



Executive Summary

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/ and Meeting Attendees

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

DATE: May 1, 2008

SUBJECT: February 26-27, 2008 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting Minutes

Please find attached the February 2008 PMC meeting Executive Summary and minutes from discussions on February 26-27 at the Quincy Hotel, Washington, DC. The PMC thanks Jerry Baron, and Cheryl Ferrazoli for making hotel and other meeting arrangements.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact the appropriate PMC or Headquarters Staff member listed by the agenda item, or us, for clarification.



February 2008 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2008 meeting on February 26th and 27th at the Quincy Hotel in Washington, DC. The IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee* met with the PMC on February 26th.

The following items were discussed:

IR-4 Accomplishments - Jerry Baron gave an overview of IR-4 accomplishments in 2007, including a total of 647 new food use clearances with conventional and biopesticide products. Dan Kunkel reviewed 2007 completions, 30-month timeline completion goals, and a proposal to adjust the timeline to a more flexible 24-36 months that will allow for bundling and provide cost savings for IR-4, EPA, and companies.

Ornamental Program – Cristi Palmer gave an overview of the Ornamental Horticulture Program (OHP). There was a good deal of discussion about the program's effectiveness. The PMC charged Jerry, who chairs the OHP review committee, to include new members and meet to further discuss how to proceed with the OHP assessment. A report is expected for the July PMC meeting.

Biopesticide Program - Michael Braverman gave his presentation on the Biopesticide grant recipients for 2008 research. Proposed projects have been selected but details of the money transfer for 2008 are still being worked out. There will be 10 projects focused on disease, 10 on insects and 1 on weeds in 2008, and 17 will be on food crops and 4 on ornamentals. The Biopesticide database has had ~12,000 hits since May 2007.

Budget Update & CLC - Rocky Lundy stated it was a major accomplishment that IR-4 was given a \$700K grant increase for 2008 given the current state of the budget. He welcomed new members, Kirk Baumann, Lori Berger, and Michael Bledsoe to the CLC. The CLC met in the morning and were in support of the proposal to reorganize the IR-4 laboratory structure, both by eliminating one lab and restructuring the administration of all the labs. The CLC was also in support of a more streamlined FUW, keeping it at a 1.5-2 day event.

MOTION: Reappoint CLC members Mike Aerts, Wally Ewart, Brian Flood, Dave Trinkka and Ray Ratto for another three year term. Approved.

Strategic Planning Conference/Global Minor Use Summit - Jerry informed the group of the 2008 Strategic Planning Conference and invited the CLC to participate. He also talked about the success of the summit, the action items derived from the breakout groups, and the summit information portal that is currently housed on the IR-4 website.

Approval of Minutes/new agenda items - Minutes of the fall 2007 PMC meeting held October 15th and 16th in Nashville, TN, were approved.

Brief updates

AA/ARS – Sally Schneider informed the group that Urbana, IL and Weslaco, TX are targeted to shut down as a result of the FY 09 ARS budget. Paul commented three FRDs were hired to replace those that left ARS in 2007. One ARS/IR-4 Liaison Representative was appointed to replace the SR representative for weeds. The 2008 ARS IR-4 program is proceeding with no problems.

CSREES - Monte Johnson reported: Will set up a review committee for the May 2009 IR-4 Program Review

HQ - Jerry Baron reported on 2007 accomplishments, as reflected in the 2007 Year-In-Review, personnel changes at HQ, 2007 industry funding, and commented on PRIA II issues being resolved.

North Central Region – Bob Hollingworth reported everything is running reasonably smooth.

Northeast Region – Dave Soderlund reported that morale has been low, with 2 chemists being laid off; he handed out a letter from the director of the NYSAES stating Cornell's commitment to the IR-4 lab.

Western Region – Marion Miller reported the Western region has dropped some field trials. The Riverside PI has moved out, therefore this can no longer be an IR-4 center. The new lab space is now up and running, and the issue of the QA in Hawaii still needs to be addressed.

Southern Region - Marty Marshall reported that traditional trials are ongoing. The RFC position will be posted soon. The newly hired QA is slowly recovering from an accident. The Southern region training event in Raleigh, NC, Feb. 19-20 was a success.

Research Trials - Dan Kunkel reported on 2007 new uses – 33 chemicals, 628 uses; still submitting ~ 150 packages a year and expects this level will continue. Submitted a brief proposal of rethinking 30-month timeline to better fit with EPA's request to bundle and not make more than one submission for an AI in a given year.

