NERA

Northeastern Regional Association
of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH
July 6-8, 2015

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Tim Phipps, WV – Chair
Ed Ashworth, ME
Cameron Faustman, CTS
Bill Hare, DC
Brad Hillman, NJ
Mike Hoffman, NYC
Bill Miller, MA
Jan Nyrop, NYC
Mark Rieger, RI
Rick Rhodes III, RI
Dan Rossi, Exec. Dir.
Fred Servello, ME
Adel Shirmohammadi, MD
Gary Thompson, PA
K. Eric Wommack, DE
Jon Wraith, NH
Rubie Mize, Recorder

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Tim Phipps, Chair
Chair Tim Phipps called the meeting to order at 8:45AM, welcomed NERA members and asked for brief introductions.

2. Agenda Modification (Additions/Deletions) and Approval - Tim Phipps
   http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAAgendaJuly2015.pdf

Action: Motion made to approve the agenda was seconded and approved, after a modification was made that the NERA Executive Director Position discussion is moved up in the agenda before the Executive Director's and ESCOP Reports.

3. **Approval of the March 9-11, 2015 Minutes of the NERA Meeting – Tim Phipps**
   http://www.nera.umd.edu/workshop/NERAMinutesMarch2015.pdf

Action: Motion made to approve the minutes was seconded and approved.

4. **NERA Chair's Interim Actions – Tim Phipps**
   a. Charged team of three, Drs. Hillman, Servello and Thompson to continue analysis of the ED position and alternative models for the Office of the Executive Director. A survey of NERA Directors, prioritizing ED responsibilities, was conducted.
   b. Endorsed submission of letter to USDA's Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy regarding Directors' concerns on the Plan of Work Panel of Experts meeting. NERA letter and USDA response shared with NEED and other regions' EDs.
   c. Informed ESCOP of region's Excellence in Leadership Awardee, Dr. Mike Hoffman, and NE1201- Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (MDA) as Northeast awardee and region's nomination for the National Excellence in Multistate Research.
   d. Represented NERA at the NRSP Review Committee Meeting on May 28 in Denver, on behalf of MAC Chair Fred Servello.
   e. Met with NEED Chair Dan Lerner to prepare for Joint Session's Planning Grants discussion.
   f. Prepared agenda and background materials for the July NERA summer meeting.

5. Multistate Activities Committee Report and Discussion – Fred Servello

Action: There were separate discussions on each of MAC's recommendations. Motions made to accept MAC's recommendations with modifications for the following, were seconded and passed:
   - Approve revised proposal as an ERA, NE_TEMP2201: University-Community Intermediaries: Supporting Informed Decision-Making Around Polarized Issues, 10/2015-9/2020
     o Recommendation is to approve as an ERA, and additional inputs will be requested from NERCRD and CARDI/Cornell.
   - Conditional approval, with stipulation that additional participants from the region will be sought, for proposal NE_TEMP1544: Dairy Production systems: C,N, and P management for production, profitability and the environment, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1044]
   - Approve proposal NE_TEMP2281: Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Assessing the Impact of Climate Variability and Climate Change, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1045]

6. **NRSP Review Committee Recommendations – Tim Phipps**
Chair Tim Phipps represented NERA at the NRSP-RC meeting in Denver, CO on May 28 (detailed report attached below). He gave a brief summary of discussions at the meeting where he brought forward concerns of the NERA directors (North Central have similar concerns) about reviewing the role of the NRSP program and sunsetting NRSPs.

NRSP-RC reviewed and prepared recommendations for the following NRSPs. These recommendations will be discussed again before voting at our ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting in September. Only directors present at the meeting will vote, one per station.

- NRSP-4, "Enabling Pesticide Registrations or Specialty Crops and Minor Uses" – approve proposal and budget with a request that the program more fully explain/justify the maintenance funding level requested.
- NRSP-6, "US Potato Genebank" – approve proposal and budget with the requirement that the committee look at alternative funding models (e.g., increase ARS budget; look for support from key institutions) and report back to the NRSP-RC at the mid-term review on progress toward the goal of eliminating or significantly reducing NRSP funding at the end of this cycle.
- NRSP-7, "A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs" – reject the proposal and budget. If the recommendation is accepted by the vote of ESS, NRSP7 would still receive a terminal year of funding at the FY15-level in FY16. If this recommendation is overturned by directors, the Committee would recommend approving the existing 5-year proposal and budget with a report-back on alternative funding model at mid-term.
- NRSP-9, "National Animal Nutrition Project" – approve proposal and budget with recommendations to provide an economic analysis of impact during the mid-term review and to improve outreach/communication plans and implementation

In addition, it was also noted that total funding for NRSPs is still under the 1% cap of total Hatch. Directors made the following comments:
- Look at priorities and select what project we fund
- Stick to a timeframe or have mandatory term
- Build in a closure strategy and have sunset clause
- Some projects may not have sunset clause, like NRSP1-NIMSS
- Can overwrite sunset clause if there is compelling justification to continue

7. **Review of Joint Session Discussions and Next Steps – Tim Phipps**
   http://nera.rutgers.edu/workshop/Final2015NEJointSessionAgendaWithPPTs.pdf

   General Program -
   - Directors were pleased with the overall program, topics selected and presentations.
   - Format allowed engaged interaction/discussion

   Plan of Work Panel Report – See handouts below
   - AES ready to implement POW Panel recommendations. Extension is on board, but may have more reporting modifications to make particularly with REEport. Challenge for NIFA is to come up with system that will accommodate both AES and Extension, and this may not necessarily be REEport.
   - Suggest that an Oversight Committee be formed to provide guidance to this process, with members from the POW Panel of Experts.

   NEED-NERA Planning Grants Program -
   - Target vs. open – Do we want to keep it open unless there is pressing need identified?
   - Need to organize topics/themes. Fred Servello suggested discussing this in a future meeting or creating a Joint Task Force to look at a compilation of topics. What needs are local and what are regional solutions? Are there 2-3 states looking at solutions to a common problem? New England States and DE/MD/PA have had successful collaborations.
   - Need to coordinate timing of release of NERA and NEED/NERA RFAs. There was much confusion last year. Look at separate spring and fall release, or perhaps every other year.

Future Joint Sessions -
- Academic Programs need to be on the table. There are gaps to fill and capacities they have that we need.
- Deans are supportive, but wants ACOP issues incorporated in the agenda, e.g. graduate programs, internships, workforce development etc.
- Cameron Faustman volunteered to coordinate with ACOP.
- Directors see value in joint meetings with other regions, but not annually, perhaps every 2-3 years.

8. NERA Executive Director Discussion – Brad Hillman, Gary Thompson and Fred Servello

Dean Ed Ashworth relayed feedback from the Administrative Heads' discussion on this issue:
- Keep the NERA organization and continue to provide support
- Keep national level work
- Appreciates role NERA plays providing line of communication among institutions in the region and with other partners

Brad Hillman gave a brief background of how process of reviewing the NERA-OED came about. NERA assessments had remained unchanged from 2002 to 2014. However, expenses continue to rise due to salary increases and most significantly, the increase in fringe benefit rate from 34% in FY08 to 50.45% in FY14 at Rutgers. A survey of the directors was conducted looking at ten NERA organization alternatives. At our March meeting the list was narrowed down to three models for the Executive Director position – #1 Fulltime, #2 Part-time and #3 Shared. With the ED's pending retirement on June 30, 2016, timing to look at these alternatives is apropos.

Survey results revealed that directors want a 50:50 split in ED's time commitment for national and regional responsibilities. However, there were diverse opinions on what's regional and what's national. Support provided by the ED in particular for directors who have held national assignments was deemed very valuable. The current ED position description calls for a 60 national/40 regional split .

Other comments were:
- Fulltime position still most feasible.
- All tasks performed by ED are important.
- Considering that Hatch is not increasing, imperative that we look at our budget and still maintain a robust NERA operation.
- National tasks may vary as regional rotation occurs. Currently, EDs equally divide among themselves their national assignments.
- Organizational costs of relocating should be considered for new ED. Job can be remotely performed and location negotiated. Consultancy should be considered.
- If tenured, candidate may want to stay in his/her institution.
- Knowledge of Land-grant, AES experience and university administration are very important.
- Level of experience should not be an issue. Consider possibility of hiring fairly young person at 'career-climbing' track and with 60% of current salary. Suggest throwing a wide net to attract 'creative, energetic, forward thinking individual'. Related experience a plus.
- If we want an advocate, experience and leadership qualities are important. Someone with stature to represent us.
- Salary negotiable and based on experience.
- Should APLU be involved in the search?

