

Report and Recommendations
NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING

November 09, 2018
10:00am-11:30am, Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Chair-Fred Servello (UME), Brad Hillman (Rutgers), Eric Wommack (UD), Gary Thompson (PSU), Amy Ouellette (UNH)

Ex-officio: Mark Hutton (UME), Rick Rhodes (NERA), David Leibovitz (NERA)

Action Items:

Approval of Request to Write (Proposals enclosed in PDF materials)

1. NE_TEMP1939: *Improving the health span of aging adults through diet and physical activity*, 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NE1439, AA: Sabine O’Hara – UDC]
 - Long standing project in the Northeast with strong representation across the region
 - This project’s work could influence health extension programs in the future
 - There is a need for communicating more fundamental science health results that the public can understand; “flavor of the month” outputs often change and contradict previous results (e.g., eggs are healthy / unhealthy year to year)
 - Need to emphasize communications issue
 - **A motion to approve the request to write was introduced by Amy Ouellette, seconded by Brad Hillman, and approved unanimously.**
2. NE_TEMP1943: *Biology, Ecology & Management of Emerging Disease Vectors*, 10/2019 – 09/2024 [Renewal of NE1443, AA: Ted Andreadis – Connecticut-New Haven]
 - Project started in 2007 as a rapid response project
 - Focus on mosquito vectors and there’s been a push to include more ticks
 - There is room for broader participation in the NE region
 - This project has raised to public awareness
 - This group has worked together beyond coordination e.g., responding to a CDC call on Zika virus, some NE1443 participants came together to write several couple of proposals
 - **A motion to approve the request to write was introduced by Gary Thompson, seconded by Brad Hillman, and approved unanimously.**
3. NE18609: *Integrating Genomics and Breeding for Improved Aquaculture Production of Molluscan Shellfish*, 10/2019 – 09/2024 [New Coordinating Committee Proposal, Paul Rawson and John Dieffenbacher-Krall – Maine]
 - Paul Rawson (UMaine) is the key PI – longtime shellfish breeding expert at Maine

- An eastern breeding consortium group was in place but has gone away. There's enough shellfish activity from the mid-Atlantic and further north, but not a formal research committee in that area
 - Wide participation from institutions and industry are expected to sign on
 - Rutgers has a strong shellfish breeder that would participate on this project
 - The coordinating committee mechanism is not favorable because of funding restrictions
 - Coordinating committee was suggested as an entryway for the group, so that they could later produce a multistate project proposal as an outcome
 - Breeders capitalize on what they produce (breed > patent > royalty returns), there's a natural instinct for people to hold on to their work tightly and not collaborate. This committee can help to overcome that hurdle.
 - Very few aquaculture projects in the MRF portfolio. This could be repackaged as a multistate research project submission.
 - Rick Rhodes can recommend to the PI inclusion of Rutgers, URI, Delaware State faculty on a writing team to complete the proposal as a multistate project.
 - A number of grant proposals have been submitted to SARE on aquaculture, and there's a need for more technical expertise and advising on aquaculture
 - **A motion was introduced by Fred Servello to approve the request to write as either a coordinating committee or multistate project. The motion was seconded by Eric Wommack, and approved unanimously.**
4. NE18617: *Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug*, 10/2019 – 09/2024 [New Multistate Project Proposal replacing NEERA1806, AA: Ted Andreadis – Connecticut-New Haven]
- In 2018, the MAC and NERA approved NEERA1806 as an Extension/Research Activity. Its previous iteration, NEERA1306, despite its "ERA" name, was in place as a multistate research project.
 - Participating stations thought NEERA1806 was approved in 2018 as a multistate project, but it was submitted and approved as an ERA.
 - Faculty working on this project can no longer commit time to this effort as an ERA, which was formerly a multistate project
 - The technical team has submitted a new proposal with the intent to form a multistate research project
 - This work is integrated; Tracy Leskey conducts research and outreach, Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center is an integrated center, Rutgers PIs on this conduct research and extension effort
 - **A motion to approve the request to write was introduced by Gary Thompson, seconded by Amy Ouellette, and approved unanimously.**

Administrative Adviser Assignment

1. NE18609: *Integrating Genomics and Breeding for Improved Aquaculture Production of Molluscan Shellfish*, 10/2019 – 09/2024 [New Coordinating Committee Proposal, Paul Rawson and John Dieffenbacher-Krall – Maine]
 - The NE18609 request to write was approved (see above)

- Eric Wommack (Delaware) has an interest in this subject area and volunteered to serve as AA
- **The MAC unanimously recommends that Eric Wommack serves as AA on NE18609. (This recommendation will be brought forth to NERA for approval.)**

Review of NERA Funding Support for Grant Applications Submission (Enclosed in PDF)

1. NERA-1901: *(Epi)Genomically-informed Breeding of Bivalve Molluscs* [Team lead: Dr. Marta Gomez-Chiarri, University of Rhode Island]
 - Marta Gomez-Chiarri submitted this proposal on 9/12/2018, intending to respond to an NIH National Genome Research Institute grant opportunity with deadlines of 2/5/2019 and 6/5/2019.
 - This group held a meeting of the writing principals in October 2018, and the team seeks travel support for that meeting.
 - The meeting was essential for the creation of the proposal, team membership is broad, some participants on this also will participate on the above NE18609 proposal.
 - This was submitted in September 2018, and being reviewed by the MAC in November 2018.
 - What are the best mechanisms for the MAC to respond quickly to planning grant proposals?
 - The need for effort in this area is important, and funding this group would be money well spent.
 - Total request: \$7,000 which would support 15 participants.
 - **A motion to approve this planning grant proposal was introduced by Brad Hillman, seconded by Amy Ouellette, and approved unanimously.**

MAC Action Item

1. Scheduling of regular MAC calls (monthly?)
 - Regular calls would be set in place to provide a quick turnaround time for planning grants
 - Calls would be cancelled if nothing was up for review
 - Gary Thompson is not in favor of scheduling monthly MAC calls with the anticipation that they'll be cancelled
 - Brad Hillman agrees with Gary, folks will start to anticipate cancellations
 - Scheduling meetings further out would be favorable. Perhaps we can arrange submission deadlines accordingly.
 - **Rick and Dave will determine dates for quarterly MAC meetings and send those around to the MAC**