



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA
June 20-22, 2016

Draft Agenda

Monday, June 20

8:30 am	Optional Tours
3:30 pm	Registration
5:00 pm	Reception and Welcome
7:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own or Optional Baseball Game

Tuesday, June 21

7:00 am	Breakfast and Registration
8:00 am	See Joint Session Agenda http://www.cvent.com/d/3rq5kz
4:30 pm	Adjourn for the Day
5:00 pm	Tour of Phipps Conservatory
6:30 pm	Dinner at Pittsburgh Field Club

Wednesday, June 22

7:00 am	Breakfast
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8:00 am	<p>Joint NEED-NERA Meeting – Cameron Faustman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARET/Cornerstone Update and Discussion • NERC RD Update and Discussion – Stephan Goetz • NEED-NERA Joint Best Practices Session
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Call to Order and Introductions – Cameron Faustman, Chair
10:20 am	<p>Agenda Modification (Additions/Deletions) and Approval - Cameron Faustman http://nera.rutgers.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJune2016.pdf</p>
10:25 am	<p>Approval of the March 14-16, 2016 Minutes of the NERA Meeting – Cameron Faustman http://nera.rutgers.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2016.pdf</p>
10:30 am	<p>Multistate Activities Committee Report and Discussion – Fred Servello http://nera.rutgers.edu/workshop/MACReportJune2016.pdf</p>
11:00 am	NRSP Review Committee Recommendations – Fred Servello, Dan Rossi
11:15 am	Review of Joint Session Discussions and Next Steps – Cameron Faustman
11:30 am	ESCOP Report – C. Faustman, G. Thompson, R. Rhodes, A. Shirmohammadi, D. Rossi
12:00 pm	Box Lunch
12:30 pm	Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi
12:45 pm	Executive Director's Goals and Plans – Rick Rhodes
1:15 pm	Topics for Future Best Management Practices Sessions
2:15 pm	<p>2016 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop Program – Dan Rossi https://conferencereg.colostate.edu/Jackson2016</p>
2:20 pm	Nominations Committee Report – Tim Phipps
2:25 pm	Resolutions Committee Report – Brad Hillman
2:30 pm	Summary Comments and Adjournment – Cameron Faustman
	<p>Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCOP Meeting in conjunction with 2016 Joint COPs meeting, San Antonio, TX, July 18-20, 2016 http://www.aplu.org/meetings-and-events/events/joint-cops-meeting-1 • 2016 Joint CES and ESS Meeting and Workshop, Lake Lodge, Jackson, WY, September 19-22, 2016 https://conferencereg.colostate.edu/Jackson2016 • ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting, Austin, TX, November 13-15, 2016 http://www.aplu.org/meetings-and-events/annual-meeting/2016

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Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Report
March – June 2016

ESCOP Officers:

- Chair – Shirley Hyman-Parker
- Chair-Elect – Bret Hess
- Past Chair – Robert Shulstad
- Executive Vice Chair – Carolyn Brooks
- ESS Rep to BAA Policy Board – Clarence Watson
- Budget and Legislative Committee Chair – Gary Thompson
- Communications & Marketing Committee Incoming Chair – Richard Rhodes
- Science & Technology Committee Chair – Marikis Alvarez
- NRSP Review Committee Chair – Clarence Watson

NERA Representatives to:

- ESCOP:
 - Tim Phipps
 - Cameron Faustman
 - Mark Rieger
- ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee
 - Tim Phipps
 - Jon Wraith
- ESCOP Science & Technology Committee
 - Cameron Faustman
 - Adel Shirmohammadi
- NRSP Review Committee
 - Fred Servello

Meetings

- ESCOP Meeting in conjunction with 2016 Joint COPs meeting, San Antonio, TX, July 18-20, 2016
- 2016 Joint CES and ESS Meeting and Workshop, Lake Lodge, Jackson, WY, September 19-22, 2016
- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting, Austin, TX, November 13-15, 2016

Budget and Legislative Committee

- The ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee meets monthly by conference call.

- The Committee is monitoring progress and providing input into the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee in advocating NIFA 2017 budget.
- The Committee continues to coordinate efforts with its ECOP counterpart
- The Committee is closely monitoring the proposed NIFA Capacity Programs Evaluation, the Deferred Maintenance Committee activities and the 2018 Farm Bill development.

