



NERA Meeting

Hilton Burlington – Vermont Room

July 10, 2012 [10:30am-12:30pm, 1:30-3:45pm]

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Jon Wraith, Chair
Cameron Faustman (CTS)
Tom Burr (NYG)
Steve Goodwin (MA)
Bill Hare (DC)
Stephen Herbert (MA)
Brad Hillman (NJ)
Michael Hoffman (NYC)
Hiram Larew (NIFA)
Tim Phipps (WV)
Daniel Rossi (NERA)
Fred Servello (ME)
Adel Shirmohammadi (MD)
Kirby Stafford III (CTNH)
Gary Thompson (PA)
Rubie Mize (NERA), Recorder

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Jon Wraith

2. Approval of Agenda – Chair Jon Wraith

The draft agenda posted at <http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2012.pdf> was revised to include the Batelle Study discussion led by Drs. Thompson and Hoffmann. Because of time constraint the Station Updates were deferred for the next meeting.

Action: The motion made to approve the revised agenda was seconded and passed.

3. Approval of Minutes from the March 2012 NERA Meeting – Chair Jon Wraith

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2012.html>

Action: The motion made to approve the minutes was seconded and passed.

4. Nominations Committee Report – Brad Hillman

Action: The following nominations were seconded and passed.

2013 NERA Executive Committee

Chair – Adel Shirmohammadi
Vice-Chair – Fred Servello
Officer-at-Large – Tim Phipps
Past Chair – Jon Wraith

Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) Member and Rep. from NEED – Bill Hare (DC) for the term 2013-2018

NE Academic Programs Section Committee Liaison – Cameron Faustman

Multistate Project Advisors:

NE1039: Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 2009-2014 - Sabine O'Hara (to replace Dr. Wyche-Moore)

5. Resolutions Committee Report – Tom Burr

Action: The following three resolutions were read by Dr. Burr. A motion was made and they were seconded and passed.

Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Gloria Wyche-Moore

WHEREAS, Dr. Gloria S. Wyche-Moore has distinguished herself as the Dean of Community Outreach and Extension Services (COES), Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), and Director of the Water Resources Research Institute (WRRRI) at the University of the District of Columbia, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wyche-Moore has been with UDC for more than three decades, serving as a professor and Chairperson in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, and as an Assistant Dean in the former College of Life Sciences, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wyche-Moore has left a significant legacy in her long career in the founding of the new College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) at UDC, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wyche-Moore conducted research, administered projects, developed curriculum and was the biggest proponent of urban agriculture, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wyche-Moore's expertise in water pollution biology and oceanography have served her well in her role as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) for five years.

WHEREAS, Dr. Wyche-Moore was Project Director of USDA's Strengthening Grant, and a Cafritz Foundation Fellow and also directed the NASA-funded "Anacostia River Institute for Remote Sensing (AIRS)," which introduced 9th through 12th-grade students and teachers to water quality analysis and monitoring using remote sensing techniques, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wyche-Moore as the DC-AES Director since 1997, represented the Northeast and served as liaison to the Northeast Academic Programs section and served as Advisor for multistate project NE1039: Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications (formerly NE172 and NE1023),

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Burlington, Vermont, on July 10, 2012, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Wyche-Moore for her dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Association and the Land-grant system, and wish her success in her future professional activities and personal endeavors.

July 10, 2012

Signed by Jon Wraith, Chair, NERA

Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. Robin W. Morgan

WHEREAS, Dr. Robin W. Morgan has distinguished herself as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Delaware, as well as Director of the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station since 2002, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morgan served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) from 2005 and served as Chair of the association in 2008, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morgan served as a member of ECOP and ESCOP committees, and was chair and co-chair of several university, local community, national and international board, academic and scientific committees, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morgan, during her illustrious career with UDEL starting as an Assistant Professor in 1985, and in addition to her increasingly demanding administrative and academic duties, continued to be a prolific researcher and writer in the field of avian research, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morgan has received significant funding from USDA and other agencies for her research teams and the university, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting in Burlington, Vermont, on July 10, 2012, express sincere appreciation to Dr. Morgan for her dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Association and the Land-grant system, and wish her much success in her future professional activities and personal endeavors.