Recommended a "fluid" timeline for 24-36 months

MOTION was made and approved to accept the new timeline as recommended.

Dan also submitted the Laboratory Guidance Document.

Communications Update Sherri Novack submitted a report on The Global Minor Use Portal, IR-4 publicity, the 2007 Year In Review, work continuing on state report cards, newsletters, and the website, and an IR-4/EPA/USDA 2-day tour is being planned for October 1-2, 2008

Quality Assurance Unit - On day 1, the relationship between QA and the regions was discussed as being so much smoother than in the past. Tammy White submitted a report recapping EPA inspections, and completed FDB audits from 2006 and 2007

Training Committee – Van Starner reported for Debbie Carpenter. He reiterated the successful training event in Raleigh, NC. Roger Batts and Robin Adkins are to be commended. Planning by the Training Committee for the 2009 National Education Conference in San Antonio, TX, is well underway.

A Training on CSREES Grant procedures was facilitated by Leonard Randolph, Janet Schmidt, Susan Bowman, Pamela Lynch and Sandra Watkin, from the CSREES Office of Extramural Programs.

IR-4 restructuring - Although IR-4 received an increase in budget for 2008, the 2009 proposed President's budget shows a significant decrease; it was agreed that we need to move forward with the restructuring plan. One criterion for lab closure includes status of institutional support of the lab. The Western and Southern Regions labs are well supported by their universities. Cornell supports the IR-4

lab, however, future plans may involve an administrative change. The North Central Region lab is also supported, however the space itself may soon be taken over by another program causing the lab to move. The plans for this move are not available until 2009. Doug Buehler expressed his concerns for this timeframe, and needed the PMC to make a motion to close a lab in order to take this mandate to his superiors requesting immediate notification of the MSU space relocation (if there will be one and if so where).

MOTION: Change the IR-4 structure by eliminating one regional lab. This motion was seconded and amended as follows: IR-4 should move to a three lab system, and determination of which lab to eliminate and the timeline for closing the lab, will be dependent upon space allocation at MSU, which should be known in time for the July PMC meeting. All agreed. Motion approved.

Accounting System – Paul Schwartz handed out a summary of the system and stated things are moving along as expected.

NRSP-4 extension – There shouldn't be any problem securing the extension.

IR-4 Mission

Bob Hollingworth reiterated the concern about working on transgenic papaya (Biopesticide program) and commented this is not a part of the mission of IR-4. We need to be careful in the future about accepting these projects.

Future Meetings

Western Region State Liaison Meeting
March 19-20, 2008
Davis, CA

Summer PMC Meeting
July 7-9
Westin Hotel
Portland, OR

2008 North Central Meeting
August 11-12, 2008
Madison, WI

2008 Southern Region Meeting
August 26-28, 2008
Richmond, VA

2008 Food Use Workshop
September 16-17, 2008
Holiday Inn Capital Plaza
J Street
Sacramento, CA

ARS Meeting
October 15-16
Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC area

2008 National Research Planning Meeting
October 28-29, 2008
Princeton, NJ

Strategic Planning Conference/PMC Meeting
December 8-11, 2008
Doubletree Hotel
Crystal City, VA

National Education Conference/PMC Meeting
February 24-26, 2009
San Antonio, TX



February 2008 PMC Meeting Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2008 meeting on February 26th and 27th at the Quincy Hotel in Washington, DC. The IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee (see * in attendee list below) met with the PMC on February 26th.

Attendees:

- Mark Arney* - Nat'l Watermelon Promotion Board
- Jerry Baron - IR-4 Executive Director
- Kirk Baumann *- Ginseng Board of Wisconsin
- Lori Berger *-California Specialty Crops Council
- Michael Bledsoe* -Village Farms (represented CLC on day two)
- Rich Bonanno* - Bonanno Farm Trust
- Michael Braverman – IR-4 Biopesticide Program Manager (part-time, by phone)
- Doug Buhler - North Central Region Administrative Advisor
- Mary Duryea - Southern Region Administrative Advisor
- Wally Ewart* - California Citrus Quality Council
- Brian Flood* - Del Monte USA
- Ann George* - Washington Hop Commission
- Bob Hollingworth - North Central Region Director
- Monte Johnson - CSREES National Program Leader
- Dan Kunkel - IR-4 Associate Director
- Rocky Lundy* - Commodity Liaison Committee Chair
- Marty Marshall - Southern Region Director and PMC Chair
- Eric Maurer* - Valent USA Corporation
- Marion Miller - Western Region Director
- Sherrilynn Novack – IR-4 Public Relations & Manager
- Cristi Palmer – IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager (part-time)
- Michael Parrella – Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Ray Prewett * - Texas Vegetable Association
- Mark Robson – Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
- Paul Schwartz - ARS Regional Director
- Lin Schmale* - Society of American Florists
- Sally Schneider – ARS Administrative Advisor
- Todd Scholz * - USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
- Dave Soderlund - Northeast Region Director
- Van Starner - IR-4 Assistant Director

