

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

Via Teleconference

June 28, 2012, 3-5PM

Chair, Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH)

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

1. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Genetic Bases for Resistance and Immunity to Avian Diseases, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1034]

Action: Recommends approval of the Request to Write. A midterm review will be required with the full proposal.

2. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Postharvest Biology of Fruits, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1036]

Action: Recommends approval of the Request to Write. A midterm review will be required with the full proposal.

Discussion: MAC would like to see a more focused approach on the methodology and a clear vision on where the project is going and what they are trying to achieve. Is the project just focusing on apples?

3. Proposal for a Multistate Project, NE_temp1901 - Collaborative Potato Breeding and Variety Development Activities to Enhance Farm Sustainability in the Eastern US, 10/2012-2017 [Renewal of NE1031]

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: MAC commends the technical committee for responding well to the concerns raised by the peer reviewers.

4. Proposal for a New Multistate Project, NE_temp1921 - Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals, 10/2012-9/2017

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: The technical committee did a good job in responding to the peer reviews. MAC commends the group for their outreach plan which can serve as model for other multistate projects. This is a good group of scientists that has strong ties to the veterinary community.

5. Proposal for a Multistate Project, NE_temp1941 - Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms, 10/2012-2017 [Renewal/Replacement for NECC1011]

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal with the stipulation that it will be reviewed after two years. Request for number NE1962 was also approved.

Discussion: This proposal evolved from NECC1011. MAC recognizes that this is still a work in progress, and after much discussion agreed that it should be a multistate project and no longer a Coordinating Committee. The leaders did an excellent job in getting the experts together to work on a set of objectives. The group struggled at first to understand the multistate concept as an organizational structure without specific funding. The technical committee expects additional participation and this should help move the project to a more operational level.

The project will be reviewed in two years to determine if a midstream correction is needed or to get feedback and affirm that they are in the right course. MAC noted that this is a very enthusiastic group. The number “NE1962” was requested to mark the national significance of the 50th anniversary of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) Report released in 1962.

6. Proposal for a New Coordinating Committee, NE_temp1961 - Equine Clinical Studies, 10/2012-2017

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: A comment was made that technical committee may eventually develop a multistate proposal as a result of this activity. The Coordinating Committee may continue to exist if the new multistate activity is just an offshoot with a narrower objective. The CC is deemed as a support activity and a venue to share information, and is expected to remain active even if a multistate proposal is developed.

7. Proposal for a Multistate Project, NE_temp1981 - Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE 9]

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: It was noted that the proposal exceeded the page limit. The technical committees should be more conscious of this requirement in the future.

8. Proposal for a Multistate Project, NE_temp2001 - Ovarian Influences on Reproductive Success in Ruminants, 10/2012-2017 [Renewal of NE1027]

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

9. NRSP Review Committee Recommendations – [refer to NRSPRC Call Notes below]

The Committee met on June 18. Dr. Stafford reported that the recommendations by NRSP-RC mirrored those of our region.

The funding match for NRSP-9 remains to be a concern and will be discussed further on a second call this August. All other NRSP off-the-top budget requests were recommended for approval.

All the regions rejected the NRSP_temp261-ipmPIPE proposal. It is essentially an extension project. There were concerns over the database and how it will be used by the experiment stations.

The policy of approving 5-year budgets with the NRSP proposal will be reviewed again by the NRSPRC. A management/business plan with “provisions for developing alternative funding or reducing off-the-top funding to a minimal level” is required but very few projects are complying. MAC agreed that there should be a sunset policy to make room for new ones.

10. Update on the NERA Planning Grant [see NERA Planning Grant Summary below]

Of the four 2012 grants, NE1203 and NE1204 had submitted proposals to AFRI. NE1204 is also planning to submit a proposal to NIH. NE1205 is submitting a proposal in the next round of AFRI RFP this fall.

Dr. Thompson will look into NE1201- Oilseed Crop Growth and Processing, as no activity has been reported.

Dr. Rossi noted that the Directors should expect a request for a ‘directed’ planning grant for Ethnic Crops. This is one of three initiatives that resulted from the Northeast Food Systems Forum that NERA jointly organized and funded with NEED. The ‘directed’ planning grant will be co-funded with NEED -- \$8K total, \$4K each.

11. Update on the 2012 National Multistate Research Award

The ESCOP Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Science and Technology Committee to award the 2012 National Multistate Research Award for Excellence to project NCERA208 - Response to Emerging Threat: Soybean Rust.