- Suggest talking to Jeff Jacobsen about recent search for NCRA ED

Action: A motion was made for a fulltime hire to be located and administered at a Land-grant institution in the Northeast and to form a Search Committee for the Executive Director. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Search Committee is composed of Rick Rhodes III as Chair, Fred Servello, Adel Shirmohammadi and Jan Nyrop as Members. The Committee was charged to develop a job description, timeline and process for the search, and will report back to NERA at our September meeting.

9. Executive Director's Report – Dan Rossi
Please refer to attached ED Report below.

10. ESCOP Report – Fred Servello and Dan Rossi
Please refer to attached ESCOP Report below.

Gary Thompson chairs the Budget and Legislative (B&L) Committee. His committee is looking at what steps to follow when selecting initiatives to support. Different parts of the system tend to work on different initiatives instead of working as one. There is currently no process for pushing initiatives. It was felt that the 'Big Ask' was not done correctly, or may be the timing was off, because the 'Water Security' initiative did not make it to the President's FY16 budget. Gary reminded the directors that good information on impacts related to 'Water' are still needed, and also to be forward-looking and not just for past projects. A draft document is being prepared by ESCOP and ECOP B&Ls to address the need for a unified process for pushing initiatives.

Rick Rhodes III reported that the Communications and Marketing Committee is working on an annual Plan of Work that includes goals, theme and strategies for the Committee. AHS, ECOP and ESCOP fund the $400K marketing efforts by kglobal. The POW will attempt to identify the metrics to measure the efficacy of these efforts. How are funds used? What is the theme? Who are the decision-makers? What value are we getting from these efforts? Are the audiences being targeted the correct ones?

Adel Shirmohammadi noted that the Science and Tech. Committee is working on a project for Open Access to Publications and Data, across 1862 and 1890 Institutions. The issue is who will cover the cost – federal, state, foundations or a combination thereof? The S&T will continue to discuss and will give an update at the Sept. meeting. The S&T also completed the selection for the National Multistate ResearchAward for Excellence. The 2015 awardee is NC140 – Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production through Changes in Rootstock Use.

11. Nominations Committee Report – Fred Servello
Action: Motion made appointing the following as multistate project Advisors and NEIPM Representative was seconded and approved.

- NEERA1004 - Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management [9/2011-9/2016] Jan Nyrop (NYC) – will also replace Dr. Mike Hoffmann as NEIPM Representative
- NE1020-Multistate Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones [10/2004-9/2017] Brad Hillman (NJ)
- NE1332- Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds [10/2013-9/2018] Jan Nyrop (NYC)
- NE1336: Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies [10/2013-9/2018] Susan Brown (NYG)

12. Resolutions Committee Report – Brad Hillman
Action: The motion made to approve the following Resolution of Appreciation to the host institution was seconded and passed.

Resolution of Appreciation

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors participated in an engaging and productive meetings at the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and

WHEREAS, the Directors also were involved in a well-organized joint meeting with the Northeast Extension Directors (NEED), Deans and Administrative Heads (AHS) and Members of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) on July 6-8, and

WHEREAS, the Directors were very pleased with the invigorating report on economic impacts of agriculture in the Northeast delivered by Dr. Rigoberto Lopez, and the informative presentations and engaging discussion on the topics of "Supporting new farming and food enterprises in an urban context", "Identifying gaps in our research and extension expertise for 21st century problems", "Meeting the need for future leadership in Teaching, Research and Extension-present approaches, future considerations", as well as the Plan of Work report and recommendations, and the review of the annual summer joint session, and

WHEREAS, the Directors enjoyed the appetizing dinner at the hotel and the captivating presentation by historian Dr. Jeff Bolster about his most recent book, The Mortal Sea: Fishing the Atlantic in the Age of Sail, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors acknowledge their appreciation to Dean Jon Wraith, Dean Ken La Valley, Lisa Townson, Marge Joy and Peter Doughty for making the meeting a great success and a memorable experience.

July 7, 2015
Signed by Timothy Phipps, Chair
Northeastern Regional Association of State
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

13. Best Management Practices Session on Open Architecture Laboratory Management – Mark Rieger
Please refer to handout below. Following are questions that Mark Rieger asked the directors to jumpstart the discussion:

- How do you determine who gets in to new spaces on campus?
  - Clearly defined, transparent criteria or a series of discussions with PIs?
  - Is there consideration for the "best" combination of PIs, or is it a simple matter of the highest performers (or greatest flight risks) getting the space?
  - Are there provisions for young faculty that lack a track record? Is some space set aside for recruitment as well as reward/retention of proven faculty?

- What is the succession plan as faculty leave, are hired new, or simply vacate their space as their research declines or goes in a different direction?

- For lab spaces that extend across college lines (whether open architecture or not):
  - What is the governance structure, i.e., to whom does the lab manager/coordinator report?
  - What is the business plan for operating the facility, i.e., F&A return from grants, bench fees, college assessments?

- How do you measure the ROI on such spaces? F&A, patents, citations, all of the above?

- Relative to undergraduate research and training (quoting from an email): We pride ourselves on the extent and quality with which we provide such experiences, and I'm sure some of you have similar priorities and achievements. What has been your experience relative to this aspect, as one part of the overall research and experiential opportunities spectrum within open-concept versus traditional 'compartment' laboratory spaces?

Responses:
- Rutgers allows time for transition and lets departments plan and provide adequate space for new faculty. An alternative would be a rolling plan of 5 years so faculty is guaranteed space during this period. This is not feasible for yearly appointments.
- At Penn State, an Institute realized this is a big investment and a big headache. An Associate Professor who's been there for 10 years was asked to vacate space in 30 days. Deadline is being negotiated, but the problem is where you put them. No one has academic appointments in the Institute, so they go back to the department. Important to create rules, make them transparent if doing a shared space and have an exit plan.
- URI released RFA for faculty to request lab and office space. There are 32 research suites, with open lab space in blocks of 4 - 8 researchers per block. An Advisory Committee reviews and recommends who should get what space. A number of lab/office spaces are reserved for new hires. The struggle is the lack of evaluation. Where do people go when labs are vacated, and how to make them leave when you need the space? There is a state funded building manager with custodial support staff in charge of supply distribution, receiving packages, repairs etc. Important to track who's using what in terms of inventory control.
- UMaine does it the traditional way and space is tied to appointment.
- Brad H. noted that from the faculty's standpoint, the Rutgers Biotech Center had considerable good space, 3 years renewable and the Plant Science faculty had less in number and quality. Another problem is with the merger with the Medical School, 55% F/A is now required, but we seldom get 55% F/A. Need to know the actual costs to run facility. New Jersey has no fixed $ per square footage, varies per facility.
- At the Univ. of MD, most faculty have labs and problem is with new hires. VP for Research manages space and assigns depending on how much research money you bring in. College of Ag shares Nanotechnology Lab in the College of Engineering, but both collaborate. Colleges charge fees for using labs and chargeby square footage.
- Cornell also charges, but outsiders (non-Cornell) are charged higher amounts.
- At UNH, the College controls the space and uses metrics to parse them starting with who is most productive to least. However, there is not enough space and also challenged with new hires. A faculty committee is in charge of implementing metrics. Decision is RCM driven and not bargaining.
- Delaware has a 35 year old building in urgent need of renovation or new construction. Faculty voted for nicer-shared space vs. closed traditional labs. How do you explain ROI to legislators?

- One suggestion is to mention that undergraduates also use these facilities, and that building upkeep needed to attract and hence, increase enrollment.
- On average, every three years, URI compares buildings on campus. For example, Bldg. A has been renovated so what do you need to do to improve Bldg. B? College pays for the renovation and realized that small-scale is more expensive than large-scale renovation, so it's cost effective to do one building at a time.
- UMD has a Campus Facilities Committee with representation from each college. Committee decides who gets funded.
- In other institutions, teaching space is the bigger issue. Labs are used only for 3-4 hours a day.
- Open labs and sharing is new and proven arrangements that can work, but key is to have ground rules including inventory control and security protocols that are transparent and agreed to by everyone.

Mark R. appreciated the good exchange of ideas and asked everyone to email him if there are other good practices that come to mind.

14. 2015 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop Program – Dan Rossi
Please see Draft Program below. ARD/1890s Institutions are hosting the meeting this year.