July 10, 2012

Signed by Jon Wraith, Chair, NERA

Resolution of Appreciation to the Host-University of Vermont

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) participated in engaging and productive meetings at the Hilton Burlington Hotel in Burlington, Vermont, to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Land Grant Act - 150th Anniversary of the Passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act on July 2, 1862, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the tours of Northern and Southern Vermont on Sunday, July 8, which highlighted the contributions of the Land-grant in the local agriculture and economy, and culminating the day with the very entertaining portrayal of Sen. Justin Morrill and his wife as they spent an evening reminiscing their years in Washington, DC, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed their interaction in a well-organized joint meeting with the Northeast and North Central Deans, Research/Extension Directors, and Members of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) on July 9-10, looking at the past and the future of the Land-grant community, and the group discussions on the topics of climate change, food systems, communicating science and technology, STEM and revenue generation, and

WHEREAS, the Directors, participated in the toast to the 150 years of the Land-Grant Act celebrating its many challenges and achievements while aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen III cruising scenic Lake Champlain on the evening of July 9,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors acknowledge their appreciation to Deans Tom Vogelmann and Doug Lantagne, Robin Smith and Jane Nevins, and their colleagues who worked behind the scenes for making the meeting a great success, a very enjoyable experience and for giving the Directors a renewed enthusiasm for the next 150 years of the Land-Grant.

July 10, 2012

Signed by Jon Wraith, Chair, NERA

6. Multistate Activities Committee Report – Kirby Stafford (MAC Report were distributed prior to the meeting)
MAC Meeting Agenda <http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/MACReportJuly2012.pdf>

Action: A motion was made to approve MAC recommendations (nos. 1-8) in the MAC Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

7. NRSP Review Committee Recommendations – Kirby Stafford
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/NRSPRCJune18CallNotes.pdf>

The recommendations will be discussed again and will be voted on at the September Experiment Station Section Meeting. By that time issues on matching fund for NRSP9 should be resolved. Also to be discussed by the NRSPRC is the policy of approving 5-year budgets with the NRSP proposal. Recommendations will be given at the September meeting for specific revisions to the NRSP Guidelines.

8. Review of Joint Session Discussions
<http://www.uvm.edu/cals/jss/Agenda.pdf>

Where is the Land-grant going? Do we need new decision models in a rapidly changing world? We need a fresh look on how we operate, like a departmental review. Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy commented that, “we are still working in silos”. Dr. Hoffmann will focus his energy on this issue as ESCOP’s Incoming Chair.

- Can we afford to have as many local experiment stations?
- Hiring – should we look at what other institutions have, share and fill gaps?
- Do we need to reach out to new stakeholders? Can Kraft, Kellogg, PepsiCo advocate for us? Our Food Science Depts. develop their products.
 - What’s at stake in developing these relationships?
 - What other stakeholder that our other colleges have that we can tap into?
 - Food industry
 - Coastal communities
 - Local homeowners’ associations
 - Environmental Defense Fund
 - Golf associations
 - Other local community associations

Watershed restoration is one area that Research and Extension should be working together

9. Review of NCRA and NERA Discussion
<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/NCRA-NERAJointSession.pdf>

The NERA Directors felt that the joint NCRA and NERA meeting went well, but time was too short to discuss the real value for developing cross border collaborations. Issues/concerns noted were:

- Spend own \$ in institutions – participant will bring their own resources
- Create consortium/corporation – very complex
- Personnel issues
- Need to build around geographical needs

A suggestion was made to set up jointly a NCRA/NERA planning grant.

Future Best Practices for joint regional sessions can focus on (1) How we handle funds? and (2) Establishment of a Grant Support Unit in the Experiment Station level, college or university level.

10. ESCOP Report – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/July2012ESCOPReport.pdf>

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/MarketingProject.pdf>

11. Northeast Regional Invasive Species Forum – Fred Servello/Cameron Faustman

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/invasivespecies/SummaryNortheastInvasivePlantSpeciesForum.pdf>

The Northeast Invasive Plant Species Forum was held on March 21-22, 2012 at USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD and was attended by a diverse group of 32 participants from federal agencies, university and local government practitioners. This made it quite difficult to focus on specific research issues and come up with a set of projects, but the forum was a good venue to educate the practitioners about the multistate process and was a good start for a fruitful collaboration. The Planning Committee met after the forum and will continue to follow-up on the recommendations. Dr. Cameron Faustman is spearheading a group at UCONN, and the plan is to develop a multistate project to allow interested faculty from other institutions to react to something concrete. The forum attendees will be invited to participate. The practitioners will hopefully provide the Extension piece.

12. Eastern US-Canada Climate Change Collaboration – Mike Hoffmann and Dan Rossi

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/SyracuseJuly2012Mtg.pdf>

The Eastern US-Canada Collaboration that first met at Syracuse, NY, last year continues to meet and expand. The next step is to bring in the US and Canadian federal agencies. A meeting will be held at Syracuse, NY, on July 30-31, 2012.

13. Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/July2012Meeting/OEDReportJuly2012.pdf>

14. Planning Grant Update – Dan Rossi

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/NERAPlanningGrantSummaryJuly2012.pdf>

Bill Hare noted that a request for a “directed” planning grant on *Ethnic Foods* to be funded jointly by NEED and NERA will be proposed (\$4K each). Linda Kay and Dan Rossi will continue the discussion and when the proposal is ready it will be presented to the NERA Directors for their approval. Bill added that UDC, UMASS, Cornell, UMD, WVU and UDEL are collaborating in this activity, as it also relates to the Feed the Future initiative. As noted in the MAC Report, Ethnic Foods is one of the three initiatives that resulted from the Northeast Food Systems Forum that NERA jointly organized and funded with NEED.

