

# **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 10, 2014  
2:30pm to 4:00pm**

**Chair, Tim Phipps (WV)**

**Members Present: Fred Servello (WV), Gary Thompson (PA) and Bill Hare (NEED)**

1. Request to approve the proposal NE\_TEMP2162: Hydropedology of Vernal Pool Systems, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1038]

Discussion: Proposal had strong peer reviews and this is an important project.

Action: MAC recommends approval.

2. Request to approve the proposal NE\_TEMP2143: Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1039]

Discussion: Midterm review will be critical and MAC wants to see real synergy and integration to be a truly regional multistate project. Need to show linkages among the participants. Strength will be in looking at rural and urban populations. Need more Extension participation.

Action: MAC recommends approval.

3. Request to approve the proposal NE\_TEMP2161: Environmental Impacts of Equine Operations, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1041]

Discussion: MAC felt that an important suggestion from one of the reviewers was not addressed. Need an economist and the additional objective. Also, a MAC member suggested looking closely at the HAC RFP, and integrated curriculum may be more useful.

Action: MAC recommends conditional approval to include an economist and the additional objective in the revised proposal.

4. Request to approve the proposal NE\_TEMP2144: Poultry Production Systems and Well-being: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]

Discussion: Strong reviews. Need to clarify the economics component of the project. Impacts of costs and benefits of technology to the industry is critical and the committee wants that clearly demonstrated and the economist(s) identified.

Action: MAC recommends conditional approval.

5. Request to approve the Request to Write a Proposal entitled, Adaptive Management for Improved Nutrient Management, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NEERA1002]

Discussion: This is a good project. Need to get annual reports uploaded in NIMSS for last two meetings.

Action: MAC recommends approval.

6. Request to approve the Request to Write a Proposal entitled, Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1043]

Discussion: An important project. Recommend to narrow the focus to mosquitoes or broaden and include tick and other vectors.

Action: MAC recommends approval.

7. Request for off-the-top funding for Northeast Multistate Projects:

- NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources  
FY2014 Budget Request = \$ 240,750  
FY2015 Budget Request = \$ 247,727

Discussion: NE9 did not get the sequestration cut for FY2013. MAC suggested that since FY2014 level is restored, the committee approves the request at \$240,750, and recommends approval of FY2015 with the stipulation that Hatch funding will not be reduced.

- NE59: Multistate Research Coordination, Northeastern Region  
FY 2015 Budget Request = \$ 40,788

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

Discussion: No increase requested.

Action: Recommend approval for NE9 for FY2014 and FY2015 (see stipulation above) and NE59 FY 2015.

8. NRSPs

New/Renewing Projects:

- NEW: NRSP\_TEMP321, “Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research,” was submitted this fall. This project has submitted all required materials and will be distributed to the NRSP-RC members in March 2014.
- RENEWING: NRSP\_TEMP003 (NRSP-3), “The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP).” This project has submitted all the required materials and is in the process of being peer reviewed. After responding to peer reviewers, the submission will be distributed to the NRSP-RC.
- RENEWING: NRSP\_TEMP301 (NRSP-7), “A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs.” This project is requesting one year of funding to explore additional and alternative funding models. [For information only]

#### Mid-Term Reviews:

- NRSP-1, “National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)” will undergo a mid-term review by the project’s Administrative Advisors in February 2014. The outcome of that mid-term review will be disseminated to the NRSP-RC. [For information only]

Discussion: Budgets for the two NRSP proposals should be corrected to start on FY2014-15.

NRSP3 receives \$50K from the system, and brings in additional resources. Land-grants benefit from this project with minimal investment.

On NRSP\_temp321, needs clarification on the expected outcomes of the project. This system is needed, but will it serve as the only platform for underserved crops? Another concern is the budget requested. The ESS approved a motion to establish a cap on NRSPs that we could spend up to \$2M on NRSPs. This proposal will exceed that limit if we continue all other projects. Currently, there is about \$244K available to fund a new NRSP project.

#### 9. 2014 National Multistate Research Award

MAC will ask for suggestions from the Advisors at the NERA Meeting.

#### 10. Advisor assignments:

**NEERA1004:** Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management [10/2011-09/2016]

- to replace Dr. Stephen Herbert (MA) as the Extension Co-Advisor
- Dennis Calvin (PA) will be approached

**NE1044:** Whole farm dairy and beef systems: gaseous emissions, P management, organic production, and pasture based production [10/2010-09/2015]

- to replace Dr. Stephen Herbert (MA) as Advisor
- Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi (MD) agreed to take this assignment.

**NE1231:** Collaborative Potato Breeding and Variety Development Activities to Enhance Farm Sustainability in the Eastern US [10/2012-09/2017]  
- to replace Dr. Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH) as Advisor  
- Susan Brown will be approached.

**NE1043:** Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors [08/2009-09/2014]  
- to replace Dr. Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH) as Advisor  
- Dr. Theodore G. Andreadis (CT-NH) had agreed to take this assignment.

**NE1040:** Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems [10/2009-09/2016]  
- to replace Dr. Janine Sherrier (DE) as Advisor  
- Dr. Mark Rieger (DE) had agreed to take this assignment.

Discussion: Suggestion is to approach Extension directors who have research background

#### 11. 2014 NERA Planning Grant

MAC held a teleconference on December 17, 2013 and reviewed 11 submissions. MAC's recommendation to award the 2014 NERA Planning Grant to the following proposals was approved by the NERA Directors by electronic ballot on January 4, 2014:

- NE1401 - Focusing Chemical Ecology on Agricultural Pest Management Priorities (Funding Requested = \$ 9,750)
- NE1410 - Organic Lawn Care Practices for the Northeast (Funding Requested = \$ 5,600)

#### 12. Other Business

- Need replacement for Dr. Kirby Stafford III as MAC Member. Dr. Cameron Faustman will be nominated.
- Need to extend appointment or replacement for Dr. Tim Phipps. His first three-year term has expired (2010-2013). He had agreed to a 2<sup>nd</sup> three year term and will be MAC Chair until Sept. 30, 2014.
- Dr. Tim Phipps, as MAC Chair, will also serve as the Northeast Delegate to the NRSP Review Committee.

Current MAC members:

- Tim Phipps, WV (2013-2016)
- Gary Thompson, PA (2012-2015)
- Fred Servello, ME (2012-2015)
- Bob Schrader, MA-Extension (2011-2014)
- Bill Hare, DC-Extension (2012-2015)
- Cameron Faustman, CTS (2014-2017)