Tuesday, February 26 Joint meeting of PMC & CLC

Marty Marshall welcomed the CLC and thanked them for their valiant efforts to assist IR-4 through the financial challenges in 2007.

IR-4 Accomplishments - Jerry Baron gave an overview of IR-4 accomplishments in 2007, including a total of 647 new food use clearances with conventional and biopesticide products. This number does not include the IR-4 facilitation of the registration of the new reduced risk insecticide spinetoram on almost all of the crops where a similar product, spinosad, is already registered. IR-4 efforts in the ornamental area resulted in 15 registration decisions by companies. EPA approved the first modifications of the crop groups to expand bulb vegetables, small berries and fruits and established edible mushrooms. Finally, IR-4 co-sponsored a very successful Global Minor Use Summit.

Dan Kunkel reviewed 2007 completions, 30-month timeline completion goals, and the proposal to adjust project timelines to a more flexible 24-36 months that will allow for bundling and provide cost savings for IR-4, EPA, and companies. Brian Flood had suggested bundling numerous research projects with specific active ingredients as being a good way to provide for better efficiencies of IR-4 resources. IR-4 agreed the research bundling should be practiced when appropriate.

Quality Assurance - the relationship between QA and the regions was discussed as being so much smoother than in the past. Dave Soderlund suggested this was directly attributed to Tammy being included in the PMC meetings. Marty agreed and commented that past GLP training sessions were driven and taught by QA, however more recently (referring to the Southern Region NC State training, held Feb 20-21, 2008), training is also being facilitated by those actually doing the work in the field. He felt this was a commendable accomplishment in collaboration.

Ornamental Program—Cristi Palmer gave an overview of the Ornamental Horticulture Program (OHP). Current challenges include 1) the need to capture successes in a better way, and 2) the need for more focus at the regional level in administering the program (but with the great majority of funding, the food use program dictates the major portion of regional efforts). There was a good deal of discussion about the program's effectiveness. Certain PMC members were still uncertain as to how program accomplishments can be measured. They agreed the OHP is a completely different program than the Food Use Program (FUP) and the idea of mirroring/imitating FUP metrics is unrealistic. But the fact is that when funding for IR-4 falls short, IR-4 first pulls resources from the OHP. Ann George mentioned progress appears to be happening, and we're getting a handle on costs, but are still weak on the benefits side. Mike Parrella discussed the importance of ornamentals, which unlike food specialty crops, are grown in every state in the U.S. He stressed the importance of IR-4 supporting this industry but feels the OHP, as it is now, is not concretely meeting the needs of the industry. He suggested a change to a grant proposal system of funding like the Biopesticide Program, making significant dollars available for valuable research projects. Dave Soderlund remarked how frustrating it is to be supporting a program that is not really understood. He felt the need to have confidence in the program so that IR-4 is assured it is spending its resources wisely. One area where the program is being seen as a leader/innovator is in its involvement with invasive species. Work with Q-bio type and chili thrips was noted. Ray Prewett suggested the need for work on citrus greening, which is poised to supplant an entire industry. This work with invasives sparked an idea from Lin Schmale that perhaps IR-4 could act as an intersection between the food and ornamental industries by focusing efforts on invasives. ANLA/SAF have indicated the IR-4 program is valuable to progressing pest management needs in this industry, and that insufficient funds are being spent by IR-4 for this program. Jerry Baron discussed the report of the Ornamental Program Review Committee. The committee was charged with meeting again and producing a report for the July PMC meeting with recommendations for the OHP. The program was discussed further on day two. Jerry discussed the meeting notes from the Review of the Ornamental Horticulture Program with ANLA/SFA. Lin Schmale and Mark Tefteau have agreed to join the PMC in July, 2008 for further considerations regarding the OHP. The PMC thought a fresh face on this review committee be included. Suggested participants were, Rich Bonanno and Dick Lindquist. Mike Parrella suggested interviewing IR-4 researchers and those outside the program to solicit their responses as to whether the OHP is meeting their needs. The PMC charged Jerry Baron, who chairs the review committee, to include some

new members (suggested above) and to meet to further discuss how to proceed with the OHP assessment. A report is expected for the July PMC meeting.