NRSP-RC Call Notes: June 18, 2012

Attendees:

Ralph Cavalieri
Abel Ponce de León, NRSP-RC Chair
Kirby Stafford
Arlen Leholm
Mike Harrington
Don Latham
Clarence Watson
L. Washington Lyons

NRSP Recommendations

NRSP1: \$50,000 - Approved

NRSP3: \$50,000 - Approved

NRSP4: \$481,182 - Approved

NRSP6: \$150,000 - Approved; Note: FY2012-13 amount raised from external sources same as FY2011. Committee has been working to secure matching funds as requested last year.

NRSP7: \$325,000 - Approved

NRSP8: \$500,000 - Approved

NRSP9: \$175,000 - Motion approved to table discussion until we obtain more information on matching funds. Original intent was for a full match, but currently, match is only \$70,000 (\$35,000 from industry, \$35,000 Federal sources). Arlen and Chris will obtain more budget information and the NRSP-RC will re-evaluate and provide expectations during an additional August follow-up NRSP-RC call or via email.

NRSP_temp261: New Proposal, Budget: \$150,000 - Rejected; please send your region's comments to chamilton@cals.wisc.edu for preparation of a document to send to the committee. Although a good proposal and much improved from the last iteration, the NRSP-RC does not feel that the committee's focus is suitable for an NRSP. The NRSP-RC will prepare a letter to provide the committee with clear information on why this proposal was not approved, following the national vote at the Fall ESS meeting (assuming the directors vote to approve this motion of rejection).

NRSP-RC mechanics Discussion: Is the process working as intended? (Proposed by Lee Sommers at the last CAC Call)

- Discussion ensued regarding the 2002 NRSP Task force, who at the time recommended approval of 5 year budgets, with the stipulation that if Hatch funds are reduced, NRSP funding will also be reduced by the same percentage.
- Should new proposals build in a sunset plan and only be funded for a finite period?
- Can we afford to approve new projects if we don't sunset some existing ones?
- Provide only operational support? (\$50,000 for NRSP3 allows them to leverage much more)
- Should we require a 5 year business plan and conduct midterm reviews?
- Are our directors willing to do a five year vote? Perhaps:
 - Updates at section meetings
 - Written reports circulated
- Each project is too different to provide a one-size fits all approach, hence the existence of the NRSP-RC to evaluate projects annually in detail

NRSP RC and Program Management – Provided by Mike Harrington, WAAESD

The ESS expends considerable resources in managing the National Research Support Program which is intended to provide off the top funding in support of research. Currently there are 7 NRSPs receiving a total of \$1.731 million. Management activities include those of the NRSP Review Committee whose responsibilities include making reviewing proposals progress and annual budgets. This committee meets a minimum of xx times per year. In addition each regional association sets aside time for discussion of renewal or new proposals as well as for discussion of annual budgets. Taken together these activities constitute considerable transactional costs for a program that comprises less than of 1% of Hatch funds.

In 2002-03 an NRSP Task Force made series of far reaching recommendations on how the Program should be implemented and managed. These recommendations were adopted by the Section in 2003. However, one of the provisions, approval of 5 year budgets that included a caveat if Hatch funds were reduced, was reversed the following year as Directors wanted to have annual budget approvals.

Given that there have been few, if any, questions about annual approvals; perhaps it is again time to consider the matter of providing 5 year budget approvals.

A second major provision was the requirement that each NRSP develop a Management and Business Plan that indicated how the project would reduce off the top funding to a low maintenance level. This would free up funds allowing the Directors to consider and implement new projects as appropriate. Thus, NRSPs should expect a finite period of off-the-top funding; however some projects may not be readily transitions to other sources of funds.

The requirement for a Management and Business Plan requirement must be examined. The program requires submission of a plan that must include “provisions for developing alternative funding or reducing off-the-top funding to a minimal level”. Included would be an assessment of transition options, and alternative funding sources, but few projects actually do this.

There are several examples where off the top funds have been reduced (NRSP-3) or eliminated (NRSP-5). However there are other projects that continue to have large contributions of off the tops funds.

Conclusion: The NRSP RC needs to prepare clarifying statements to present at the ESS meeting. This discussion will also continue either via email and/or during an additional August NRSP-RC call.

