

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Teleconference

**June 26, 2013
2:00pm to 3:00pm**

Chair, Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH)

Members: Tim Phipps (WV), Fred Servello (ME), Gary Thompson (PA), Bob Schrader and Bill Hare (NEED)

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

Proposal NE_TEMP2081 was granted conditional approval by the NERA Directors at the spring meeting. MAC recommended that the proposal be revised. MAC noted, "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 needs to be strengthened".

Additional comments from MAC were:

- 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.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: MAC's concerns were satisfactorily addressed and pleased that under Methodology the 17 objectives in the original proposal were removed. They are now clearly delineated under four general objectives of conservation, augmentation and classical biological control of invasive plants and insects. A much improved version.

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

Proposal was revised as recommended by MAC at the spring meeting to address the following:

- 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.
- It can have the potential to create opportunities and help develop markets for emerging immigrant farmers in the Northeast.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: MAC members commended the group for doing a good job in addressing their concerns, and have demonstrated that they are integrated and plan to work interdependently. Economics is still considered an important component and MAC wants to make sure that the Economist's involvement in the project is significant. Need to complete Appendix E participation table.

3. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2121: Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE508]

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal as an Education/Extension and Research Activity (ERA). Funds can be expended other than travel.

Discussion: The project involves a lot of coordination. Project's goals and approach are clear, but need to develop their outreach strategically. This will be assigned as an ERA as MAC did not see it as a purely research based multistate project. However, since the proposal has been peer reviewed and NE508 had demonstrated successful coordination and have positively contributed to the understanding of this species, MAC realizes that a lot of research and strategic education/extension still needs to be done and proposes its continuation as an ERA.

4. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1039]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal.

Discussion: Research area is important but justification is weak. MAC wants to see in the full proposal a focus on elderly obesity and how the project will address the nutrition needs of an increasingly ageing population. The Northeast region will see in the near future a significant increase in its senior population. Funding opportunities have been focused on childhood obesity and this project will be a good opportunity to address this ageing demographic particularly in urban areas.

5. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Poultry Production Systems and Welfare: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. The request is well written and area of research is very important for the Northeast.

6. Request to Write a Proposal for a Coordinating Committee - Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. Has a long history of successful coordination and information exchange.

7. Request to Write a Proposal for a Coordinating Committee - Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. This is an important multistate activity in the region. We need standards for soil testing particularly in urban areas where gardening and organic farming in small areas is increasing.

8. Revisit request for off-the-top funding for FY13-14 for Northeast Multistate Project:

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

Action: Defer decision since the sequestration issues are not yet resolved and MAC suggests discussing federal budget issues in general at the NERA meeting.

9. NRSP Review Committee Report

Discussion: NRSP Review Committee recommendations will be discussed at the NERA Meeting –

- NRSP4, NRSP6 and NRSP9 midterm review results were good and these NRSPs were approved to continue without any changes
- NRSP_temp281's renewal and budget was recommended for approval without any revision
- The Committee decided to table the NRSP-RC definition of "leveraging funds" until a later date (Continue discussion via email, as needed).
- The NRSP-RC approved the recommendation to NOT support an increase in funding for NRSP1 to support the impact writer full-time. (Final AES vote will take place this fall during our ESS meeting in Columbus, OH)

10. Advisor assignments for new projects – no new assignments. Advisors for renewing projects will remain the same.