Biopesticide Program Michael Braverman called in to give his presentation on the Biopesticide grant recipients. IR-4 funding for 2008 early and advanced stage programs will total \$301,837 with a match of \$271,423. There will be 10 projects focused on disease, 10 on insects and 1 on weeds in 2008, and 17 will be on food crops and 4 on ornamentals. The CLC input for new priorities include black rot on Eastern grown grapes, weed control on organic crops, and postharvest to solve export concerns. Three Projects will target thrips and one will target whiteflies

IR-4 and EPA are in the 5th year of a cooperative agreement with EPA providing \$100,000/year. Proposed projects for the Biopesticide Demonstration program have been selected but details of the money transfer for 2008 are still being worked out.

Registration successes in 2007 include 1) AF36/Pistachio Management of Aflatoxin –experimental use permit in California; 2) AF36/corn management of aflatoxin - experimental use permit in Texas and Arizona; 3) Zucchini Yellows Mosaic Virus, weak stain, on cucurbits, for cross protection against the wild type virus; and 4) Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Virus - management of tropical soda apple, an invasive weed.

Questions were raised regarding the work being done on transgenic plums. Sally Schneider commented that USDA showed evidence and fully supported this study. Additionally, the research cleared APHIS and is under review at EPA.

The Biopesticide database has had ~12,000 hits since May 2007.

Budget Update. Rocky Lundy stated the CLC as a whole has been effective in getting the word out about IR-4 to Congress. It was a major accomplishment that IR-4 was given a \$700K grant increase given the current state of the budget. However, again in the 2009 President's budget, it is recommended IR-4 default back to \$10.3 million. There is still a great deal of confusion as to why the President's budget does not line up with the previous year's funding level for IR-4; suggestion was that we need to connect IR-4 with "presidential initiatives."

CLC. Rocky welcomed new members, Kirk Baumann, Lori Berger, and Michael Bledsoe to the CLC. He also made a recommendation that the CLC have a person from the organics industry on the committee. He will pursue this. The email review and voting on the new members worked out well. CLC also suggested they be more involved in Biopesticide Program decisions.

The CLC were in support of the proposal to reorganize the IR-4 laboratory structure, both by eliminating one lab and restructuring the administration of all the labs. The CLC was not in support of two labs being eliminated at this time. The CLC was also in support of a more streamlined FUW, moving it to a less than 3-day event. The CLC was also in favor of bundling research projects and see this as a way to reduce expenditures and improve efficiencies. This may benefit lab scheduling too.

They would like to change the PMC/CLC meeting to the first week in March.

CLC Members, Mike Aerts, Wally Ewart, Brian Flood, Dave Trinka and Ray Ratto terms are expiring and they are interested in continuing service. Rocky Lundy suggested that they be reappointed for another 3-year term. CLC Member Bruce Burma's term is also expiring. Since Bruce has not attended recent CLC meetings, Rocky was not sure if Bruce wants to be reinstated; Rocky will contact Bruce to confirm.

MOTION: Reappoint CLC members Mike Aerts, Wally Ewart, Brian Flood, Dave Trinkka and Ray Ratto for another three year term. Approved.

CLC confirmed their appreciation that IR-4 is working diligently on Int'l harmonization efforts.

Strategic Planning Conference (SPC)/Global Minor Use Summit – Jerry Baron informed the group of the Dec. 9-10, 2008 Strategic Planning Conference being organized in Crystal City, VA, and invited the CLC to participate. It likely will be patterned after the most recent SPC, with invited speakers addressing specific topics and roundtable, small group discussions of specific questions. It was suggested that ornamentals should be one focus at the SPC, and that ornamental growers should be encouraged to participate.

Global Minor Use Summit – Jerry Baron briefed the group on the Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS), co-sponsored by IR-4 and attended by over 225 people, the action items derived from the breakout groups, and the Global Minor Use information portal that is currently housed on the IR-4 website. The summit succeeded well beyond expectations of what might be accomplished.

Wednesday, February 27

Approval of Minutes/new agenda items - The minutes of the fall 2007 PMC meeting held October 15th and 16th, 2007, in Nashville, TN, were approved. A new item (the Laboratory Guidance Document) was added to the agenda.