Communications and Marketing Committee

- The Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC), a joint ESS, CES and AHS effort to oversee and guide the Communications and Marketing Project (CMP), held its quarterly conference call on June 7, 2016.
- The CMC has prepared an implementation plan for its 2016 plan of work. The plan identifies a number of specific tasks, lead individuals and timetables.
- The CMC chair will distribute the first quarter report and executive summary from kglobal along with an interpretive cover letter.
- The Committee is working on a transition in leadership and support.

Science and Technology Committee

- The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee meets monthly by conference call.
- The Committee continues to focus on USDA's open access policy for data and publications and the recent APLU report on antibiotic resistance
- The Committee has reviewed reviews regional ESS Multistate Research Award nominations and submitted a recommendation for national winner to ESCOP Executive Committee
- The Committee is also helping coordinate the ESS Excellence in Leadership Award process.

National Research Support Review Committee

- The ESCOP NRSP Review Committee met in Atlanta, GA on May 31, 2016 to develop recommendations on five year proposals and budgets.
- The Committee is recommending that the directors not approve the proposed NRSP, "National Agricultural Research Data Network for Harmonized Data," as presented and identified a number of concerns that should be considered prior to resubmission.
- The Committee reviewed the mid-term review for NRSP-8 and agreed project is progressing well and no changes are needed.

Diversity in Research Leadership Task Force

- The Diversity in Research Leadership Task Force was charged to explore the topic of diversity in research leadership across the Land-grant university system, to provide ideas and actions for consideration, and to supplement institutional, regional and national diversity and inclusion efforts. The focus will be primarily on enhancing diversity among the Experiment Station Directors, Research Directors, and their associates and assistants.
- The Task Force is chaired by Karen Plaut of Purdue and meets monthly by conference call.

- The Task Force has focused on three key areas – Recruitment and Mentoring, System Integration and Training that provide key action elements for adoption and implementation over the next several years.
- A draft report of the Task Force has been prepared and will be presented to the ESCOP leadership

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Report of the Office of the Executive Director
March 17, 2016 – June 17, 2016

NERA and Regional Activities

- Planning Grants Program
 - Supported the 2015 NERA and NEED/NERA award recipients
 - Facilitated a review of the 2016 NEED/NERA Integrated Planning Grant proposals.
 - Notified the award recipients
- 2016 Northeast Summer Session
 - Supported the event planning and program planning committees
 - Supported development of joint NEED-NERA meeting agenda
- NERA Chair Support
 - Assisted in the development of the June 2016 NERA meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
 - Prepared NERA Chair's Interim Actions report
 - Prepared NERA ESCOP Report
 - Prepared NERA OED report
 - Prepared a list of previous and potential best management practice session topics
 - Assisted in the development of the March 2016 NERA Executive Committee meeting agenda
 - Prepared materials for the submittal of the 2016 ESS Multistate Research and Excellence in Leadership nominations and APLU awards program
- NERA Executive Director Search and Transition
 - Assisted in scheduling interviews
 - Prepared draft of offer letter
 - Prepared draft of announcement
 - Prepared draft of NERA URI cooperative agreement
 - Worked with RU SEBS Business Office to initiate closure of NERA accounts
 - Worked with RU Business Office to initiate the transfer funds to URI
- Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) Support
 - Assisted in the development of the June 2016 MAC meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
 - Worked with advisor and technical committee members to submit full proposal in NIMSS, contact peer reviewers, invite participation and complete revision as suggested by reviewers for project NE_TEMP1640 (currently NE 1040): Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems [10/2016-09/2021]

