed with writing the proposal and have it peer-reviewed. MAC will expedite review of the proposal once submitted in NIMSS.

Item #7 are new advisor assignments and will be handled by the Nominations Committee.

For item #8, the advisor was requested to return the request to the technical committee. The committee should consider an existing project, NCERA125: Biological Control of Arthropods and Weeds, that has exactly the same title. The committee can re-submit their request if they can differentiate this proposal from NCERA125 and demonstrate the need for establishing a Northeast multistate project.

NRSP Discussion

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/NRSPAgendaBriefJuly2007.pdf>
<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/NRSPRecommendationsFY2008.pdf>
<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/NRSPMotion5-29-07.pdf> [Motion to Support NRSP5 and NRSP6]

At the request of Chair Goodwin, Rubie Mize consolidated the FY2008 recommendations by the NRSP Review Committee and the off-the-top levels approved by NERA at the March 2007 meeting. The table is posted at url--

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/FinalFY2008NRSPComparison.pdf>

There is a need to better define and differentiate a National Research Project from a National Research Support Project, and what the directors should support. For NRSPs that are up for renewal or revision, there should be a stakeholder statement on why the project should continue, say for another five years. There should also be a relevancy test at the time of rewrite.

Other MAC issues:

A Northeast Extension director will be invited to join the Multistate Activities Committee.

11. Nominations Committee Report - Chair Goodwin and Bruce McPheron

Names were put forward for the following positions:

- Slate of NERA Officers for 2008:
 - Chair - Dr. Robin Morgan (DE)
 - Vice-Chair - Dr. Mike Vayda (VT)
 - Officer-at-Large - Dr. Tom Burr (NYG)
- Edward Ashworth (ME) for NRSP3: The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), 10/2003-9/2008
- Michael Vayda (VT) for NRSP8: National Animal Genome Research Program, 10/2003-9/2008

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

12. Future Meetings:

2007 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop:

The meeting will be held on Sept. 16-19 in Philadelphia, PA. The first day will be the regional associations' meetings [two hours] and the ESS business meeting. Tuesday and Wednesday will be devoted to workshops on the following topics:

- Land-grant and state partnership [VT-NY-PA Dairy Consortium]
- Responding to stakeholder needs: new market tools and research info
- Industry clusters - farm land and open space preservation

- Clean Air Act in livestock agriculture - environmental implications
- Bioenergy issues

The directors were requested to help identify and invite presenters for the workshops.

Information about hotel and registration can be found at url--

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=6e864d9f-aa6b-4ca3-83f6-d73b290feb4a>

2008 NERA Spring Meeting:

Majority agreed that it should be held in the same week and venue as last year's, at the Admiral Fell Inn in Baltimore, MD, on March 25-26, 2008.

2008 Northeast Summer Joint Session:

The NERA OED will help facilitate the planning for next year's session. Delaware is scheduled to be the next host, but Washington, DC, had expressed interest in leading and showcasing "urban agriculture" as next year's theme.

13. Resolutions Committee - Bruce McPheron

Dr. McPheron read the following resolutions:

Resolution of Appreciation to William R. Trumble

WHEREAS, Dr. William R. Trumble has distinguished himself as Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire since 2004, as well as Director of the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station since 2000.

WHEREAS, Dr. Trumble has contributed in many ways to the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA), serving as Chair in 2004, and as member of various national task forces and committees of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP),

WHEREAS, Dr. Trumble also served as the Administrative Advisor for NRSP-8 and NE-186, national and regional animal genome multistate projects,

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, on July 9-10, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Trumble for his dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Association, and wish him much success in his future professional activities and personal endeavors.

signed July 10, 2007

Steve Goodwin, Chair

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Resolution of Appreciation

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors participated in an important and productive meeting at the Renaissance Providence Hotel, in Providence, Rhode Island, and

WHEREAS, the Directors also were involved in an engaging and well-organized joint meeting with the Northeast Extension Directors, and members of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching on July 9-10, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere of the Renaissance Hotel and its surrounding area, and the lovely dinner at the Roger Williams Botanical Garden,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors acknowledge their appreciation to Dean and Director Jeffrey Seemann, Associate Director Richard Rhodes III, Asst. Director Nancy Fey-Yensan, Cathy Curtin-Miller, Glenn Schroder, Elissia Wahl and Joe Pittle for their efforts in making the meeting a great success and a very enjoyable experience.

signed July 10, 2007

Steve Goodwin, Chair

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

A motion was made to approve the above resolutions. The motion was seconded and passed.

14. **Chair and ED Report from Meeting with CARET**

CARET had passed a motion to move forward to the next steps as discussed in the Joint Session. A working group to pursue activities on the bioenergy topic will be formed with representatives from NERA, NEED and CARET. CARET appointed Hank Clark (VT) as member and Bob Frazee (MD) as alternate to this group. A representative from an 1890 institution in the Northeast will also be invited.

Dr. Mike Hoffman and Dr. Bradley Hillman will be the members from NERA. The NERA-OED will provide administrative support to the working group and will facilitate its first meeting. An inventory of Northeast strengths and capacity in bioenergy will be compiled. Dr. Hillman noted that there are already resources at Rutgers that he can tap into. Dr. Hoffman will confer with Larry Walker at Sun Grant. This group will collaborate closely with the NE Sun Grant Initiative. The focus of this group will be on conservation and other forms of alternative sources of renewable energy, and not just biofuels. We should be able to demonstrate that we can capitalize on our advantage to work as a region.

15. **Best Practices**

An open discussion followed the brief presentations by Drs. McPheron and Rhodes, on the topic "**How do we effect change? How do we keep our institutions agile? How do we replace unproductive tenured staff?**"

- Case study from PennState: a non-union institution - Bruce McPheron
- Case study from Rhode Island: a unionized institution - Rick Rhodes III

16. **Open Discussion:**

ESCOP Award for Excellence in Multistate Research

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/NERA/workshop/ESCOPMultistateAwardsProgram063007.pdf>

Any project in the multistate portfolio can be nominated. The purpose of the award is to increase the visibility of multistate research awards that are already given at the regional level.

The decision is to leave it to the regional associations to recognize projects nominated from their respective region. NERA will use the mechanism already in place for nominating

Northeast multistate projects for the regional research award for excellence. The winning project will then be nominated for the national ESCOP award.

Impact Statements for Northeast Multistate Projects

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/nera/workshop/NERAImpactSubmissionForm.pdf>

The suggestion is to incorporate the process of collecting impacts in NIMSS. A revision of the SAES-422 annual report form will be discussed by the EDs.

17. Summary Comments and Closing - Acting Chair Vayda

Acting Chair Vayda thanked everyone for a great discussion and a productive meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



[Back to Workroom](#)
