

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 11, 2013
2:30pm to 4:00pm

Chair, Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH)

In Attendance: Kirby Stafford III, Fred Servello, Gary Thompson, Bill Hare, Dan Rossi and Rubie Mize (Recorder) **Called In:** Tim Phipps

1. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2081: Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1032]

Discussion: Important area and came back with strong reviews. Project has a history of a well-coordinated group with good output. Weak outreach plan. Milestones are vague. Expected outcomes should be measurable and can be better documented. Looks more like a coordinating committee and could better integrate their activities. MAC wants to discuss MRF guidelines and policy issues at the NERA meeting, and wants to send expectations to the Advisors that proposals are clearly integrated and interdependent to be considered a multistate research project.

Action: Recommends conditional approval and proposal to be revised. They need to articulate their milestones, outputs should be measurable (ex. How was release successful?), outcomes should be specific for each objective, and the outreach program need to be strengthened.

2. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2101: Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1033]

Discussion: Project has long history of success and had been recognized nationally for its accomplishments. Integration is clearly demonstrated. Appendix E is not yet complete, but majority of current NE1033 participants will continue to participate in the new project. Note that proposal exceeded 15-page limit.

Action: Recommends approval of proposal.

3. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2021: Genetic Bases for Resistance and Immunity to Avian Diseases, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1034]

Discussion: Technical committee had satisfactorily addressed reviewer comments. Solid proposal. Note that proposal exceeded 15-page limit.

Action: Recommends approval of proposal.

4. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2061: Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1035]

Discussion: Important area for the region, but need to demonstrate and articulate interdependence better. Emphasize Topics 2 & 3, and press for more integrated approach. This is an expensive technology so they need to explain the economic implications to those who will adapt. Consolidate objectives. Reach out to faculty in the urban centers. This is a good project that can have significant impact especially in niche urban markets, and can be easily integrated and multidisciplinary.

Action: Recommends revision of proposal.

5. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2041: Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1036]

Action: Recommends approval of proposal.

6. Request for off-the-top funding for FY13-14 for Northeast Multistate Projects:

- NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources = \$240,750
[NE9 FY2014 Budget Request](#)

Action: Defer MAC action for discussion at the NERA meeting due to sequestration issues currently on the table.

- NE59: Multistate Research Coordination, Northeastern Region = \$40,788
The funding requested is to support the Northeastern Regional Center for Rural Development.
[NE59 FY2014 Budget Request](#)

Action: Recommends approval of NE-59's off-the-top request.

7. NRSPs

- a. NRSP Review Committee Report - The NRSPs will absorb whatever percentage cut is imposed by USDA.
- b. Midterm Reviews – recommend that only the four regional advisors should submit the midterm review for each NRSP that will then be considered by the NRSRPC.

- NRSP4: Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses, 2010-2015
 - NRSP6: The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm, 2010-2015
 - NRSP9: National Animal Nutrition Program, 2010-2015
- c. NRSP8's renewal, NRSP_temp281: National Animal Genome Research Program, 2013-2018 – Defer discussion to NERA meeting and discuss the following:
- Demonstrate other funding sources. How much is leveraged?
 - Is this region going to support this project? Does it fit what a NRSP should be?
 - Is there benefit to our university scientists?
 - Explain how to get to the maintenance level.
- d. NRSP1 Budget Request
NRSP1 has NIMSS and the Impacts Writing components. Mike Harrington submitted a request to increase the Impacts writing component from \$24K to \$53K, so he can hire the writer fulltime. See request attached.

8. 2013 NERA Planning Grant

MAC held a teleconference on December 10, 2012, and their recommendation to award the 2013 NERA Planning Grant to the following proposals was approved by the NERA Directors by electronic ballot on December 14, 2012:

- NE1301 - Examining the Role of Regional Food Networks (RFNs) and Their Relationships to Long-Term Resilience in the US Food System through the Linkages of People, Place, and Prosperity
- NE1304 - Tree biomechanics and mitigating tree hazards

9. 2013 Joint NEED-NERA Planning Grant

Discussion: Should all AES and CES Directors be voting for the \$4K for each of the two proposals? NERA will fund 2013-5: Production and Processing of Foodgrade Grains for Northeast Farm Viability.

10. 2013 National Multistate Research Award

Discussion: A nomination was received for NE1048 Mastitis Resistance to Enhance Dairy Food Safety. Good project, but will recommend to strengthen the impacts.

Action: Recommends approval

11. Advisors for the following new projects are needed:

- NE_TEMP2021: Genetic Bases for Resistance and Immunity to Avian Diseases, 10/2013-9/2018
- NE_TEMP2041: Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies, 10/2013-9/2018