- Assisted project advisor for NE1227- Ovarian Influences on Reproductive Success in Ruminants [10/2012-09/2017] in submitting Midterm Review in the new NIMSS, to be considered with Request to Write at MAC's fall meeting
- Assisted a number of multistate projects in submitting their Annual Reports in the new NIMSS.
- NE USDA Climate Hub
 - Participated in bi-monthly conference calls with NE Climate Hub state representatives
 - Participated in monthly calls with NE Climate Hub leadership
- Great Lakes Specialty Crop Climate Consortium
 - Worked with Jeff Jacobsen on next phase of this program.
- IR-4 (NRSP-4)
 - Served as NE Regional Director
 - Served as co-PI on Northeast Region IR-4 2015-16 NIFA grant
 - Continued to work with the University of Maryland on the development of new NE field coordinator office
 - Continued to work with Rutgers to host additional field research which will be transferred from Cornell
 - Chaired the IR-4 Path Forward planning activity
 - Assisted in the preparation for an external organizational review of the IR-4 program
- NE-1049
 - Served as Administrative Advisor
 - Conducted mid-term review

National Activities

- ESS/CES Communications and Marketing Committee
 - Served as the ESS Executive Director point person
 - Assisted in scheduling, planning and agenda development for quarterly Executive Committee and Full Committee conference calls
 - Supported the CMC Chair in developing an implementation plan for the 2016 Plan of Work
 - Prepared monthly reports for ESCOP CAC calls
 - Worked with leadership in transition of Committee support
- ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Participated in monthly CAC conference calls
- ESS-CES/NEDA Joint Meeting and Workshops
 - Participated in monthly planning calls for 2016 Joint ESS and CES meeting
 - Assisted in the development of the program agenda for the 2016 joint meeting
- ESCOP NRSP Review Committee
 - Served as Executive Director representative to the NRSP Review Committee
 - Participated in annual meeting
- NRSP-1 Management Committee
 - Participated in quarterly conference calls of the NRSP-1 Management Committee

- NIMSS
 - Served as regional NIMSS Coordinator
 - Terminated Amazon Web Service contract
 - Set up accounts for new users and reactivated existing accounts in the new NIMSS
 - Helped experiment station coordinators navigate the new NIMSS to find data and submit forms
 - Reported bugs to administrators and assisted developers in fixing glitches in the new system
 - Joined webinars [for Users and Regional System Administrators] on the new NIMSS and attended a NIMSS Workshop at the NERAOC in Philadelphia.
- ESCOP Leadership Diversity Initiative
 - Participated in monthly ESCOP Diversity in AES Leadership Ad Hoc Committee conference calls
 - Served on two Task Force working groups
 - Assisted in preparation of final report and recommendations
- BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy
 - Participated in initial discussions of 2018 Farm Bill preparation
 - Supported the development of a survey to secure director input into 2018 Farm Bill
- NIFA Programs
 - Monitored (including participating in NIFA teleconferences and webinars) provided feedback on:
 - NIFA Capacity Programs Evaluation
 - NIFA budget developments
 - NIFA competitive grants programs
 - NIFA POW reporting requirements
 - NIFA Hatch MRF utilization

Travel

- April 24-27, 2016 – National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC), Philadelphia, PA – Rubie Mize
- May 24-26, 2016 – National Multistate Coordinating Committee Meeting, Washington, DC – Dan Rossi
- May 31, 2016 – National Research support Project Review Committee Meeting, Atlanta, GA – Dan Rossi