15. Future Meetings – Dan Rossi
- Joint COPs Meeting, Providence, RI, July 21-22, 2015
- ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop, Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, Charlotte, NC, September 28-30, 2015 (NERA will meet Monday, Sept. 28 at 3:00-6:00 pm)
- APLU Meeting (including ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting), JW Marriott Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN, November 15-17, 2015
- AHS/CARET (including ESCOP Meeting), Westin Alexandria, VA, March 7-9, 2016
- NERA Meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 14-16, 2016

16. Other Business
- The 2016 Northeast Joint Summer Session will be hosted by PennState.
- Members of the 2016 Planning Committee include Gary Thompson and staff as Hosts, and Officer-at-Large Mark Rieger as the NERA Representative.
- NEED would like to consider earlier dates for the summer meeting, perhaps the last week of June.

17. Summary Comments and Adjournment – Tim Phipps and Cameron Faustman

This is Mike Hoffmann's last meeting with NERA. The new Director at Cornell AES as of Sept. 1 will be Jan Nyrop. Mike thanked everyone and expressed how much he had enjoyed interacting with the directors. He will be the Executive Director of the Cornell Institute for Climate Change and Agriculture.

Chair Tim Phipps thanked everyone earlier before he left the meeting at 11:30AM. Vice-Chair Cameron Faustman took over and adjourned the meeting at 1:35PM. He thanked everyone for an open and engaging discussion, and wished everyone safe travels.

Report and Recommendations

NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

John Paul Jones Room, 2nd Floor

July 6, 2015
3:00pm to 4:00pm

Chair, Fred Servello (ME)

Members: Cameron Faustman (CT), Tim Phipps (WV), Gary Thompson (PA),
Pat Vittum (MA/NEED), Ken La Valley (NH/NEED)

1. Request to approve the **revised** proposal for a new multistate project NE_TEMP2201: University-Community Intermediaries: Supporting Informed Decision-Making Around Polarized Issues, 10/2015-9/2020

Note: At MAC's March meeting, the recommendation was "*approval as an ERA (Education/Extension and Research Activity) with expectations to develop more defined research activities if goal is to become a standard multistate activity.*" The technical committee decided to revise the proposal, so as to be considered a standard Northeast multistate research project.

Discussion: The technical committee made substantial additions to the proposal, but MAC is not convinced that they have articulated well the research to be pursued in the project. A compelling case for the science underpinnings of this work was not made. The three objectives were (1) a literature and information review, (2) a network analysis, and (3) development of tools. The strength appeared to be in the network analysis. Objectives 1 and 3 are vague. A MAC Extension member felt that outputs would not necessarily result in change. MAC would like to seek input from other experts and directors familiar with the Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI) mentioned in the proposal.

Action: Consensus is to uphold recommendation in March to approve proposal as an ERA, pending input from experts familiar with the project and the institute.

2. Request to approve proposal NE_TEMP1544: Dairy Production systems: C,N, and P management for production, profitability and the environment, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1044]

Action: MAC recommends approval of the proposal.

3. Request to approve proposal NE_TEMP2281: Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Assessing the Impact of Climate Variability and Climate Change, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1045]

Action: MAC recommends approval and encourages additional participation in the region.

4. NRSP Review Committee Report – Tim Phipps

- The ESCOP NRSP Review Committee met on May 28, 2015.
Tim Phipps gave a brief report on the discussions at the meeting where he brought forward concerns of the NERA directors (North Central have similar concerns) about reviewing the role of the NRSP program and sunsetting NRSPs.

- The Committee reviewed new five year proposals and prepared recommendations for the following NRSPs:
Note that these recommendations will be discussed again before voting at our ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting in September. Directors will vote individually per station.
    o NRSP-4, "Enabling Pesticide Registrations or Specialty Crops and Minor Uses" – approve proposal and budget with a request that the program more fully explain/justify the maintenance funding level requested.
    o NRSP-6, "US Potato Genebank" – approve proposal and budget with the requirement that the committee look at alternative funding models (e.g., increase ARS budget; look for support from key institutions) and report back to the NRSP-RC at the mid-term review on progress toward the goal of eliminating or significantly reducing NRSP funding at the end of this cycle.
    o NRSP-7, "A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs" – reject the proposal and budget. If the recommendation is accepted by the vote of ESS, NRSP7 would still receive a terminal year of funding at the FY15-level in FY16. If this recommendation is overturned by directors, the Committee would recommend approving the existing 5-year proposal and budget with a report-back on alternative funding model at mid-term.
    o NRSP9, "National Animal Nutrition Project" – approve proposal and budget with recommendations to provide an economic analysis of impact during the mid-term review and to improve outreach/communication plans and implementation

5. Advisor assignments:
    - NEERA1004 - Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management [9/2011-9/2016] Jan Nyrop (NYC)
    - NE1332- Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds [10/2013-9/2018] Jan Nyrop (NYC)
    - NE1335 - Resource Management in Commercial Greenhouse Production [10/2013-9/2018] (TBD)
    - NE1336: Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies [10/2013-9/2018] Susan Brown (NYG)

6. Other Business - None

Current MAC members:
- Fred Servello, ME (2012-2015) - Chair
- Tim Phipps, WV (2013-2016)
- Gary Thompson, PA (2012-2015)
- Cameron Faustman, CTS (2014-2017)
- Pat Vittum, MA/NEED (2014-2017)
- Ken La Valley, NH/NEED (2014-2017)

NRSP Review Committee Agenda Brief (Summer Meetings)

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

For information only

NRSP Review Committee Members

Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)	Executive Directors:
Delegates:	• Eric Young (SAAESD)
• Fred Servello (NERA)	• Mike Harrington, Executive Vice-Chair (WAAESD)
• Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD)	
• Doug Buhler (NCRA)	**Interim Delegate:**
• Tom Bewick (NIFA)	• Tim Phipps (NERA)
• Clarence Watson (SAAESD)	
• L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)	**Stakeholder Representative:**
	• Don Latham (CARET)

Background:
The NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC) met in Denver, CO on May 28, 2015 for its annual meeting to review proposals, budgets, and guidelines and make recommendations for funding. Recommendations will be presented at the Fall ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and are included in the NRSP portfolio table, below.

NRSP 2015-2016
Requests for Off-the-Top Funding

Project	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Authorized FY2014	Request FY2015	Approved FY2015	†Request FY2016	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1[1]	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	300,000	300,000	183,500	
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	*see below*	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	*see below*	
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	*see below*	
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
NRSP9	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	
NRSP10[2]					398,631	398,631	370,165	
NRSP_TEMP004 (NRSP4)							481,182	*Approve proposal/budget; request further explanation for maintenance funding level requested.*
NRSP_TEMP006 (NRSP6)							150,000	*Approve proposal/budget; require committee to investigate alternative funding models and report back to NRSP-RC at mid-term review. See attached.*
NRSP_TEMP7 (NRSP7)							325,000	*Reject proposal/budget. See attached.*
NRSP_TEMP9 (NRSP9_							225,000	*Approve proposal/budget.*

†As of 2012, all NRSP budgets are approved for the duration of their current 5-year cycle, assuming an acceptable midterm review.

[2]Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP10 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY202019
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591

Summary of NRSPs

Project Number	Project Name	Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
NRSP-3	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
NRSP-4 (NRSP_TEMP4)	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-6 (NRSP_TEMP6)	The U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-7 (NRSP_TEMP7)	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
NRSP-9 (NRSP_TEMP9)	National Animal Nutrition Program	2015-2020	2018
NRSP10	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	2014-2019	2017

A Synopsis of the U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm
(NRSP6)

Background

The official National Plant Germplasm System project for the US potato genebank is in the National Research Support System designated as NRSP6. The NRSP system is a key facet of the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. NRSP6 provides germplasm stocks, germplasm data, R&D techniques and tools and custom materials for germplasm evaluation to the stakeholders such as public and private plant breeders, potato researchers, food suppliers and processors both domestically and internationally. NRSP6 has been a viable national project (since the 1950s) with current top 10 state (unit) users from CA, IA, ID, MD, MI, MN, NY, OR, WA and WI and, in reality, nearly 50 states using the Genebank over short timeframes. The Genebank has over 5,000 items of germplasm for the world's most important non-cereal crop with 45% of these being unique. While the demand for Genebank services is increasing, the overall financial health is declining; thereby creating uncertainties that project evaluators recommend broader discussions to identify options for a more sustainable future. Very preliminary conversations have occurred with the National Potato Council leadership and staff, a NRSP review team member, a state breeder, state potato commission and a regional agricultural research association. Other key leaders, users and stakeholders must be consulted and fully engaged in order to design alternative funding models.