Brief updates

AA/ARS – Sally Schneider informed the group that numerous ARS Research Centers will be closed including the ones at Urbana, IL and Weslaco, TX. They are being targeted to shut down as a result of the FY 09 ARS budget. Lori Gregg in TX could pick up some trials lost by Weslaco.

Paul reported three FRDs were hired to replace those that left ARS in 2007. One ARS/IR-4 Liaison Representative was appointed to replace the SR representative for weeds. The 2008 ARS IR-4 program is proceeding with no problems. A detailed report is attached.

CSREES - Monte Johnson reported: Will set up a Review Panel for the May 2009 IR-4 Program Review

HQ - Jerry Baron (report in PMC materials)

- Accomplishments as reflected in the 2007 Year-In-Review
- H. Chen is resigned, Bill Barney has taken over the Crop Grouping
- F. Salzman has also resigned and the line will not be immediately replaced; M. Arsenovic will take over Fred's responsibilities as the lead weed scientist at IR-4
- HQ has hired a temporary employee (Tracey Switek) to assist Keith Dorschner and Bill Barney
- 2007 was a good year of industry funding, which exceeded a million dollars, some of that was distributed to the regions in the form of small equipment grants
- PRIA II issues have been resolved and IR-4 and industry will not be billed for IR-4 submissions.

North Central Region – Bob Hollingworth (handed out a report)

- Everything is reasonably smooth

Northeast Region – Dave Soderlund (report in PMC materials)

- NE has had a rough year - 2 chemists were laid off in the fall.
- Dave handed out a letter from Thomas Burr, director of the NY State Agricultural Experiment Station. The letter expressed support of IR-4 maintaining a lab at Cornell but an administration fee will be charged in the future. The current administration fee is 15.2% but he is not able to state what a fee in the future might be. There are plans to renovate the lab and IR-4 space is included in the

architectural plans but no date has been projected for the beginning of this project. It is up to state budgets.

Western Region – Marion Miller (report in PMC materials)

- The Western region has dropped some field trials; some were in their control others were not
- Riverside PI has moved out; therefore this can no longer be an IR-4 center
- A delegation of 4 people from Vietnam will be visiting in April
- Setting up the new lab software has been challenging; it is now up and running
- The laboratory has secured additional space; they will be moving into the new space soon
- They had 8 EPA inspections
- The issue of the QA in Hawaii still needs to be addressed

Southern Region - Marty Marshall (handed out a report)

- Traditional trials are ongoing
- RFC position will be posted soon; this person will report to Marty
- The newly hired QA had an accident and is recovering slowly; it will still take a while until she is 100%
- The Southern region training event was a success

Research Trials - Dan Kunkel (report in PMC materials)

- 2007 new uses – 33 chemicals, 628 uses
- As of 2/1/08, 38 Field Data Books (FDB) from 2006 were at QA and 546 at HQ; for 2007 FDB, 182 were with FRD, 190 with RFC, 126 at QA and 66 at HQ
- The labs were delayed a bit due to the installation of new equipment but things are now moving along
- Still submitting ~ 150 packages a year and expect that will continue
- The total sample sets, for which there are outstanding ASRs, dating from 2004 to 2/1/08 were 210 in WSR, 216 in SOR, 138 in NER, 213 in NCR and 192 at ARS, with 86 at other locations
 - Submitted a brief proposal of rethinking 30-month timeline to better fit with EPA's request to bundle and not make more than one submission for an AI in a given year.
 - Recommended a "fluid" timeline for 24-36 months

MOTION was made and approved to accept the new timeline proposal as recommended

- Dave Soderlund asked that this new timeline be quickly and clearly communicated with the lab directors in order for them to make needed scheduling adjustments
- Paul Schwartz commented - with new timeline we need to make sure we go forward and not revert back to a less efficient era
- Dan Kunkel submitted the Laboratory Guidance Document, which includes definitions, references and information pertaining to lab operations; to be added yet is an example ASR and sample processing guidance; PMC will target review of this document for a decision at the July PMC meeting

Communications Update - Sherri Novack (report in PMC materials)

- The Global Minor Use Portal has been created on the IR-4 website
- IR-4 garnered publicity in the form of 3 articles, Specialty Chemicals Magazine, The Amazing Onion, The Fruit Leaf
- A 2007 Year In Review was distributed - Thank you to the regions for their input
- Work continues on State Report Cards, Newsletters, Website
- An IR-4/EPA/USDA 2-day Tour is being planned for October 1-2, 2008