NERA Best Practices Session Topics

June 6, 2016

Previous

- Hatch Project Management; i.e., Project Development & Review, Reporting, and Budget Distribution Mechanisms (NERA 3/07)
- Effecting Change, Keeping Institutions Agile, Replacing Unproductive Tenured Staff (NERA 7/07)
- Allocation of Space; i.e., Office, Lab, Greenhouse, Field, etc. (ESS 9/07)
- Re-Directing Non-Productive or Unnecessary Faculty Research Programs (Re-Treading/Re-Training). (ESS 9/07)
- Estimating Costs of Raising and Managing Research Animals and Implementing Per Diem Charges; Decision Processes, Transition, Oversight, etc. (NERA 3/08)
- Budgeting for New Faculty Hires (Including Start-Up and Spousal Hires); Unique Start-Up Packages, Inter-College Spousal Hiring, Funding Start-Ups, etc. (NERA 7/08)
- Managing Significant Budget Reductions; i.e., Selective vs. Across-the-Board, Prioritization, Creative Funding Mechanisms, etc. (NERA 3/09; ESS 9/08)
- Relationships with State Departments of Agriculture (NERA 7/09)
- Institutional and Regional Responses to Budget Reductions (NERA 9/09)
- Managing High Cost Agricultural Research Facilities (ESS 9/09)
- Positioning NERA Institutions and Scientists for the New AFRI RFP (NERA 3/10)
- Adoption of a "*Culture Of Sustainability*" in Our Institutions (NERA 3/10)
- Encouraging Collaborations (NERA 7/10)
- Coordinated Regional Research on Invasive Plants (NERA 9/10)
- Documenting Impacts, How and Why (ESS 9/10)
- How Do We Want to Handle Dairy Support in the Region? (NERA 3/11)
- Intellectual Property: How It is Handled and the Role of Experiment Stations (NERA 3/11)
- Sustainable Campus Operations (ESS 9/11)
- Structuring University-Wide Centers and Institutes; Issues and Solutions (ESS 9/11)
- Program Evaluation in Plans-of-Work and Annual Reports (NERA 3/12)
- Forming, Managing and Benefitting from AES External Advisory and Advocacy Committees; What Works and What Doesn't (NERA 3/12)
- Encouraging Leadership Development for Faculty and Staff – LEAD 21 or campus-based programs (NERA 3/12)
- Future of Animal Research Programs (ESS 9/12)
- Small Farms Viability (ESS9/12)
- Resources/Faculty Sharing (NERA 3/13)
- Establishment of a Grant Support Unit in the Experiment Station, College or University Level (NERA 3/13)
- Resource Use in Our Experiment Station/Research Centers/Facilities (NERA 3/13 and 7/13)
- Northeast Faculty Hiring Decisions (NERA 7/13)
- New Budget/Management Strategies for Dealing with Austerity (ESS 9/13)
- Emerging Needs for Agricultural Engineering Research or Tech Transfer in the NE (NERA 10/14)
- Open Architecture Laboratory Management (NERA 7/15)
- Identifying Gaps in Our Research and Extension Expertise for 21st Century Problems (NE 7/15)

- Meeting the Need for Future Leadership in Teaching, Research and Extension. (NE 7/15)
- An Experiment Station's Role in Helping to Drive Economic Development (NERA 3/16)
- Communications for Telling Our Research Story (NERA 3/16)

Potential

- Flexible budget and resource allocation methods; i.e., historical, competitive, programmatic, etc.
- How we handle funds
- Hiring and supporting mid-level administrative leadership; i.e., department heads, research center directors, etc.
- State-level leadership in major research program areas; i.e., identifying & supporting faculty leaders, relationship with department heads & college administration, degree of administrative load, etc.
- Pesticide and toxic waste management on outlying research stations; i.e., compliance, disposal, personnel training, etc.
- Indirect cost recovery; i.e., commodity groups and state agency grants, use of college portion, etc.
- Developing integrated, interdisciplinary "centers of excellence"; i.e., establishment & funding, leadership, member vs. non-member, etc.
- Research faculty technical support; i.e., appropriate level, sharing technicians, partial salary, etc.
- Developing true multi-state partnerships in research
- Working with our commodity groups for funding research
- Encouraging a culture of publishing in peer-reviewed journals
- Ensuring research stands behind the extension recommendations, especially when the recommendations are referred to in state rules and policy
- Research websites and tying R, T, and E together
- Leading the local experiment station to actively initiate and engage in new initiatives
- Flexible research support for departments/units; i.e., new funding models, department/unit leaders help develop model
- Faculty performance expectations; i.e., publications, grants, teaching, etc.
- Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, and internal competitive project review processes; i.e., new/renewed Hatch & M-S project review, internal RFPs, decision processes, etc.
- Ensuring laboratory security in university settings; i.e., compliance policies, access, oversight, etc.
- Decommissioning outlying stations; i.e., decision process, local public relations, stakeholder communication, faculty/staff reassignment, etc.
- Estimating the costs of managing and supporting greenhouse research and implementing greenhouse or bench charges; decision processes, transition, oversight, etc.
- Purchasing, maintaining and managing shared equipment; oversight, use scheduling, cost sharing, etc.
- Graduate student and post doc costs
- Open access and federal mandate for data archiving – who is doing what?
- Framing the NE region's position in likely future USDA water initiatives
- Crowd-funding as a means to raise money for research et all
- Aligning faculty hires with applied research and extension needs that experiment station directors identify