



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 19-21, 2012

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Jon Wraith, Chair
Peter Bretting (ARS)
Cameron Faustman (CTS)
Stephan Goetz (NERCRD)
Stephen Herbert (MA)
Bart Hewitt (NIFA)
Brad Hillman (NJ)
Michael Hoffman (NYC)
Gary Kinard (ARS)
Hiram Larew (NIFA)
Tim Phipps (WV)
Larry D. Robertson (ARS)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Fred Servello (ME)
Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)
Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)
Dariusz Swietlik (ARS)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

Tuesday, March 20 [Admiral 1 Meeting Room - 5th Floor]

Agenda Item No.	Minutes
	Call to Order – Chair Jon Wraith called the meeting to order at 8:00AM
	Introductions
1	<p>Agenda Modification (Additions/Deletions) and Approval - Jon Wraith, Chair http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAGendaMarch2012.pdf Approval of the September 26, 2011 Minutes of the NERA Meeting held at Estes Park, CO – Jon Wraith, Chair http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesSept2011.pdf Action: The minutes and agenda were approved as posted.</p>
2	<p>Interim Actions by the Chair and NERA Executive Committee Report – Jon Wraith, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the release of the 2012 NERA Planning Grants RFA and the electronic ballot to confirm the recommendations of the Multistate Activities Committee • Prepared the agenda of the March NERA meeting • Convened and presided at the NERA Executive Committee teleconference on March 5, 10-11:30 am
3	<p>Multistate Activities Committee Report distributed for consideration tomorrow – Kirby Stafford III, MAC Chair http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportMarch2012.pdf</p>
4	<p>NIFA Update – Hiram Larew, NIFA http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/NIFAReport.pdf</p>
5	<p>USDA-ARS Update - Dariusz Swietlik, ARS http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/March2012/ARSFY2013PresidentsBudget.pdf Budget reductions were driven by program decisions. Those that are less important were terminated and funding moved to top priorities. It was difficult to close projects that had good science. In some cases, scientists and staff were redirected to other programs.</p>
6	<p>ESCOP Report – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/ESCOPReportMarch2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and Legislative Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ESCOP/ECOP Joint White Paper Outlining Principles for a New Integrated Crop Protection Program • System Communication and Marketing Implementation Committee Report • ESCOP Science and Technology Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Science Roadmap Update <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the “One Line Crop Protection Budget Item’ proposed, IR4 has very strong support from commodity groups that are opposing the proposal. IPM is the strong proponent of this consolidation. IR4’s concern is that this critical program may lose its funding in the mix. Please refer to White Paper below. • ECOP will join ESCOP in funding an expanded K-Global effort (\$400K).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Science and Tech. Committee will be reviewing the nominations for the 2012 National Multistate Research Award for Excellence and working on a synthesis paper that will be used as a marketing piece for the Science Roadmap.
7	<p>Report from Cornerstone - Hunt Shipman, Cornerstone http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/ShipmanPresentation.pdf</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 FY12-13 state budget situation and what the stations are expecting in funding, positions, etc. Each reporting station is asked to provide a 'best guess' analysis of how the station, the university and higher education is expected to fare in their individual FY12-13 legislative sessions.)</i></p> <p>Note: The Northeast Pasteur Consortium is seeking support for their annual Research/Extension/Stakeholder meeting. ARS provides \$20K but may not be sufficient to cover speakers and travel for farmers. Dr. Rossi suggested that the NPC group put together a proposal for discussion at the summer meeting. Other alternative sources may be available, such as the NIFA grants for conferences.</p>
9	<p>Best Practices Session I ➤ Program Evaluation in Plans-of-Work and Annual Reports – Fred Servello and Bart Hewitt (NIFA) http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/BestPracticesSessionIProgramEvaluation.pdf</p>
10	<p>US-Canada Climate Change Collaboration – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A suggestion was made to develop a NERA Planning Grant on climate change. This may be the mechanism to jumpstart groups that can work on the areas identified by the Think Tank.
11	<p>OED Report - Dan Rossi http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/OEDReportMarch2012.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northeast Food Systems Initiative Forum [held on Dec. 7-8, 2011] http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/NEFoodSystems.pdf Invitation to Re-Join National C-FAR in 2012 http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/NCFAR.pdf <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to improve tracking outcomes of forums if there are groups that continued working and submitted proposals and/or grants awarded. The NE Food Systems had resulted to three collaborative groups that are currently working together. CARET has been very engaged in planning for the joint NC & NE summer meeting and is impressed with the progress that they even suggested, at their Feb. meeting, that we should meet jointly with another region next year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suggestion was made to develop a Best Management Practices topic with CARET Reps. on how they can more effectively serve the Land-Grants. This can be a topic at the summer meeting if there is an opportunity to meet jointly with CARET. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion was made to pay the membership fee and adapt the N-CFAR sessions at the Hill as an activity for NERA. The members will be asked to put forward proposals for topics and speakers at these C-FAR sponsored luncheons. The motion was seconded and passed.
12	<p>Proposed NERA Budget for FY12-13 – Jon Wraith, Chair [<i>The budget was distributed at the meeting.</i>]</p> <p>Discussion and Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last increase in the assessment was in FY2008. There is no increase proposed for FY2012-13. • The Directors held a short closed door session. They were pleased with the performance of the NERA staff, and unanimously approved the maximum allowable raise by Rutgers for Dr. Dan Rossi and Rubie Mize. The motion was seconded and passed.
13	<p>Northeast Invasive Plant Species Forum - “Building a Competitive Future for Invasive Plant Species Research in the Northeast”, to be held on March 21-22 at Beltsville, MD – Cameron Faustman and Fred Servello</p> <p>http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/March2012NEInvasivePlantSpeciesForum.pdf</p>
14	<p>Best Practices Session II</p> <p>➤ “Forming, managing and benefitting from AES external advisory and advocacy committees; what works and what doesn’t.” – Jon Wraith</p>
	<p>Final comments and adjournment for the day – Jon Wraith, Chair</p>