Challenges

- Potato is a prohibited import crop, so current genetic resources in the US genebank are the only ones readily available to users. Continued restrictions on international germplasm collection and distribution limit new discoveries, thereby increasing the importance and use of the current stocks.
- Historical purchasing power erosion and direct cuts in program support across all of the primary funding sources (USDA Ag Research Service, State Ag Experiment Stations, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industry, grants) and numerous in-kind contributions negatively impact the overall operation of NRSP6. Budget pressures have negatively impacted: personnel, operations, maintenance, facility and equipment. The end result is a tenuous future.
- A key essence of the NRSP system is to leverage expertise and resources across priority projects such that the SAES System and other users (as appropriate) benefit and share the costs. This is a strength as well as a weakness.

Next Steps

- Fortuitously, several key meetings are occurring which will allow for a more inclusive discussion and evaluation of future prospects for action (National Potato Council board and managers summer meeting, NRSP6 and regional ag research association(s)).
- Assuming that these discussions are favorable, key individuals should be identified to serve on a committee to delve deeper into the challenge and identify potential solutions that will lead to a consistent and sustainable funding model that will ensure a quality, financially stable and comprehensive US Potato Genebank well into the future.

A Synopsis of the National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs.
(NRSP-7)

Background

The minor use animal drug program has been in existence since 1983 with the following mission/objectives:

1. *Identify* animal drug needs, including naturally occurring biotherapeutics and feed additives, for minor species and minor uses in major species,
2. *Generate* and *disseminate* data for safe and effective therapeutic and biotherapeutic applications, and
3. *Facilitate* FDA/CVM approvals for drugs and biotherapeutics identified as a priority for a minor species or minor use.

NRSP-7 functions to coordinate efforts among animal producers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, FDA/CVM, USDA/ Research, Education, and Extension, universities, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and veterinary medical colleges throughout the country.

The project has received off the top funding since USDA NIFA funds have not been available for the past 6 years. After efforts to join forces with NRSP4 failed in 2014, the NRSP Review Committee (RC) provided a one year approval with a requirement of leveraging off the top funding and also emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders in support of the project.

A majority of NRSP-RC members felt that the committee did not demonstrate "new" leveraged funds, as required, and, rather, only did a better job of reporting funds that already existed (based on explanations provided in the proposal). In addition, the RC expressed concern that, even with NRSP funding, there would not be sufficient funds to make the program effective or impactful. Finally, there was concern about a lack of stakeholder involvement.

Thus, by a **7-1 vote, the committee approved a recommendation to reject the proposal and budget.** Assuming the recommendation is upheld at the Experiment Station Section Meeting in September, NRSP7 will receive 1-year of funding at the current level to phase out activities.

Challenges

- New Minor Use Animal Drugs have been approved at a rate of 1.6/yr. during the 32 years of the program and 52 applications have been made.
- The cost of the program to provide information to support a single label claim has risen to approximately $3.1 million. At the current funding level approval of a single drug would require 4-5 years.
- There are currently six active projects.
- There is little or no *organized* stakeholder involvement (i.e., an advisory committee) in identifying priorities.
- The program has struggled to remain in existence.
- The program has been unable to garner broad stakeholder support.

Additional Comments:

The NRSP-RC feels that this is an important effort but it needs to have more structure and guidance. This would commence with a retreat of the administrative advisors and other principals at a central location. This meeting would address organizational shortcomings and develop further approaches to codify the program.

A second meeting would bring together stakeholders including the drug industry, producers, USDA, with the aim of directly identifying problems, address funding needs and creating an Advisory Committee.

Several NRSP-RC members are interested in working with the committee to build support for the program to a level that would truly make it effective and impactful.

POW Panel of Experts: NERA/NEED Summary
June 16-18, 2015
L Townson (NEED; UNH)
C Faustman (NERA; UConn)

Panel Membership

Name	Representing	Home Institution
Debbie Carter	Western Region Extension	U. Alaska
Scott Cummings	Southern Region Extension	TAMU
Cameron Faustman	Northeast Region Research	U. Connecticut
Benjamin Forbes	1890s Research	North Carolina A&T
David Jackson	North Central Region Research	U. Nebraska
Debra Lewis	North Central Region Extension	Ohio State University
Steve Loring	Western Region Research	New Mexico State U
Maifan Silitonga	1890s Extension	Kentucky State U
Lisa Townson	Northeast Region Extension	U. New Hampshire
Marty Draper	NPL	USDA NIFA
Ray Knighton	NPL	USDA NIFA
Edwin Lewis	NPL	USDA NIFA
Jeanette Thurston	NPL	USDA NIFA
Bruce Haas	Facilitator	Michigan State U
Karl Maxwell	Facilitator	USDA NIFA
Katelyn Sellers	Facilitator	USDA NIFA

Notes:

1. The letters sent by NERA and NEED were referred to in the opening comments of the facilitators. Other regions used the letters to catalyze their own discussions that added to the stated concerns. Regional representatives were united in their concerns about the current system.

2. Concerns from the regional representatives included:
   a. What does USDA need and how is it used?
   b. Redundancy of some inputs for POW reporting and REEport; have a single database
   c. Poor software functionality in the POW software; neither NIFA or states are able to pull useful data (some felt the data were going into a black hole)
   d. Current system requires too much time for data input
   e. McIntire-Stennis not currently accounted for (in a separate system)

  f. Noted that the current reporting system has become cumbersome and complex akin to the tax code

3. Concerns from the NPLs
  a. Want to make review of the reports easier
  b. Would like to see more connection of research to extension
  c. NIFA has done a poor job of implementing AREERA; acknowledge they are not asking the right questions - products returned from the states are what USDA has asked for but they aren't useful. (POWs/ROAs represent about ½ of NIFA $$) and impacts in REEPort from Expt Stations are not very good.
  d. NPLs cannot say "no" to (or disapprove) the reports and so feel their hands are tied.
  e. Small states and 1890s institutions don't have as many reporting staff and struggle with burden
  f. More granular Extension reporting needed (akin to research reporting)
  g. Outcome of this panel needs to be legal, simple, and workable. An unnecessary complexity has developed over the years.

We agreed to focus on only what is required (by law) and what is needed for NIFA to do their job – but exclude data that is only NICE to know.

4. Bart Hewitt presentation (*see attached PPT*)

  Still <u>Required</u> by AREERA:
- Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension
  - Sec 105 and 204 of AREERA
  - 25% of Hatch and 25% of SL, or 2x the 1997 baseline for Integrated Research and Extension
  - 25% of Hatch and 25% of SL, or 2x the 1997 baseline for Multistate Research and Extension
- Stakeholder Input – Section 102 of AREERA
- Merit Review – Sec 103(e) and 104(a)
  - Research needs to certify and describe Scientific Review Process
  - Extension needs to certify and describe Merit Review Process

  Discretionary as to how it's collected (info is needed but categories/approach used could be changed):
- Executive Summary
- Planned Programs (USDA needs to know what we're doing)
  - Hatch and Evans-Allen do REEPort

  Hewitt Proposal:

- Scrap the planned program section from POW and ROA (but keep the other tabs)
- Require Extension to enter SL and 1890 Extension "projects/programs" into REEPort
- Standardize Planned Programs (9 as per NIFA Portfolios)

5. Sonny Ramiswamy comments:
   - Stated clearly this was an opportunity to start from scratch (re-do) if the panel wanted to recommend that – but he did cite the REEport system has useful in getting the research reporting he needed.
   - He has heard the message about "burden" and "redundancies" in reporting from us, although he clearly didn't understand (or believe) the current system was truly burdensome.
   - Congress and OMB needs updates on progress of USDA NIFA and so the reports are important. He gave the example of a request from congress; "What financial resources is NIFA expending on water?" While his staff could determine dollar figures (much from REEport) for AES and competitive programs on water, they were not able to do so with the Extension reports.
   - "We have to capture everything that is going on"
   - When asked what one thing he would change over the existing reporting system, S Ramiswamy said he would implement a system for Extension reporting in a manner that allows USDA to capture the information needed for reporting/bragging to Congress/OMB and others.
   - He also mentioned the need to allow public data to be available – so people can filter data for reports - http://nifa.usda.gov/data

6. Concerns/issues following Day 1:
   a. Some language used hinted at moving Capacity funds processes to resemble more of a Competitive model and that was a concern for regional reps.
   b. Although not stated outright, there was some criticism of the "peanut butter approach" to distributing capacity funds (spreading dollars over many people within the institution as opposed to spending these dollars more focused, e.g. through a competitive process).
   c. Extension is different vs Research and has to report through an appropriate template/structure. Extension is more programmatic in nature while Research is more project-based (quite a bit of discussion about this difference).
   d. Challenge is how to get the granularity needed without making the data input steps overly burdensome/inefficient. Extension expressed concern about challenges of having frontline county-based folks entering data on all of the

different projects that they are involved with (often these projects contribute to different programs).

e. Extension folks, in particular, were strong against the idea that institutions be required to _propose_ how the money will be spent w/in a POW doc. Capacity funds are not competitive funds in that manner. NPLs noted that USDA treats Capacity funds as a grant even if LGUs do not view them in that manner. We agreed to disagree and suggested that this was a topic for director-level discussion.

f. Concern about the level of reporting required for what is often a small percentage of our funding. If a state only gets 8% of their funding from NIFA; but the reporting burden is 75% of their reporting effort; this seems out-of-line. Reminded them of other reporting requirements Extension has – to state, county, commodity groups, etc.

