

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Admiral Fell Inn - Board Room [5th Floor]
Historic Fell's Point, 888 South Broadway, Baltimore MD 21231

March 14, 2016 [2:30pm to 4:00pm]

Acting Chair, Tim Phipps (WV)

Present: Tim Phipps (WV), Gary Thompson (PA), Cameron Faustman (CT), Pat Vittum (MA/NEED) – Via Skype, Nancy Bull (NEED), Dan Rossi and Rubie Mize (Recorder)

1. Request to approve a new multistate proposal, NE_TEMP1601: Eastern White Pine Health and Responses to Environmental Changes [10/2016-09/2021]
Need to assign an Advisor. Fred Servello is the sponsoring Station Director.

Action: MAC recommends approval and encourages additional participation of scientists from the region. Fred Servello agreed to serve as Advisor.

2. Request to approve a new multistate proposal, NE_TEMP2361: Explorations into the Turfgrass Phytobiome: Establishing Standardized Research Methodology for Studying Microbial Communities and Developing Reliable Applications for Turfgrass Management [10/2016-09/2021]
Need to assign an Advisor. Adel Shirmohammadi is the sponsoring Station Director.

Action: MAC recommends approval and advises the group to narrow the focus and establish a baseline for one or two types of turfgrass. Pat Vittum agreed to serve as Advisor and will help get them off the ground and set the project's direction.

3. Request to approve a proposal for a multistate Coordinating Committee, NEERA_TEMP1601 (currently NEERA1001): Northeast Pasture Consortium Collaboration [10/2016-09/2021]

Action: The Committee has a long history and continues to serve as a formal structure to bring experts and stakeholders together. MAC recommends approval.

4. Request to approve a proposal for a multistate Coordinating Committee NEERA_TEMP1004 (currently NEERA1004): Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management [10/2016-09/2021]

Action: This is another committee that has a long history that brings research and extension experts together and helps prioritize IPM projects in the region. MAC recommends approval.

5. Approve the Request to Write a Proposal for NE1231 - Collaborative Potato Breeding and Variety Development Activities to Enhance Farm Sustainability in the Eastern US [10/2017-09/2022]

Action: MAC recommends approval of Request to Write, and advises the group to focus on the accomplishments in the last five years and relate outcomes with the project's objectives.

6. Request for FY2017 Off-the-top funding for Northeast Multistate Projects:

- NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources
FY2017 Budget Request = \$262,298
- NE59: Multistate Research Coordination, Northeastern Region
FY 2017 Budget Request = \$ 40,788
The funding requested is to support the Northeastern Regional Center for Rural Development.

Action: MAC recommends approval for both projects in the amounts requested for the FY2017 regional off-the-top. MAC also suggests inviting the NERCRD Director to report on the Center's impressive accomplishments at one of our regional meetings.

7. NRSPs

- Off-the-top Funding Request for FY2017 – For information only and will be voted on at September ESS Meeting.
- New proposal NRSP_TEMP0011: National Agricultural Research Data Network for Harmonized Data (NARDN-HD)

Discussion:

- Effective Jan. 2016, Dan Rossi is serving as one of the Executive Directors (ED support) assigned to the NRSP Review Committee, in preparation for the Northeast taking over as Chair of NRSPRC in 2018.
- There will be a presentation on the proposed NRSP_TEMP011. Jan Nyrop serves as our region's Advisor to this NRSP.
- Is there a possibility or opportunity to expand the membership of the proposed NRSP to include environmental/ecosystem hubs? How will this affect funding? How was budget developed? How was the group formed?
- Good to have a central repository of data and harmonization. Want to see proof of principle/concept on a specific data.
- Should all federal agencies work on this project together so we can extract data from all sources?

8. Northeast Supplementary Guidelines for Multistate Research

Revised version (10 pages) - <http://nera.rutgers.edu/workroom/nesupguide2016.pdf>
Original version (36 pages) - <http://nera.rutgers.edu/workroom/nesupguide2001.php>

The guidelines were revised to remove duplications from the National Guidelines and reduce number of pages to no more than 10.

Action: MAC recommends approval of the revised Northeast Supplementary Guidelines.

9. 2016 National Multistate Research Award Nominations

- NE1227: Ovarian Influences on Reproductive Success in Ruminants
- NEERA1003: Northeast Pasture Consortium

Action: Share the nominations with directors and discuss at NERA Meeting. Important attributes of projects selected as winners -- demonstrates interdependency, have measures of adoption, economic and scientific impacts, and had leveraged funding.

10. Advisor assignments:

- NE_TEMP1601: Eastern White Pine Health and Responses to Environmental Changes [10/2016-09/2021] - Fred Servello (ME)
- NE_TEMP2361: Explorations into the Turfgrass Phytobiome: Establishing Standardized Research Methodology for Studying Microbial Communities and Developing Reliable Applications for Turfgrass Management [10/2016-09/2021] Pat Vittum (MA)
- NE1035: Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development [10/2013-09/2018] – Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)

11. Other Business

a. Projects not recommended for renewal: For information only

- NE1047: Ecological Bases for Weed Management in Sustainable Cropping Systems [10/2011-09/2016]
- NEAC002: Animal Science Advisory Committee [10/2011-09/2016]

b. NERA Planning Grant – an updated summary is attached.

c. Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant Review Committee – two each from NEED and NERA

NEED: Mike O’Neill and Dennis Calvin

NERA: Tim Phipps and Susan Brown (TBC)

Current MAC members:

- Fred Servello, ME (2015-2018) - Chair
- Tim Phipps, WV (2013-2016)
- Gary Thompson, PA (2015-2018)
- Cameron Faustman, CTS (2014-2017)
- Pat Vittum, MA/NEED (2014-2017)
- Ken La Valley, NH/NEED (2014-2017)