Wednesday, March 21 [Admiral 1 Meeting Room - 5th Floor]

Cont. #3	<p>Multistate Activities Committee Report and Discussion – Kirby Stafford III, MAC Chair</p> <p>http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportMarch2012.pdf</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>The motion made was seconded and passed to approve MAC’s recommendations, nos. 1 to 7 in the MAC Report, as follows:</p> <p>Approved the Request to Write for the following projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ovarian Influences on Reproductive Success in Ruminants, 10/2012-9/2017 [Renewal of NE1027] 2. Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE 9] 3. Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms, 10/2012-9/2017 [New]
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4. Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals, 10/2012-9/2017 [New]

5. Equine Clinical Studies, 10/2012-9/2017 [New]

Approved the following multistate research proposals:

6. NE_TEMP1802: Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety, 10/2012-9/2017 [Renewal of NE1028]

7. NE_TEMP1881: Community Health and Resilience, 10/2012-9/2017 [Renewal of NE1029 - Rural Change: Markets, Governance and Quality of Life]

Approved the off-the-top funding for FY12-13 for Northeast Multistate Projects:

- NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources = \$233,972
- NE59: Multistate Research Coordination, Northeastern Region = \$40,788

The funding requested is to support the Northeastern Regional Center for Rural Development.

Discussion:

The NRSP requests for off-the-top were discussed, and the Directors agreed with the amounts requested for NRSPs 1-3-6-7-8 as these amounts equal those that were originally approved in the 5-year budget proposal.

There were questions as to whether NRSP4 and NRSP9 were able to raise funding from other sources which was the condition set when they were approved for funding last year. The technical committees were able to demonstrate good effort in securing other funding but fell short of the target. The NRSP requests will be voted on at the Sept. ESS meeting.

NRSP_temp261 ipmPIPE proposal was re-submitted with a better articulation of the research component, but still heavy on extension. How will the database be used for research? We want to encourage extension participation, but they do not have the same off-the-top mechanism and in the long-term need to share resources if they want to be equal partners in multistate activities.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and passed, that NERA will not support the NRSP_temp261 ipmPIPE proposal for the following reasons:

- Lack of viable funding plan – there should be other sources of funding
- No relevance to the Northeast
- Unclear on the nature of the data and how it will be collected
- Extension driven. There should be clear objectives for both research and extension.

Dr. Stafford III will bring these concerns to the NRSP Review Committee.

2012 National Multistate Research Award

- NE1025 will be re-submitted as this year's Northeast nomination. Dr. Rhodes will be contacted.

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National Germplasm System, PGRU and NE-9 Update

- Larry D. Robertson, Vegetable Crops Curator, USDA, ARS-Plant Genetic Resources Unit
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/RobertsonPresentation.pdf>

- Peter Bretting, National Program Leader, NPGS, ARS

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/BrettingPresentation.pdf>

- Gary Kinard, Research Leader, National Germplasm Resources Laboratory and Plant Exchange Office, ARS

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/KinardPresentation.pdf>

16	NERCRD Update – Stephan Goetz, NERCRD Director http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/GoetzPresentation.pdf
17	Best Practices Session III ➤ “Encouraging leadership development for faculty and staff – LEAD 21 or campus-based programs” – Mike Hoffmann http://www.nera.umd.edu/March2012Meeting/CALSLeadershipProgram.pdf
18	2012 North Central and Northeast Joint Summer Session Program – Dan Rossi http://www.uvm.edu/cals/jss/ Discussion: A suggestion was made to remove the Invasive Species from the list of breakout topics. It was deemed too broad of a topic to arrive at any meaningful discussion and action steps in such a short time. The two Executive Committees for NERA and NCRA will meet to discuss the agenda for the 2-hour joint meeting. Suggestions for topics should be forwarded to Dr. Rossi.
19	2012 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop Program – Mike Hoffmann, ESCOP Incoming Chair New Hampshire will host the meeting at Portsmouth, NH, on September 24-26. The Northeast is responsible for the opening session. Topics being looked at are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Systems in the Northeast - as it relates to food security, climate change, water and energy • “Land Grant in a Rapidly Changing World” – are there new non-traditional partnerships we should nurture?
20	Nominations Committee Report The motion made to approve the following assignments was seconded and passed: Advisor Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gary Thompson (PA) - Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals, 10/2012-9/2017 • Dr. Cameron Faustman (CTS) - Equine Clinical Studies, 10/2012-9/2017 • Dr. Gary Thompson (PA) - NE1027: Ovarian Influences on Reproductive Success in Ruminants, 10/2012-9/2017 and new proposal
21	Resolutions Committee Report – Brad Hillman There were no resolutions presented at this meeting.
22	Future Meetings – Dan Rossi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Central and Northeast Joint Summer Session – July 8-11, 2012 at Burlington, VT • Joint COPs Meeting [ESCOP Reps. will attend for NERA] – July 25-26, 2012 at Savannah, GA • ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop and NERA Fall Meeting - September 24-26, 2012 at Portsmouth, NH
	Summary Comments and Closing – Jon Wraith

Chair Dr. Jon Wraith thanked everyone for a productive meeting and wished them safe return. The meeting adjourned at 1:23PM.

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Last Updated May 1, 2012