Bart Hewitt Presentation
POW Panel of Experts Meeting
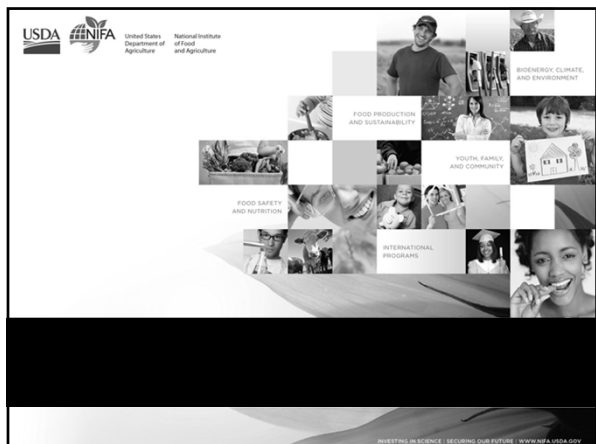
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Streamlined POW Approach

What would a Plan of Work process
as required under AREERA look like
if we start from ground zero?

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OIG Approved

- The current Plan of Work and Annual Report has passed the scrutiny of the Office of Inspector General.
- Any new approach is subject to OIG scrutiny.

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Still Required by AREERA

- Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension
  – Sections 105 and 204 of AREERA
  – 25% of Hatch and 25% of Smith Lever, or 2 times the 1997 baseline for Integrated Research and Extension
  – 25% of Smith-Lever 3b&c or 2 times the 1997 baseline for Multistate Extension

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Still Required by AREERA

- Stakeholder Input - Section 102 of AREERA
  – Actions taken to seek stakeholder input that encourages their participation
  – A brief statement of the process used to identify individuals and groups who are stakeholders and to collect input from them
  – A statement of how collected input was considered

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Still Required by AREERA

- Merit Review – Section 103(e) & 104(a)
  – Research needs to certify and describe Scientific Peer Review processes
  – Extension needs to certify and describe Merit Review processes

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Executive Summary

- Very Useful
- Needed to show integration statewide for research and extension
- Needed to show efforts made to identify and collaborate with other colleges and universities within the State, and other States
- Needed to show the manner in which research and extension activities funded other than from formula funds will cooperate to address the critical issues in the state

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Planned Programs

- Planned Programs – What you plan to do (science, research, extension, etc.)
  - Hatch and Evans-Allen already plan individual projects in REEport
    - Let's eliminate the perceived double reporting

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How??

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Planned Programs Proposal

- Scrap the Planned Program Section from the Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments in its current format
- Require Extension to enter Smith-Lever and 1890 Extension "projects/programs" into REEport
- The AREERA Planned Programs then become a listing of projects and programs already approved by Subject Matter NPLs
  - With Impact Stories generated from REEport

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Planned Programs Proposal

- Planned Programs could become standard as classified in REEport by NIFA Portfolios
- Nine Portfolios?
  - Sustainable Agricultural Systems
  - Bio-economy, Bio-energy, Bio-Products
  - Climate Change
  - Food Safety
  - Human Nutrition
  - Youth Development
  - Family and Consumer Sciences
  - Education/Multicultural Alliances
  - Environmental Systems

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Advantages to Using REEport

- All Data is reported the same way for all grants
- Follows the US Government Standard
- Projects/Programs reviewed by subject matter NPLs
- Allows NIFA to answer questions for Extension we could only answer for research before
  - Example: How much is extension spending on wheat, almonds, etc.?

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REEport

- Will require some tweaking to REEport
  - Addition of Extension Participant output data
  - Standard Planned Program Titles
    - NIFA Portfolio Titles?
  - Addition for Impact Stories like currently in POW
  - Allow for integrated projects?
  - What else is needed?

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Why REEport for All Grant Projects and Progams?

- Hatch and Evans-Allen are already using it for projects
- Granularity of Classification Data
  - Water Example
    - When asked by the Secretary how much was spent on water, we had no definitive answer for Extension; only Research.

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What's Missing?

Table 1. NIFA INVESTMENTS IN WATER RESEARCH, EDUCATION, and EXTENSION
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2013 FUNDS (IN THOUSANDS) BY FUNDING AUTHORITY and FTEs

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

FY	NO. PROJ	HATCH	MC-STN	EVANS-ALLEN	ANIMAL HEALTH	SPECIAL GRANTS	AFRI/NRI GRANTS	SBIR GRANTS	Smith-Lever 3b &3c and /1890 Extension	OTHER NIFA	SARE	TOTAL NIFA
2009	3108	$14,853	$3,023	$3,006	$76	$5,931	$4,858	$588.00	NA*	$18,455	$100	$104,790
2010	2538	$14,313	$2,689	$4,357	$56	$5,991	$6,818	$779.00	NA	$23,300	n/a	$114,560
2011	2586	$16,310	$2,902	$4,030	$26	$851	$28,748	$1,176.00	NA	$12,095	$210	$127,550
2012	2658	$17,074	$3,067	$3,881	$42	$786	$17,302	$1,134.00	NA	$11,897	$307	$118,347
2013	2442	$16,238	$3,172	$3,913	$34	$716	$20,033	$1,748.00	NA	$10,384	$57	$116,618
Total	13332	$78,788	$14,853	$19,187	$234	$14,275	$77,759	$5,425.00	NA	$76,131	$674	$581,865

* NA – Not Available; the Plans of Work and POW Annual Reports do not allow quantifying the amount of funding invested for water related efforts under Smith-Lever 3b&3c and 1890 Extension authorities.

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Why REEport for All Grant Projects and Progams?

- Granularity of Classification Data
  - Many more examples like this.
  - We need to follow the money better for Extension at a more granular level.

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What is in REEport?

Research, **E**ducation, and **E**xtension **p**roject **o**nline **r**eporting **t**ool

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REEport Basic Structure

- Project Initiation
  - Cover Page
  - Inputs (Staff Contacts and Staff Time)
  - Goals (Text Box)
  - Products (Planned)
  - Outcomes (Expected)
  - Target Audience
  - Methods
  - Non-Technical Summary
  - Keywords
  - Classification

REEport Basic Structure

- Progress Report
  – Cover Page (from Project Initiation)
  – Inputs (Staff and Staff Time)
  – Target Audience
  – Outputs (Products and Other Products)
  – Accomplishments
  – Impact Stories
  – Changes/Problems

What Else to Think About

- How to tie the RFA and the Application for the funds to the Plan of Work
  – Application for Five Years on a renewal basis
  – Each subsequent year provides a renewal-like POW Update with changes and goals for the coming year.
  – Annual Progress Reports due 90 to 120 days after Anniversary date.
    • Anniversary date on October 1 for Capacity Grants

What Else to Think About

- Progress Reports through REEport for individual projects/programs.
- Planned Programs
  • By NIFA Portfolio Titles?
  • Containing List of REEport Projects/Programs
  • With Impact Stories generated from REEport projects/programs

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What Else to Think About

- Level of Project/Program for Extension in REEport?
  - Program Level or Individual Projects like Hatch?
    - Program Level – More Broad
      - 4-H
      - Nutrition
      - Food Safety
      - Etc.
    - Project Level – More Granular

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How Submitted

- By Institution instead of by State?
  - REEport follows the money
  - Applications for Capacity Grant Funds are by grant line item
- Integrated Research and Extension
- How about integrated Hatch and Smith-Lever projects or Integrated Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension projects in REEport?

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When is POW Submitted?

- POW Tied to the Application for funds from Capacity RFA
- Due as part of the Application proposal submission in Grants.gov each year for funds
- Release of funds each year tied to approval

When is Annual Progress Report Submitted?

- Terms and Conditions on Grants state Progress Reports due within 90 days of Anniversary date
  - Anniversary date on Capacity Grants is always October 1
- Move to February 1?

Land-Grant Impact Database

Analysis by Ray Knighton

Questions?