Meeting Adjourned by NRSP-RC Chair, Abel Ponce de León

<u>Number</u>	<u>Proposal Title</u>	<u>Team Leader/Institutions</u>	<u>Funding Status</u>	<u>Results</u>
NE0807	Biochar as a Beneficial Soil Amendment in Agriculture —Development, Performance and Environmental Impact	Joseph Pignatello, CT-AES [Cooperators: CT, MA, ME, NY, VT]	Budget = \$10,000 Expenses = \$1,928.37	USDA(CSREES)/US DoE BRDI preapplication proposal, Biochar – A High-Value, Recyclable Co-product for Environmentally Sustainable Biofuels Production: Development, Performance and Environmental Assessment (\$4.0 million requested), not approved but subsequent proposals prepared. A \$5 million gift has been received.
NE0901	Addressing Research and Extension Needs of the Emerging Cold-Climate Wine Industry in the Northeast and Upper Midwest	Timothy E. Martinson, Cornell [Cooperators: CT, MA, MN, NH, NY, PA, VT, WI]	Budget = \$10,000 Expenses = \$8,789.61	USDA-NIFA SCRI CAP proposal, " Northern grapes: Integrating viticulture, winemaking, and marketing of new cold-hardy cultivars supporting new and growing rural wineries" (\$2.5 million); includes NY, CT, MA, VT, IA, MI, ND, SD, IL, MN, NE, WI
NE0905	Integrating Pest Management and Pollinator Protection in Insect-Pollinated Specialty Crops	Kimberly Stoner, CT-AES and Anne Averill, UMASS [Cooperators: CT, MA, ME]	Budget = \$9,900 Expenses = \$1,922.81	USDA-NIFA SCRI grant award "Pollination Security for Northeastern Fruit and Vegetable Crops," (\$3.5 million); includes NH, MA, ME NY and CT. Also Connecticut Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (\$75K)
NE0906	The Role of Cultural Specialty Crops in Providing Food Security and Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Refugee and Emerging Ethnic Farmer Populations in the Northeast	Jane Kolodinsky, UVM [Cooperators: DC, VT]	Budget = \$10,000 Expenses = \$508.60	A proposal was submitted to the USDA-NIFA SCRI but it was not funded.

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NE1005	Addressing the Nutritional and Reproductive Research and Extension Needs of the Organic Dairy Industry in the Northeast	David H. Townson, UNH [Cooperators: CT, NY, USDA-ARS, Penn Dutch Cow Care Vet. Practice, NE Organic Dairy Producers Alliance NODPA]	Budget = \$10,000 Expenses = \$4,322.31	USDA-NIFA OREI grant award "Assisting organic dairy producers to meet the demands of new and emerging milk markets" (\$2.8 million); includes NH, ME, NY, VT, PA(ARS). A planning grant for \$75K was also received.
NE1008	Healthful Berries: Improving Marketing for Northeast Berry Crops	Mary Ellen Camire, UMaine [Cooperators: MA, NJ, NY, VT]	Budget = \$8,740 Expenses =	
NE1104	Evaluating, Maintaining and Enhancing Managed Honey Bees and Bumble Bees in Insect-Pollinated Specialty Crops in the Northeast	Nicholas W. Calderone, Cornell [Cooperators: CT-NH, DE, MA, ME, Beekeepers: D. Mendes and D. Hackenberg]	Budget = \$9,900 Expenses = 0	
NE1201	Oilseed Crop Growth and Processing for Northeast Farm Profitability	Ryan Elias, Penn State [Cooperators: VT, ME, MA, NY-Cornell]	Budget = \$9,761	
NE1203	Development of Proposals that Reduce Childhood Obesity through Local Procurement, Meal Preparation, and Activity Based Interventions	Jane Kolodinsky, UVM [Cooperators: NY-Cornell, Community Partners: Family Cook Productions, Vermont Food Education Every Day (FEED)]	Budget = \$7,000 Expenses = \$1,525.33 (as of 6/28/2012)	A proposal was submitted to the USDA AFRI, entitled "Increasing food skills and decreasing distance from the food system to address teen obesity" with a budget of \$3,091,524
NE1204	Development of Proposal in Response to the AFRI RFA for Obesity Prevention Among Older Teens/Emerging Adults	Carol Byrd-Bredbenner, NJ [Cooperators: RI, ME, NH, WV]	Budget = \$6,000 Expenses = \$2,332.71 (as of 6/28/2012)	A proposal was submitted to the USDA AFRI, entitled "Promoting Lifestyle Habits for Healthy Weight Status among First Year College Students" with a budget of \$5M.

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NE1205	Prevalence and Control of Foodborne Pathogens from Foods Purchased at Farmers' Markets, Farm Stands, Cooperatives, and/or Other Direct Retail Outlets in the Northeast	Catherine Cutter, PennState [Cooperators: CT-S, VT, ME, RI, NH, MA, NY-Cornell]	Budget = \$9,500 Expenses = \$6,042.16 (as of 6/28/2012)	The group will submit a letter of intent for the recent RFP for AFRI which is due Aug 20th.
			Total expenses = \$27,371.90	Total awards/gifts = \$13,950,000