

# Report and Recommendations

## NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

John Paul Jones Room, 2nd Floor

July 6, 2015  
3:00pm to 4:00pm

Chair, Fred Servello (ME)

Members: Cameron Faustman (CT), Tim Phipps (WV), Gary Thompson (PA), Pat Vittum (MA/NEED), Ken La Valley (NH/NEED)

1. Request to approve the **revised** proposal for a new multistate project NE\_TEMP2201: University-Community Intermediaries: Supporting Informed Decision-Making Around Polarized Issues, 10/2015-9/2020

Note: At MAC's March meeting, the recommendation was "*approval as an ERA (Education/Extension and Research Activity) with expectations to develop more defined research activities if goal is to become a standard multistate activity.*" The technical committee decided to revise the proposal, so as to be considered a standard Northeast multistate research project.

**Discussion:** The technical committee made substantial additions to the proposal, but MAC is not convinced that they have articulated well the research to be pursued in the project. A compelling case for the science underpinnings of this work was not made. The three objectives were (1) a literature and information review, (2) a network analysis, and (3) development of tools. The strength appeared to be in the network analysis. Objectives 1 and 3 are vague. A MAC Extension member felt that outputs would not necessarily result in change. MAC would like to seek input from other experts and directors familiar with the Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI) mentioned in the proposal.

**Action:** Consensus is to uphold recommendation in March to approve proposal as an ERA, pending input from experts familiar with the project and the institute.

2. Request to approve proposal NE\_TEMP1544: Dairy Production systems: C,N, and P management for production, profitability and the environment, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1044]

**Action:** MAC recommends conditional approval of the proposal, pending additional participants from the region.

3. Request to approve proposal NE\_TEMP2281: Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Assessing the Impact of Climate Variability and Climate Change, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1045]

**Action:** MAC recommends approval and encourages additional participation in the region.

#### 4. NRSP Review Committee Report – Tim Phipps

- The ESCOP NRSP Review Committee met on May 28, 2015. Tim Phipps gave a brief report on the discussions at the meeting where he brought forward concerns of the NERA directors (North Central have similar concerns) about reviewing the role of the NRSP program and sunseting NRSPs.

- The Committee reviewed new five year proposals and prepared recommendations for the following NRSPs:

Note that these recommendations will be discussed again before voting at our ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting in September. Directors will vote individually per station.

- NRSP-4, “Enabling Pesticide Registrations or Specialty Crops and Minor Uses” – approve proposal and budget with a request that the program more fully explain/justify the maintenance funding level requested.
- NRSP-6, “US Potato Genebank” – approve proposal and budget with the requirement that the committee look at alternative funding models (e.g., increase ARS budget; look for support from key institutions) and report back to the NRSP-RC at the mid-term review on progress toward the goal of eliminating or significantly reducing NRSP funding at the end of this cycle.
- NRSP-7, “A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs” – reject the proposal and budget. If the recommendation is accepted by the vote of ESS, NRSP7 would still receive a terminal year of funding at the FY15-level in FY16. If this recommendation is overturned by directors, the Committee would recommend approving the existing 5-year proposal and budget with a report-back on alternative funding model at mid-term.
- NRSP9, “National Animal Nutrition Project” – approve proposal and budget with recommendations to provide an economic analysis of impact during the mid-term review and to improve outreach/communication plans and implementation

#### 5. Advisor assignments:

- NEERA1004 - Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management [9/2011-9/2016] Jan Nyrop (NYC)
- NE1332- Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds [10/2013-9/2018] Jan Nyrop (NYC)
- NE1335 - Resource Management in Commercial Greenhouse Production [10/2013-9/2018] (TBD)
- NE1336: Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies [10/2013-9/2018] Susan Brown (NYG)

#### 6. Other Business - None

#### Current MAC members:

- Fred Servello, ME (2012-2015) - Chair
- Tim Phipps, WV (2013-2016)
- Gary Thompson, PA (2012-2015)
- Cameron Faustman, CTS (2014-2017)
- Pat Vittum, MA/NEED (2014-2017)
- Ken La Valley, NH/NEED (2014-2017)