POW Panel of Experts

Draft Recommendations

Plan of Work Panel of Experts
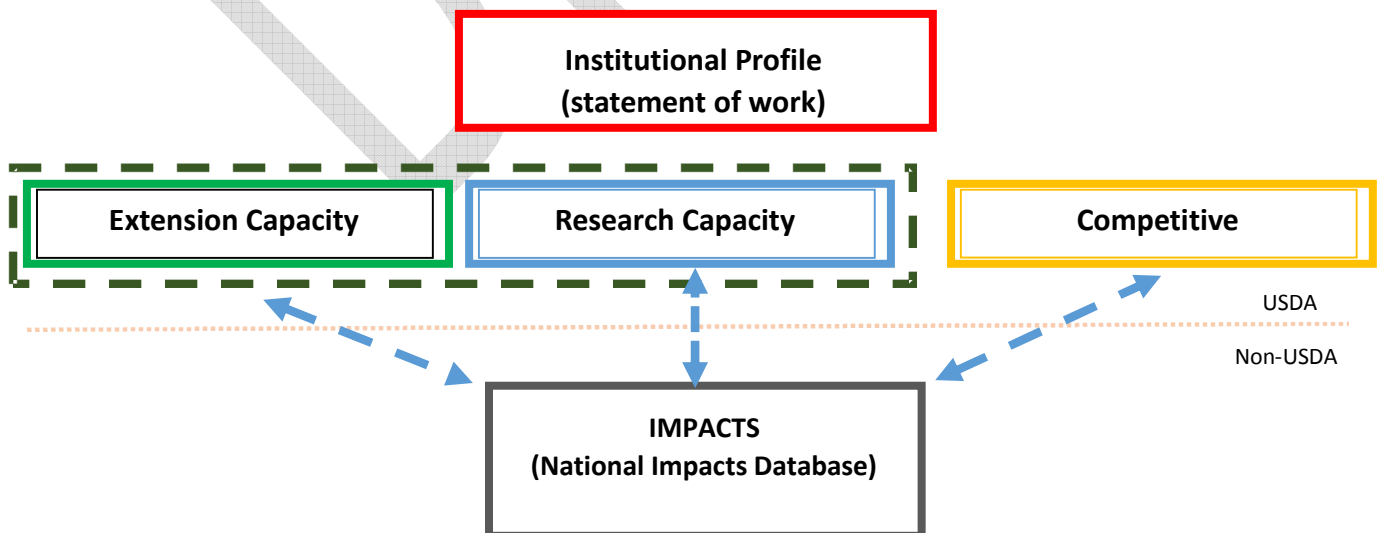## *Recommendations to NIFA*

A Panel of Experts on the AREERA Plan of Work reporting process convened on June 16-18 to discuss improvements to the current reporting process. The Panel consisted of 14 members representing Research, Extension and NIFA. The Panel, with input from their respective regions and from NIFA program leaders, agreed that the current process is duplicative and burdensome. The Panel makes the following recommendations to NIFA so that the process may be streamlined in a way that reduces the reporting burden on the Land Grant Institutions as well as the review burden on NIFA National Program Leaders. The Panel also believes that this streamlining will improve data quality and result in a data collection that meets legislative requirements while also providing NIFA what it needs to continue to promote the effectiveness of the AREERA capacity funds.

The following recommendations are in draft form and will be vetted with the Panel members' regional leaders and constituencies before being presented to NIFA as final.   All proposed changes will be made by the Regions to their respective representatives on the Panel. The final recommendations will be contained in a larger report that details the issues and logic that formed these recommendations. Report will be developed by the Panel over the next 60 days.

The following recommendations are classified under two categories: system-specific and general.

SYSTEM-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. There should be one reporting system with a stable platform that has the elements depicted in the graphic below. The existing Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments reporting system should be eliminated concurrent with the introduction of the new system.

a) In support of this recommendation, NIFA should invest in human capital and hardware/software to improve the current and future reporting system (or its replacement for the single system/database approach) and make plans to discontinue support of the older and less flexible POW platform. The "single system" approach should be developed in a way that allows for aggregation of all numerical data wherever possible; it should also be able to prepopulate qualitative/descriptive data wherever possible.

b) Concurrent with the recommendation above, technical issues currently present in REEport, including but not limited to the excessive time needed to upload and download documents, formatting issues, and the tendency for the system to crash should be addressed, especially if the REEport platform will be leveraged for the single system approach recommended here; the system needs to be a robust and high-performance platform.

2. The Institutional Profile module in the new system should contain those elements mandated by AREERA and other data elements deemed essential by NIFA, including:
   a) a Short Programmatic Overview of the submitting institution(s);
   b) a Short Annual Programmatic Summary covering Research, Extension, and Integrated program and project accomplishments (the summary should highlight those programs and projects that have realized significant accomplishments and impacts in the previous year);
   c) description of Merit and Scientific Review processes;
   d) description of Stakeholder Input and utilization processes;
   e) Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension components as required by AREERA;
   f) a list of "planned programs" (or whatever they will be called in the new system).

3. The Institutional Profile module should be structured so that it may remain relatively unchanged from year to year and will repopulate annually for the institution; this results in a 5-year dynamic, rolling "plan" for all 1862 and 1890 Institutions (both Research and Extension).
   a) If an institution wishes to make changes to their profile annually, they should be able to do so (both add and subtract program elements), and a mechanism to highlight such changes for the NIFA reviewer should exist.

4. The listing of "planned programs" that is entered into the "Institutional Profile" should allow tagging to NIFA's topic areas; this will allow entered data to be rolled up for NIFA's use.

5. The Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should function in a manner similar to how they are currently accounted for. The Extension Capacity reporting module should be developed to include planning and reporting related metrics needed by NIFA to assess progress and to promote the accomplishments of capacity-funded programs.

6. The Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should be linked to the National Impacts Database (NID) so that users of the system are not required to enter impact statements that are already documented in the NID.

7. Participation in the National Impacts Database should be optional, not mandatory. The NID will be informed by the Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules of the single system. Language in the NID should be updated to link to NIFA's topic areas so that NIFA may properly associate impacts to agency's areas of focus.

8. Knowledge areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) should be expanded and/or modified to meet both Research and Extension's needs.

9. NIFA should restore the flexibility of a state to report by institution (1862, 1890), organization (Research, Extension), or jointly.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. The following sub-groups should be created in order to ensure all recommendations of the Panel of Experts are carried out accurately and efficiently (note that a Panel Expert may serve on one or more sub-groups):
    a) a sub-group to define the Extension Capacity program reporting module; the group will clearly define data fields/elements that need to be included in the new module;
    b) a sub-group to operationalize the data elements and functionality of the "Institutional Profile;
    c) a sub-group to identify new Knowledge Areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) for addition to NIFA's Manual of Classification so that both Research and Extension can classify projects and programs accurately;
    d) other sub-groups as needed; for example, fiscal monitoring/tracking (the Panel of Experts will serve as a committee for determining when a new sub-group is required.

11. Reporting Deadlines: NIFA should keep all capacity reporting deadlines with the due dates that currently exist but should re-visit this issue once the new "single system concept" has been implemented (currently Feb 1 for Research REEport Financial Report; Mar 1 for Research Progress and Final Report; April 1 for all other capacity reporting).

12. A permanent accountability and reporting track (akin to the fiscal track) for the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Conference (NERAOC) should be implemented. NIFA should send Representatives from the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS) to the meeting annually so that feedback can be gained and improvements made to the database, by both sides, without waiting for the Panel of Experts to convene every five years.

13. A commitment should be made by NIFA to work with Land Grant partners to ensure that the resultant system is fully searchable by (but not limited to) author, keyword, topic, programmatic classification, and location of work, and that the information within the modules will be effectively linked within the larger system.

14. NIFA should strengthen the State Liaison Program to more effectively build and maintain relationships between program leaders and state institutions.
    a) NIFA should clarify, standardize, and communicate the review criteria NPLs use to review programs/projects.
    b) NIFA should clarify and communicate/educate its LGU partners how data are used to report out to various audiences and stakeholders.

15. Non-AREERA programs, such as McIntire-Stennis, should not be included in the new reporting model proposed in these recommendations at this time, but the Panel acknowledges that the new "single system" approach, combined with NIFA's grants modernization initiative, could eventually result in a framework that may be applied to all NIFA funding programs.

To provide feedback to these recommendations, please contact your regional representative who is compiling all suggested changes to these recommendations and will be discussing with the Panel of Experts during July and August virtual meetings.