Quality Assurance Unit - Tammy White (report in PMC materials)

- Total EPA inspections, in 2007 were 18 with 9 closed and 9 ongoing (14 with no-findings, 4 with findings).
- 573 of 622 FDB audits from 2006 are completed
- 54 of 578 FDB audits from 2007 are completed

Training Committee – Van Starner reported for Debbie Carpenter (report in PMC materials)

- Reiterated the successful training event in Raleigh, NC. Roger Batts and Robin Adkins are to be commended
- Planning by the Training Committee for the National Education Conference to be held February 24-25, 2009 in San Antonio, is well underway

Training on CSREES Grant procedures was facilitated by Leonard Randolph and Janet Schmidt from the CSREES Office of Extramural Programs. (Monte will send slides to PMC via email)
Susan Bowman, Pamela Lynch and Sandra Watkins continued training

- Presented a sample sheet
- regarding Fee for Service, there is no need to include CVs, etc for this category
- for field trials, only need researcher's name, number of trials and total, plus any special trial costs for processing, etc.
- QA should be kept as consultants if they are contract
- Biopesticides handled as subcontracts
- asked for regions to submit narrative like the handout, then she would not need subcontract; "the HQ description of biopesticide proposal submission/review/approval process needs more detail" to explain that although monies are dispersed through regional offices, there is no conflict of interest of panel of reviewers, etc. It would be best if HQ who administers the program, develop the Biopesticide awarding process/program description, which can then be attached to each region's proposal
- site visits - Monte knows about 4 months in advance, CSREES folks start making more detailed plans 2-3 months in advance
- for 2008 proposal, need to get a list of 2007 awardees and the title of their awards to CSREES; they do not need progress reports before approving sub awards
- if budgeting changes are needed with award monies, regional office can move funds around as needed up to 10% of the total award; beyond 10% need to run the changes by CSREES for Monte to confirm and ok, and needs two signatures from the award preparers at the awardees' institution
- after September 30, 2008 everything sent electronically needs to be in pdfs
- All of the presenters said they could be contacted with any questions
- target for funds to go out is June 12, but if all goes well, could happen by June 1

IR-4 restructuring - Although IR-4 received an increase in budget for 2008, 2009's proposed President's budget shows a significant decrease. It was agreed that we need to move forward with restructuring plan. One criterion for lab closure was the support of the lab at the institution.

- Western region - UC Davis is very supportive of IR-4 program being housed there. The university is not considering charging the lab rent or any other administrative costs. The lab in fact was given more space this year and receives 4.5% for the IR-4 program from U. C. and no overhead charges.
- Southern region - The University of Florida is in support of the lab being housed there. Like the Western region, the university views the IR-4 program valuable to the state and the school.
- Northeast - Cornell supports the IR-4 lab at its institution, however future plans may involve at least a 15.2% administrative charge. Plans are underway for renovation of the lab and IR-4 will be afforded the same amount of space as it has now. Because these plans are tied in with state budgets, Cornell cannot say when renovation will begin. As mentioned previously, a letter was handed out explaining Cornell's position.

- North Central - Michigan State is aware of the importance of IR-4 to its state and its growers. However, lab space is at a premium and the contract for the current space will be coming to an end in 2010. At that time the university will reassess this space and may give it to another department. They will give IR-4 the same space somewhere else, but the quality of space cannot be guaranteed (i.e. facilities may not be as modern). MSU will let IR-4 know the type of space available in about one year. Doug Buhler expressed his concerns for this timeframe, especially as it relates to the PMC's need to determine how the labs should be restructured.

MOTION: Change the IR-4 structure by eliminating one regional lab. This motion was seconded and amended as follows: IR-4 should move to a 3 lab system, and determination of which lab to eliminate and the timeline for closing the lab, will be dependent upon space allocation at MSU, which should be known in time for the July PMC meeting. All agreed. Motion approved.

Accounting System – Paul Schwartz handed out “A Summary of the IR-4 Program Accounting System for 2003-2007.” The system was devised to track the progress of IR-4 trials. He concludes in his report little significant change in 2007 over 2006 trials. Things are moving along as expected.

NRSP-4 extension – Jerry Baron reported that Dan Rossi didn't think there should be any problem securing the extension

IR-4 Mission - Bob Hollingworth reiterated the concern about working on transgenic papaya (Biopesticide program) and commented this is not a part of the mission of IR-4. We need to be careful in the future about accepting these projects.

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