Action: The 2013 announcement will be prepared by Dr. Rossi and will be released in November.

15. Batelle Study – Gary Thompson and Mike Hoffmann

North Central Batelle Study -

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/NorthCentralBatelleStudy.pdf>

Batelle Statement of Work for the Southern Region –

<http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/July2012Meeting/BattelleSouthRegionStatementofWork.pdf>

The North Central Executive Summary of the Batelle Study was shared with the Directors and the proposal for the Southern Region. The topic was also discussed by the Deans at their AHS Meeting. The purpose of the discussion is to assess the level of interest among the station directors, and if the study should be done as a region or as a component of our region, or in the institutional level.

Dr. Hoffmann captured the discussions, and sent the following summary:

From the discussion at the AHS and NERA meetings, Gary Thompson and I captured the following pros and cons of conducting such a study.

- *Several attending NE deans had the impression the deans in midwest never used the data generated by Battelle – this raised red flags*
- *There is value in having a third party prepare such a report, since it gives it more credibility and it's not coming from "us"*
- *The aggregate data is not detailed enough to be of value locally – comment from the new dean at DC, an economist. At the same time if one is advocating for the region then it has value.*
- *Raising the region's profile was seen as something important to come out of a Battelle study. In contrast to the other regions we are often not considered a major player in ag and the food industry.*
- *Some states already have their own reports. Not sure what a Battelle study would add for their state.*
- *The Battelle study should be shared with our own economists to get their assessments as well as see if they could do a better job for our states.*
- *Sense from NERA was that there is interest but members need more information. Most NERA members were not concerned about the potential cost of \$5-10K. The option of dividing the cost proportionally based on FFF allocation was considered.*
- *No decision was made by the AHS group - they want to see what NEED and NERA decide.*

If you have not yet done so you may want to review the Battelle study conducted for the NC region ([attached](#)). This will give you an idea as to what can be included in a study. Note that Battelle is flexible and will customize studies to meet the needs of their customers. Also note that Battelle could do a region-wide study, encompassing all NERA states or break the study out but clusters having a particular affinity such as a watershed or type of agriculture.

Also [attached](#) is a statement of work designed for the southern states. This outlines what this group is pursuing but we think modifying it to include the following would likely be more appropriate and helpful for the northeast.

- *Rather than the study being led by AES and Extension directors, the region's deans would be in the lead*
- *Academic (teaching) programs would be included along with research and extension*
- *Instead of agbiosciences the study would emphasize agriculture and the food system*
- *Battelle would be asked to help identify where they are opportunities to partner with programs and physical assets for the mutual benefit of institutions in the region*

- *The report would be forward looking, helping all institutions build on current strengths to address future challenges and take advantage of future opportunities.*
- *The impact assessment would be broad and serve to highlight the economic benefits that occur through various mechanisms, including:*
 - *Research (applied, translational)*
 - *Food security, climate change, food safety, energy, nutrition*
 - *Implementation of technical and practice innovations*
 - *Technology transfer*
 - *Workforce and practitioner development*
 - *Teaching and education*
 - *Youth and family development*
 - *Community/economic development*
 - *Ecosystems services such as maintaining the NY City watershed*
 - *Policy development*
 - *International contributions*
 - *Human well being/health (e.g., invasive mosquitoes)*

At this point Gary and I are looking for general reactions to a possible Battelle study encompassing parts of, or the entire region. If there is consensus to move ahead, a statement of work would need to be developed that meets the needs of those interested in a study.

Comments, concerns and/or suggestions should be sent to Drs. Thompson and Hoffmann.

16. Future Meetings:

- Joint COPs Meeting – July 25-26 at Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel, Savannah, GA
- NERA Fall Meeting – Sept. 25, 3:00-6:00PM, in conjunction with the ESS/SAES/ARD Meetings at Sheraton Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH, on Sept. 24-26
- NERA Spring Meeting – March 18-20, 2013 at the Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, MD
- 2013 Northeast Joint Summer Meeting - July 7-9 or July 14-16 to be hosted by NY-Ithaca or NH

The Deans and CARET Reps. had indicated that they want a joint summer meeting again next year, to be hosted by the North Central at Iowa or Michigan. The NERA Directors are open to this idea and also jointly with other regions. The EDs will discuss further if meeting jointly next year is feasible.

17. Other Business

18. Closing Remarks/Adjournment – Chair Jon Wraith

Chair Jon Wraith thanked everyone and looked forward to more interesting interactions with our North Central colleagues.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.