NERA Meeting
July 8, 2015
Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

Report of the Office of the Executive Director
March 7 – July 3, 2015

<u>NERA and Regional Activities</u>

- NERA Planning Grants Program
  - Supported the 2015 award recipients
- NE USDA Climate Hub
  - Participated in bi-monthly conference calls with NE Climate Hub state representatives
  - Participated in monthly calls with NE Climate Hub leadership
- Great Lakes Specialty Crop Climate Consortium
  - Participated in a meeting to discuss opportunities for enhanced research and outreach collaborations in the Great Lakes region on climate change adaptation with specialty crops. Five institutions are considering the creation of a consortium – Cornell, Michigan State, Penn State, Ohio State and Wisconsin.
  - Coordinated with Jeff Jacobsen on the follow-up to the meeting
- Leadership Diversity
  - Prepared an analysis of gender and racial/ethnic diversity in leadership positions (deans, directors and department heads/chairs) in the Northeast
  - Forwarded a summary report to Jeff Jacobsen who will aggregate national results
  - This information will be used as a background material for an ad hoc ESCOP committee with the charge to think about diversity from the research leadership stand point within ESS and put some ideas on the table that could be discussed with ESCOP that may lead to something more formal in terms of activities implemented as part of our national program
- 2015 Northeast Summer Session
  - Hosted regular conference calls to develop the program for the joint session
  - Secured presenters/facilitators for the sessions
  - Coordinated with the host institution the logistics for the joint session
- NERA Chair Support
  - Assisted in the development of the July 2015 NERA meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
    - Prepared NERA Chair's Interim Actions report
    - Prepared NERA ESCOP Report
    - Prepared NERA OED report
  - Assisted in the development of the July 2015 NERA Executive Committee meeting agenda
  - Assisted NERA Task Force to prepare a position description for the Executive Director

- Prepared, conducted and analyzed survey of major responsibilities of the ED position
- IR-4 (NRSP-4)
  - Served as NE Regional Administrative Advisor
  - Continue supporting the relocation of the NE IR-4 Center from Cornell to Rutgers
  - Worked with the University of Maryland for hiring the NE IR-4 Field Coordinator for FY16 (position is transferring from Cornell)
  - Served as co-PI on Northeast Region IR-4 2015-17 NIFA grant proposal
- NE-1049
  - Served as Administrative Advisor
- Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) Support
  - Assisted in the development of the July 2015 MAC meeting agenda and compiled agenda materials
  - Assisted advisor and technical committee members in submitting their revised proposal in response to MAC's recommendation on March 2015, for a new multistate project NE_TEMP2201: University-Community Intermediaries: Supporting Informed Decision-Making Around Polarized Issues, 10/2015-9/2020
  - Assisted advisors and technical committee members in submitting their proposals and participation forms and coordinated peer reviews for the following projects:
    1. NE_TEMP1544: Dairy Production systems: C,N, and P management for production, profitability and the environment, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1044]
    2. NE_TEMP2281: Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Assessing the Impact of Climate Variability and Climate Change, 10/2015-9/2020 [Renewal of NE1045]

National Activities

- ESS/CES Communications and Marketing Committee Co-Chair Support
  - Served as the ESS Executive Director point person
  - Assisted in scheduling, planning and developing agenda for Executive Committee and Full Committee conference calls
  - Assisted in the initiation of the Plan of Work Committee
  - Prepared monthly reports for ESCOP CAC calls
- ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - Participated in monthly CAC conference calls
- ESS/SAES/ARD Annual Meeting and Workshops
  - Assisted in the development of the program agenda for the September 2015 meeting
- NRSP-1 Management Committee
  - Participated in quarterly conference calls of the NRSP-1 Management Committee
- NIMSS
  - Continued to support to maintain original NIMSS
  - Provide support when appropriate to Clemson in the redesign of NIMSS
  - Served as regional NIMSS Coordinator

- o Provided national level support for the operations of NIMSS
- o Supported NIFA Management Dashboard access to NIMSS data
- BAA Futuring Task Force
  - o Supported chair (Mike Hoffmann) of the Task Force Committee
  - o Coordinated with Chair and Ian Maw in the development of the APLU Presidents Council/BAA Futuring Initiative
- Capital Infrastructure Task Force
  - o Supported chair (Mike Hoffmann) of the Task Force
  - o Served on Sightlines survey steering committee
- LEAD 21 Program
  - o Served as Chair of Board of Directors
  - o Planned and participated in June Board of Directors meeting
  - o Worked with University of Georgia in development of 2016-17 contract
  - o Assisted in preparing the final draft of a RFP for hosting LEAD 21
  - o Assisted in developing an evaluation process for the LEAD-21 Director and Assistant
- NIFA Programs
  - o Coordinated with ECOP in preparing their representatives to the Plan of Work Expert Panel Meeting
  - o Coordinated with ESCOP and ECOP representatives to the Expert Panel Meeting in preparing a report and recommendations to ECOP and ESCOP
  - o Monitored and provided feedback on:
    - NIFA budget developments
    - NIFA competitive grants programs
    - NIFA operational web and teleconferences
    - NIFA Hatch MRF utilization

Travel
- March 9-11, 2015 – NERA Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- April 15-17, 2015 – National Management Coordinating Committee, Washington, DC
- April 21-22, 2015 – Great Lakes Specialty Crops Climate Change Meeting, Chicago, IL
- June 16-17, 2015 – IR-4 Northeast Regional Priority Setting Workshop, Albany, NY
- June 25-26, 2015 – LEAD-21 Board of Directors Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

NERA Meeting
July 8, 2015
Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Report
March 2015 – June 2015

ESCOP Officers:

- Chair – Robert Shulstad
- Chair-Elect – Shirley Hyman-Parker
- Past Chair – Steve Slack
- Executive Vice Chair – Eric Young
- ESS Rep to BAA Policy Board – Steve Slack
- Budget and Legislative Committee Chair – Gary Thompson
- Communications & Marketing Committee Incoming Chair – Richard Rhodes
- Science & Technology Committee Chair – John Russin
- NRSP Review Committee Chair – Bret Hess

NERA Representatives to:

- ESCOP:
  - Fred Servello
  - Tim Phipps
  - Cameron Faustman

- ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee
  - Tim Phipps
  - Jon Wraith

- ESCOP Science & Technology Committee
  - Cameron Faustman
  - Adel Shirmohammadi

- NRSP Review Committee
  - Fred Servello

Meetings

- ESCOP Meeting in conjunction with Joint COPs meeting, Providence, RI, July 21-22, 2015
- ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop, Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, Charlotte, NC, September 28 – October 1, 2015
- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting in conjunction with APLU Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, November 15-17, 2015

- ESCOP Meeting in conjunction with the AHS/CARET Meeting, Westin Alexandria, VA, March 7-9, 2016
- ESCOP Meeting in conjunction with Joint COPs meeting, TBD
- Joint CES and ESS Meeting and Workshop, Lake Lodge, Wyoming, September 19-22, 2016

Budget and Legislative Committee

- The ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee meets monthly by conference call.
- The Committee is working through the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee in advocating for the FY2016 NIFA budget and has initiated the budget priority identification process for FY2017.
- An Advocacy Infrastructure subcommittee was formed to draft a framework for advocacy infrastructure for future initiatives. The subcommittee has developed a draft document that was shared with Cornerstone and received positive feedback.
- The BAC charged ESCOP and ECOP to develop process to address budget items not among the seven priorities. There is need for a process to advance an issue that may/or may not be section-specific and unrelated to the seven standard items that are always advanced. Examples include EFNEP, Water, Pest Management, and Rural Development Centers. There is a need for greater coordination and planning further in advance (2 years at least), based on recent experiences. The goal is to have a unified voice – have other sections endorse efforts of others.
- The Water Security Initiative is the next big audacious ask though it did not make it into the President's FY2016 budget request. The report entitled "National Initiative on the Improvement of U.S. Water Security" has been forwarded to NIFA and a response has been received and is being considered. In addition, a survey has been conducted that requests from each institution one impact related to each of the water security areas identified in the Water Security report. There is a concern that databases (REEPort, CRIS, etc.) contain fragmented information. The goal is help to illustrate what has been accomplished so far, to identify gaps, and to determine what could we do and where could we take the program.

Communications and Marketing Committee

- The Communications and Marketing Committee is a joint committee representing the Experiment Station Section (ESS), the Cooperative Extension Section (CES) and the Administrative heads Section (AHS) and focuses on a targeted educational effort to increase awareness and support for basic and applied research and transformational education provided by Land Grant Universities through Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension.
- The Committee met in person on March 2, 2015. It will meet next on July 23rd by conference call.
- The new CMC Operational Guidelines established a Plan of Work (POW) Development Committee. The charge to the Committee is to prepare an annual CMP plan of work including goals, theme and strategies for the CMP. It is chaired by CMC incoming chair, Rick Rhodes. Its membership includes: Wendy Wintersteen, Tony Windham and Daniel Scholl.

