# NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## March 1, 2019 11:00am - 12:00pm

Web/Mobile: https://zoom.us/j/5717743008 Phone: (646) 558-8656
(access code 571 774 3008)

**Members present: Fred Servello (UME, chair), Eric Wommack (UD), Gary Thompson (PSU), Pat Vittum (UMASS), Amy Ouellette (UNH) and Rick Rhodes (NERA, ex-officio)**

Meeting convened at 11:03 AM. Chair Servello reviewed the agenda and shared that the committee had 6 peer-reviewed, multistate proposals to consider as well 2 NRSP renewals. Agenda was approved by acclamation. In future MAC meetings, during discussion of peer-reviewed proposals, proposals will be assigned a "MAC primary reviewer." That designee will lead the initial, time-limited introduction.

Discussion ensued on action items:

***Request to Approve Peer-Reviewed Multistate Research Project***

1. NE_TEMP1938: *Carbon Dynamics and Hydromorphology in Depressional Wetland Systems,* 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NE1438, AA: Jon Wraith – UNH]
    - Proposal (Pg. 1-11), Reviews and Responses (Pg. 12-16)
    - **Discussion:**
        - Proposal was introduced by Fred. This proposal is a rewrite of *Hydropedology of Vernal Ponds* and represents a highly integrated and well-designed series of research projects. This project intends to use depressional wetlands as a proxy for wetland carbon cycling and greenhouse gas exchange. The reviewers viewed the project as a truly joint series of experiments.
        - Reviews were excellent.
        - Jon Wraith is a very engaged AA and assisted the technical team in the responses to reviewers.
        - The outreach plan was weak. (Pat and Amy agreed to frame suggestions for technical teams to improve outreach plans.)
        - **Motion to approve: Gary; second: Eric. Unanimous approval.**

2. NE_TEMP1939: *Improving the Health Span of Aging Adults Through Diet and Physical Activity,* 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NE1439, AA: Sabine O'Hara – UDC]
    - Proposal (Pg. 17-31), Reviews and Responses (Pg. 32-37)
    - **Discussion:**
        - Proposal was introduced by Rick. This rewrite is a continuation of work that has been conducted by an active multistate group. The area of the research revolves around ageing adults, an American cohort that

is growing in number as Baby Boomers enter the later stages of their lives. This proposal seeks strategies to promote health through diet and activity. The technical team intends to evaluate dietary intake, physical activity, and muscle mass under various conditions. During the previous 5 years, this team attracted $750,000 in grant funding, published 39 refereed manuscripts, and trained 50 graduate and 66 undergraduate students. The reviews of the proposal were good to excellent and the technical team did an extensive job in addressing the comments of the reviewers.

- The University of Maine frequently promotes this project an example of an effective multistate research endeavor.
- The reviewers and the MAC noted that this work has technical merit.
- **Motion to approve: Pat; second: Gary. Unanimous approval.**

3. NE_TEMP1941: *Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations*, 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NE1441, AA: Mark Rieger – Delaware]
    - Proposal (Pg. 38-51), Reviews and Responses (Pg. 52-54)
    - **Discussion:**
        - Proposal was introduced by Rick. This is a rewrite of a previous project and intends to develop grazing and pasture management strategies for small farm operators who have horses. This is an area for which there is great interest, little work, and modest funding. On small acreage plots, pastures can be easily over-grazed and the management of manure has proven to be problematic, as is mortality management. (What's to be done at the end of the life of a horse; how/where are carcasses disposed?) The reviews of the project were good to excellent and the technical team modified the proposal in response to the reviewer's comments.
        - This is an area of prime importance in PA and there's not a lot of information out there. Manure runoff can be an important point source of pollution.
        - The same is noted with farms in New Hampshire.
        - The question was posed on whether this is truly an interdependent group. The technical team has breadth in the contributions of team members. Some team members contribute more than others.
        - **Motion to approve: Amy; second: Gary. Unanimous approval.**

4. NE_TEMP1942*: Enhancing Poultry Production Systems through Emerging Technologies and Husbandry Practices,* 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NE1442. AA: Kumar Venkitanarayanan – CT-Storrs]
    - Proposal (Pg. 55-84), Reviews and Responses (Pg. 85-88)
    - **Discussion:**
        - Proposal was introduced by Fred. This proposal is a rewrite of a long-standing and productive project dedicated to application of technologies in the poultry industry. This project intends to develop and evaluate automation, equipment efficiency, facility design and screen engineering technologies to advance the poultry industry. The project also seeks to ensure animal welfare through sound husbandry practices.

The technical team is large and is composed of experts in the northeast, northcentral and southern regions. The reviews of the project were good to excellent and the technical team addressed minor concerns of the review panel.
- This project could be a good candidate for nomination for the Multistate Research Award. In the past 5 years the team has attracted $22M in research funding, and published 412 abstracts, 119 refereed journal articles and 55 proceedings.
- **Motion to approve: Gary; second: Amy. Unanimous approval.**

5. NE_TEMP1943: *Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors*, 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NE1443, AA: Ted Andreadis – CT-New Haven]
    - Proposal (Pg. 89-103), Reviews and Responses (Pg. 104-107)
    - **Discussion:**
        - Proposal was introduced by Fred. This proposal is a rewrite of a productive project with a broad set of objectives that responds to insect vectors delivering scourge diseases like Lyme disease, chikungunya, Dengue fever, Zika virus, Rift Valley fever and West Nile virus. This nimble group focusses on mosquito and tick diseases and engages in surveillance, ecological and geographical distribution of disease vectors, and control and management. The reviews of the project were excellent.
        - The reviewers reflected that the team produced a plethora of work.
        - Ted Andreadis is an engaged AA.
        - **Motion to approve: Pat; second: Amy. Unanimous approval.**

6. NE_TEMP1944: *Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug,* 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Multistate Project replacement for NEERA1806, AA: Ted Andreadis – CT-New Haven]
    - Proposal (Pg. 108-115), Reviews (Pg. 116-118)
    - **Discussion:**
        - Proposal was introduced by Gary. This proposal is an extension of a coordinating committee dedicated to understanding the invasive pest: the polyphagous, marmorated stink bug, a bane of high value crops in the NE. This pest first appeared in PA and thereafter posed a significant threat to agriculture. Traditional IPM strategies did not work. The project has made much progress and is now working on monitoring and evaluating geographical distribution as well as developing IPM and biocontrol strategies.
        - While the technical team is functionally integrated (many on the technical team have both research and extension appointments), the outreach plan is weak.
        - The reviews of the project were good and supportive.
        - **Motion to approve: Amy; second: Gary. Unanimous approval.**

***NRSP Discussion***

1. NRSP_TEMP3: *The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP),* 10/2019

– 09/2024 [Renewal of NRSP3, Northeast AA: Jon Wraith – UNH]

- Materials on pgs. 119-156
- **Discussion:**
    - Fred shared with the MAC that the NRSPs have been sent to the region for evaluation. NRSP3 provides a collaborative network of documenting pollutant gases and aerosols, atmospheric chemicals, and understanding how those deposited chemicals effect agricultural crops, forests, rangelands, surface and ground waters. This project received excellent reviews, a reflection of the quality and the impact of the work. This NRSP seeks $50,000 annually and complements the OTT funding with $3.1M from other sources.
    - Why does this project need any OTT funding?
        - The project proposal indicates that the OTT funding provides a framework for combining sources of funding from diverse sponsors.
        - $50K is the price of the ticket to be part of the discussion; it's ESCOP's skin in the game.
        - The topic of continuation of funding for projects like this will be a point of conversation with NERA.

2. NRSP_TEMP10: *National Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research,* 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NRSP10, Northeast AA: To be identified, formerly Susan Brown – Cornell]
    - Materials on pgs. 157-206
    - **Discussion:**
        - Fred shared with the MAC that the Crop Genomics project was similar to the Animal Genomics project that was submitted last year. The project proposal indicates that the new tools will require the dedication of a similar tranche of funds that supported the project during the previous 5 years (viz, ~$500,000 annually.) The proposal indicates that the project team will complement the 5-year funding OTT funding with an additional $2M of other funding. The technical team previously attracted ~$6M in extramural funding (e.g., SCRI and NSF.)
        - While the MAC appreciates the value of the work that was done and is to be done, the technical team did not provide a transition plan and provisions for developing alternative sources funding that enable the reduction or elimination of OTT funding. This is an issue that NERA brought up last year during the renewal of a similar project. And the lack of a sunset on NRSPs continues to be an issue in the NE.

Motion to adjourn: Gary. Meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.