- The POW Development Committee has initiated work on the 2016 plan. It will focus on a set of processes related to decision making in Communication and Marketing Program including:
  - Developing new areas/themes of focus
  - Increasing awareness and targeting of messaging
  - Monitoring assessment of impact
- The goal is to have a plan in place by late fall that can then be used in the development of contracts for kglobal and Cornerstone Government Affairs.

Science and Technology Committee

- The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee meets monthly by conference call.
- The Committee evaluated the regional nominations of the ESS Multistate Research Award and made a recommendation to the ESCOP Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has accepted and approved the recommendation that NC140, *Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production through Changes in Rootstock Use*, receive the 2015 award. The award will be presented at the 2015 APLU annual meeting in Indianapolis.
- The Committee is also considering revisions to the award announcement and process for evaluation.
- The Committee has prepared a response for ESCOP relating to the NRC review of AFRI.
- An upcoming project will be to focus on the USDA's open access policy for data and publications.

National Research Support Review Committee

- The ESCOP NRSP Review Committee met on May 28, 2015.
- The Committee reviewed new five year proposals and prepared recommendations for:
  - NRSP-4, "Enabling Pesticide Registrations or Specialty Crops and Minor Uses" – approve proposal and budget with a request that the program more fully explain/justify the maintenance funding level requested
  - NRSP-6, "US Potato Genebank" – approve proposal and budget with the requirement that the committee look at alternative funding models (e.g., increase ARS budget; look for support from key institutions) and report back to the NRSP-RC at the mid-term review on progress toward the goal of eliminating or significantly reducing NRSP funding at the end of this cycle.
  - NRSP-7, "A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs" – reject the proposal and budget. If the recommendation is accepted by the vote of ESS, NRSP7 would still receive a terminal year of funding at the FY15-level in FY16. If this recommendation is overturned by directors, the Committee would recommend approving the existing 5-year proposal and budget with a report-back on alternative funding model at mid-term.
  - NRSP9, "National Animal Nutrition Project" – approve proposal and budget with recommendations to provide an economic analysis of impact during the mid-term review and to improve outreach/communication plans and implementation

<u>Other Activities</u>

- BAA Futuring Initiative
    - o The BAA Futuring Task Force met on May 20th by conference call. It was informed by Ian Maw that Peter McPherson has decided that this is an important undertaking and to be successful needs the involvement at the highest level of our public institutions.
    - o The plan is to form an APLU Commission of members from the BAA and Presidents Council to undertake the initiative. The Commission will make recommendations on immediate public university contribution to feed the world for years ahead by 2050.
    - o The first critical task was to identify a university president with agriculture background to lead the effort. Randy Woodson, Chancellor of North Carolina State University, has agreed to serve in this role.
    - o The next step is to populate the Commission from the BAA, Presidents Council and external partners.
    - o A formal funding proposal will be developed for Kellogg and perhaps other foundations.
    - o The Task Force is waiting to receive a better sense of the direction of the APLU/BAA initiative so it can then determine what the group's role will be in the initiative.

- Capital Infrastructure Survey
    - o The Sightlines firm has received responses for over 80 campuses. They continue to work with a specific few campuses in an attempt to maximize participation.
    - o Analysis of the data set in underway as is the development of presentations and deliverables.   Preliminary information may be presented at the July Joint COPs meeting.

- Diversity in Research Leadership
    - o Each of the Executive Directors has completed an analysis of the gender and racial/ethnic composition of leadership research administration and academic department leadership for the institutions in the respective regions.
    - o Jeff Jacobsen has aggregated the data
    - o Jeff has prepared a proposal, which has received tentative approval of the ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee, to appoint an ad hoc committee to consider diversity from the research leadership stand point within ESS and identify options that could be discussed by ESCOP and which may lead to something more formal in terms of activities implemented as part of our national program.

AHS Roundtable Discussion
Open architecture/interdisciplinary science buildings
NERA-NEED-CARET, July 2015, Portsmouth, NH

- How do you determine who gets in to new spaces on campus?
    - Clearly defined, transparent criteria or a series of discussions with PIs?
    - Is there consideration for the "best" combination of PIs, or is it a simple matter of the highest performers (or greatest flight risks) getting the space?
    - Are there provisions for young faculty that lack a track record? Is some space set aside for recruitment as well as reward/retention of proven faculty?
- What is the succession plan as faculty leave, are hired new, or simply vacate their space as their research declines or goes in a different direction?
- For lab spaces that extend across college lines (whether open architecture or not):
    - What is the governance structure, i.e., to whom does the lab manager/coordinator report?
    - What is the business plan for operating the facility, i.e., F&A return from grants, bench fees, college assessments?
- How do you measure the ROI on such spaces? F&A, patents, citations, all of the above?
- Relative to undergraduate research and training (quoting from an email): We pride ourselves on the extent and quality with which we provide such experiences, and I'm sure some of you have similar priorities and achievements. What has been your experience relative to this aspect, as one part of the overall research and experiential opportunities spectrum within open-concept versus traditional 'compartment' laboratory spaces?

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Previous responses from NERA members:

WVU:
In designing our new building our policy was no more single purpose stand-alone labs, we clustered by type (genetics, biochemistry, food science, hort, etc) with four to five labs in each cluster. We made exceptions for 3 labs, the meats lab for health purposes, the rumen fermentation lab is a cluster of two, isolated with negative air pressure, and a soils lab where the professor uses a lot of undergraduates in her work. We argued about the last one but finally gave in, due to the number of students she uses and, of course, the dirt and dust you would expect in a soils lab, even with proper ventilation and dust capture systems.
Tim

Penn State:
The 297,000 square foot Millennium Science Complex is Penn State's newest premier research building that houses two institutes (Huck and MRI), both have college affiliates. They have unofficial policies in place that they hope to formalize this year. The labs are all open architecture. I received the following information from the Huck Institute.

1) All space is only guaranteed for 1 year. July 1 through June 30th.
2) Space is designed based on thematic research. Example (infectious disease studies are on the first and second floor while neuro-engineering and biomedical is on the 3rd floor.
3) Each year, the space is reviewed based on needs, total grants, # of grads supported, # of post docs, and research associated with the PI.
4) We do not count Undergrads in space allocation

5) We evaluate researchers to make sure sharing Huck equipment is compatible and won't impact someone's research experiments. (contamination)
6) Lastly, we look for compatible PIs that may have opportunities to work together.

The biggest challenge we experienced at first was sharing equipment, training of equipment, and location of equipment. We assigned a PI per floor as the spokesman to help gather and provide feedback. In the past 2 years, we have not had any issues and in most cases the PIs work it out themselves. I can honestly say, we have less issues in Millennium then we do in our other two buildings (Wartik and LSB). Since we began doing our interdisciplinary analysis of PIs, the most collaborative are the ones in Millennium, which is what the intent of the building was for.

Gary

2015 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting

September 28- October 1, 2015
Ballantyne Hotel, Charlotte, NC

Proposed Agenda (DRAFT)

Monday, September 28, 2015	
Registration	2:00 PM-7:00PM
Regional Meetings	3:00 PM– 6:00 PM (unless you request them earlier and longer)
Reception	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Tuesday, September 29, 2015	
Breakfast	6:30 AM – 7:45 AM
Welcome to North Carolina (Dean Randle)	8:00 AM – 8:15 AM
Host Campus' Session, considered Workshop 1 – Public-Private Partnership Presentation by NC A&T State Univ. on the NC Research campus in Kanapolis – Leonard Williams	8:15 AM– 10:00 AM
Break and Boarding of Buses	10:00 AM– 10:30 AM
Travel to Kanapolis, NC	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Lunch upon arriving in Kanapolis with presentation from Dole Executives on the NC public-private partnerships at the Kanapolis Research Campus	11:45 AM – 1:15 PM
Tour of Kanapolis research projects in two buildings and in three groups	1:15 PM– 3:15PM
Return to Charlotte	3:30 PM– 4:30 PM
Dinner on your own	
Wednesday, September 30	
Breakfast	6:30 AM – 7:45 AM
Workshop Session 2: Water security, quality and policy	8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Break	10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
ESS Business meeting	10:30 AM– Noon
Lunch	Noon – 1:30 PM
ESS Business Meeting continued	1:30 – 3:00 PM
Break	3:00PM– 3:30 PM
Workshop session 3: Future of Public Plant Breeding	3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Closing Dinner (video shown)	6:00 PM- 8:30 PM
Thursday, October 1, 2015	
Science and Tech Committee Meeting	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM