



## **Executive Summary**

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

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

DATE: October 28, 2008

SUBJECT: July, 2008 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting Minutes

Please find attached the July 2008 PMC meeting Executive Summary and minutes from discussions on July 8-9, 2008 at the Westin Hotel, Portland, OR. The PMC thanks Marion Miller, Lisa Stevenson and Jackie Hale 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.

## July 2008 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its summer 2008 meeting on July 10th and 11th at the Westin Hotel in Portland, OR. The following items were discussed:

### General Items

- Dan Rossi, will no longer be an IR-4 Administrative Advisor (AA); Mark Robson will function in that role for the Northeast Region. AAs had a conference call and elected Mary Duryea to serve as their Chair.
- Monte Johnson reported: the award dates for the Region's 2008 grants have passed. Concern was raised on how the delays in the award would result in IR-4 having to submit extensive paperwork for a 180 day pre-award spending approval.
- The Farm Bill established the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to increase the standing and visibility of USDA's extramural science programs. USDA-Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) will be a part of the new institute. The National Research Initiative will be renamed Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).
- The USDA Peer Review of IR-4 will take place in May 2009. Strategic planning goals will be incorporated into the Review.
- IR-4 is having a very successful 2008, at least one Notice of Filing or Final Rule establishing new tolerances every week. It looks as though we are on target for another > 1000 new uses registered
- The IR-4 Biopesticide Program has been renamed the IR-4 Biopesticide and Organics Support Program.
- Following up on the decision made in the February, 2008 PMC meeting, additional information was received from the Cornell/NYS Ag. Experiment Station and Michigan State University administrations on their support for their respective IR-4 analytical laboratories. Both administrations were supportive of continued IR-4 presence. A vote was taken and the Northeast Regional Laboratory was designated for phase out over the next several years.

### Regions/ARS/HQ/Canada Updates

- North Central Region –Facilities in Michigan were afflicted with severe weather this spring which affected some field trials and the region's laboratories and offices in Michigan.
- Northeast Region – The Analytical Laboratory has laid off two chemists. Additionally Chris Lam resigned. Wlodzimierz Borejsza-Wysoka has replaced him. They have leased a LC/MS/MS. The Field Research Center in Southern New Jersey has been closed due to the loss of key personnel. In 2009, the Northeast Region is establishing a partial replacement for tree fruit research at the Rutgers research station in Cream Ridge, NJ will become a research center in 2009.
- Southern Region - The search of a new Southern Regional Field Coordinator is proceeding. Charlie Meister is going to stay on board doing efficacy program for about 2 years. He will also do ornamental efficacy. Angela Thompson has requested to be relieved of her IR-4 duties in Tennessee. It is anticipated that all her IR-4 work will be transferred Jackson to Crossville, TN. Establishing a new Center with the University of Arkansas will be another option.

- Western Region - The Field Research Center at UC Riverside might be reestablished in 2009. The Western Region personnel hosted international visitor from Vietnam as well as Members from the French Parliament. Currently there is no QA in HI so Western Region staff are handling.
- ARS - The ARS analytical laboratory in Tifton, GA lost several sets of residue samples when squirrel damage to power resulted in freezers not maintaining sample integrity. Unfortunately, there was no back-up generator at this site. ARS is transferring \$75 K to IR-4 Headquarters and Regions to support Quality Assurance work for two years. The President's FY 2009 budget proposal will shut down the Weslaco, TX and Urbana, IL ARS/IR-4 Field Research Centers.
- HQ - IR-4 Headquarters has hired two (Tracey Switek and Kathryn Homa) junior scientists to replace the loss of Hong Chen and Fred Salzman. Headquarters raised concern that there are still several 2006 analytical summary reports outstanding; this is a significant delay. IR-4 Headquarters has received a \$600,000 grant from USDA-Foreign Agriculture Service to conduct and coordinate a pilot global residue study. The IR-4 Headquarters is entering into a cooperative agreement with USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to provide regulatory support for their public health pest management initiative.
- Shirley Archambault and Ian Gardner of Agriculture and Ag-food Canada discussed the progress being made in the Canadian Minor Use Program. They noted that research prioritization is done almost entirely by votes of growers not extension, researchers, etc. Currently, Canada is working with IR-4 on two projects where Canada is the Study Director.

#### Other items

- The total number of EPA Good Laboratory Practice inspections at time of reporting was 13. The number of EPA inspections has increased significantly and it now takes approximately 9-16 IR-4 "man days" for an EPA inspection.
- Mary Hausbeck, Co-Chair of the IR-4 Ornamental Review Panel briefed the PMC on the Review. The recommendations from the review are to have IR-4 conduct an economic analysis of the Ornamental Program deliverables, invest in marketing the program using case studies and solicit input from key growers. The PMC would like a report on progress of these action items before the Strategic Planning Conference.
- The majority of Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) are supportive of IR-4's efforts on global harmonization and crop grouping. The CLC suggested changes in format for this December's Strategic Planning Conference. The CLC Chair would like to add a CLC member to represent the organic industry. The CLC approved nominating Alan Schreiber to join the CLC.
- Communications - The Global Minor Use Portal has been updated and has a new look. IR-4 garnered publicity in the form of an article, in American Vegetable Grower Magazine. An IR-4/EPA/USDA 2-day Tour is being planned for October 1-2, 2008
- Training – It was suggested to add a half-day GLP training onto the front end of the National Education Conference (NEC). It is also important for the entire NEC group to learn the lessons from Canadian projects; this should be added as a topic for the NEC.



## July 2008 PMC Meeting Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its summer 2008 meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Hotel in Portland, OR.

### Attendees:

- Shirley Archambault—Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
- Jerry Baron - IR-4 Executive Director
- Doug Buhler - North Central Region Administrative Advisor
- Mary Duryea - Southern Region Administrative Advisor
- Ian Gardner— Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
- Mary Hausbeck- Michigan State University Researcher (for Ornamental Horticulture Review July 8<sup>th</sup>)
- 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
- 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
- Mark Robson – Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
- Paul Schwartz - ARS Regional Director
- Lin Schmale\* - Society of American Florists (for Ornamental Horticulture Review July 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Dave Soderlund - Northeast Region Director
- Van Starner - IR-4 Assistant Director
- Tammy White- IR-4 Assistant Director, QA

### Tuesday, July 8th

**Marion Miller welcomed the PMC to Oregon.**

**Approval of Minutes/new agenda items** - The minutes of the Fall 2008 PMC meeting held February 25<sup>h</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in Washington, DC. MOTION to approve minutes— J. Baron, Second — B. Hollingworth: MOTION APPROVED. A new item, the selection of a new CLC member, was added to the agenda.

### **Brief updates**

**Administrative Advisor** - Dan Rossi, due to his new position, will no longer be an IR-4 Administrative Advisor (AA); Mark Robson will function in that role for the Northeast. Mark, reported that the AAs had a thoughtful and productive conference call, and have elected Mary Duryea to serve as their chair. During the conference call, the AAs discussed the need to reinforce their role as advisory only.

**CSREES** - Monte Johnson reported: the award dates for the regions have passed. Northeast, North Central—June 27; Southern, Western-July 2. Marion Miller raised her concerns for the delays in the award. She would like a 180 day pre-approval that would alleviate the need to submit a 20-page justification for minor items. Monte suggested Marion contact Sue Bowman and thought this could be worked out. Bob Hollingworth commended Monte and his team on the pleasant interactions with his group throughout this process in particular, Janet Schmidt, Leonard Randolph and Sue Bowman.

The Farm Bill has established the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The purpose of this new Institute is to increase the standing and visibility of USDA's extramural science programs. Essentially, USDA-Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) will be transformed into the new institute. The National Research Initiative will be renamed Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). This will become effective October 1, 2009.

The USDA Peer Review of IR-4 will take place in the Spring of 2009. Strategic Planning Goals will be incorporated into the Review. There was much discussion about the need for IR-4 funding to become a multi-year grant process rather than having to apply annually.

**North Central Region** – Bob Hollingworth reported that the North Central Region was afflicted with severe weather these past months. The lab was brushed by a low level tornado, which sent a tree crashing down on the roof of the lab. While there was a lot of water, the lab did not sustain much damage. The late freeze in May took out the cherry trials which were trials being conducted from a previous year when the raccoons ate the cherries. So these trials are now 2 seasons behind. There are ongoing discussion between Study Directors and the lab as to the best way to put together the ASR; making these more standardized. Debbie Carpenter gave an excellent training for the lab and put together nice examples of good work. This same training will take place with Study Directors on August 14. Cornell also expressed an interest in this training suggested it be included at the National Education Conference. The space issues are still in progress. The NC region had 5 QA audits; all went well. MSU will host a visiting scholar from China from August through November.

**Northeast Region** – Dave Soderlund reported that NE has had a rough year - 2 chemists were laid off February 1. Chris Lam resigned June 15 and has moved to Nashville, TN. Wlodzimierz Borejsza-Wysoka has replaced him. The laboratory has procured a LC/MS/MS on a 2-year lease with the option to buy agreement. All analysis is on pace. They are now getting samples from 2007. In the field, one of the 3 long standing centers, RAREC, has been closed due to the loss of key personnel. This center performed 20 trials a year. The center at Cream Ridge, NJ will become a research center in 2009. There are still questions about where the NE tree fruit trials will be conducted. Cream Ridge will also continue doing its ornamental research. Mark Robson commented Rutgers would subsidize some of the tree fruit work. As a result of the closing of the RAREC, the NE has contracted trials, the contract money is mostly equal to the cost of an IR-4 FRD, making it a non-issue. A number of sites where IR-4 trials were being conducted are no longer operational therefore there is a need to decommission these sites. If sites are not decommissioned, the EPA can still perform audits at any time. 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.

**Southern Region** - Marty Marshall reported that Angela Thompson, TN has left and they are trying to get most of her work moved from Jackson to Crossville, TN with the University of Arkansas as a possible back-up. The Southern Region is looking into procuring a third LC/MS/MS they need to add electrical supply to accommodate the equipment. The RFC search is ongoing but they are making transitional arrangements. Charlie Meister is going to stay on board doing efficacy program for about 2 years. He will also do ornamental efficacy. The new RFC will handle the main IR-4 responsibilities but it is really unclear how

Charlie will step away without confusing things. Concerns were expressed that Charlie not be allowed to go on running his own efficacy program alongside the new RFC. Perhaps if he reports to the RFC, that might work. There could be problems if Charlie continues to “speak out as IR-4” as he operates quite independently. The new RFC will report to Marty Marshall. Finally, the QA health issues are improving

**Western Region** – Marion Miller reported that the Western Region have 183 trials in 2008. The Region could take on more trials. UC Riverside might come back in 2009. New FRD at Colorado will take a year to train. The laboratory had a Vietnamese group visit to learn about IR-4. In March, UC Davis hosted a successful SLR meeting. Members from French Parliament visited and toured IR-4. The mancozeb analysis has been completed in HI. Revised ASR has taken a good deal of Risa, Matt, and Jim’s time. This information will be added to the Lab Guidance Document. The UC Davis lab submitted a proposal to AAFC for lab work. QA have had 4 inspections from EPA. There is no QA in HI so Jim and Martin are handling

**ARS** – Paul Schwartz reported that a squirrel destroyed some of the wiring at the Tifton laboratory. This shut down some of the freezers. There was no back-up generator, thus many samples were lost. Unfortunately many of those were Canadian. These trials will need to be redone. Paul has put in a request for 2 years of QA support at HQ for \$75K; he is still awaiting the decision. It is still unclear if Weslaco, TX and Urbana, IL will be shut down due to a 7% cut in President’s budget. Many believe the matter of closing an ARS site will be mute with new President.

**HQ** – Jerry Baron reported that EPA has published at least one Notice of Filing or Final Rule every week. Looks like 2008 will be a good one with IR-4 garnering more than 1,000 new uses. Kudos go out to Bill Barney for his work with Crop Grouping. We expect a 2<sup>nd</sup> crop grouping rule by the end of 2008. IR-4’s QA system seems to be working very well with audits resulting in no or minor finding. Tammy is concerned however with the number of man-hours and resources that are needed to work with EPA through these audits. EPA has been auditing IR-4 sites in record numbers and we have not budgeted for the extra time needed for this increased audit schedule. A lot of progress has been made on the action items from the GMUS. Including the web portal and funding for pilot research trials is coming through. Some challenges are turnover in personnel, as many sense the uncertainty of where the program is headed. Squirrels and Mother Nature have also caused some challenges i.e. North Central. Kudos to Wayne for staying overnight through the storm to make sure no data was lost. HQ has hired two (Tracey Switek and Kathryn Homa) junior scientists, replacing Hong Chen and Fred Salzman. They are both working out very well. We will also be sharing a post doc with public health. HQ is piloting a compressed work week to offset the rising costs of energy. About a half dozen people are involved. Our stakeholder relations are very good. We met with Lois Rossi, Rod Hedberg and Gayle Buchanan and all meetings were successful. Relations with industry are good, we are being introduced to new molecules. There is a Specialty Crop Research Initiative that is really causing some confusion because of the institutional match clause. Therefore many are not submitting proposals for this. Along with this, the USDA is watching IR-4 and its matching of funds therefore, we need to somehow document industry contributions. EPA is not excited about our old petitions that are now going into review i.e. mancozeb. Headquarters is working with USDA-FAS on piloting an international study. Headquarters is also working with ARS on a public health initiative. We have also started updating the Food Use database to be completed in early 2009.

**Ornamental Review** - Mary Hausbeck gave a presentation on the outcome of the Ornamental Review. The report was included with the PMC materials. The recommendations from the review are:

- the Ornamental program should do an economic analysis
- invest in marketing the program using case studies
- solicit input from key growers.

The PMC would like a report on progress of these action items before the Strategic Planning Conference (SPC). Other thoughts were to present the results of the review at the SPC to use for resource allocation

discussions at the SPC and recognize the contribution of the review panel. Dave Soderlund -MOTION: PMC receive the report of the ornamental study group as information for the 2008 SPC. Seconded by.

Discussion: This group of experts concluded that the Ornamental program has value, is organized as needed and should continue to be supported. Lin, Cristi, and Mary think they can “tighten” the report to use as background for the SPC. Dave Soderlund would like to understand the value of IR-4 to the Ornamental industry. There was a good deal of discussion on new monies and if these new monies should be distributed similar to the biopesticide grant program. Marty thought this might be a good topic to discuss at the SPC. Some questions were raised if this might just be providing a funding stream to benefit certain individuals so it will be important to consider this as fundamental to the structure of the program. Mary Duryea felt the PMC should take the recommendations of the review panel and leave it as is. **Motion Vote: 4-yes, 0-no, 3-abstentions** For the next day’s discussion, Cristi generated a short list of recommendations from the report, both short and long term.

**Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) Report** – Rocky Lundy reported that the CLC held a conference call to discuss global harmonization. They encouraged IR-4’s work and participation in this effort. The Florida tropical growers are not too keen on this due to imports but all other commodities are very supportive of IR-4’s involvement. The CLC would like to see a different format for the SPC than last time. They did not want so many small groups headed by HQ folk. They felt the small group ideas were not reflected in the summary reports. In other topics, the CLC is very appreciative of Bill Barney’s Crop Grouping work. Rocky is also looking for a member to represent the organic industry and hopes to have a recommendation by the time of the FUW. He is planning on holding a CLC meeting at the FUW. The CLC approved nominating Alan Schreiber to join the CLC. Jerry Baron- MOTION: PMC accept Alan Schreiber as a CLC member. Seconded. Discussion: There were some who were concerned with this nomination but Rocky felt Alan’s addition to the committee would be very good because of his involvement with Washington State legislators in DC. **Motion Vote: 5-yes, 1-no, 1-abstention**

**Canada** – Shirley Archambault and Ian Gardner discussed the progress being made in Canada and how the prioritization is done almost entirely by votes of growers not extension, researchers, etc. Shirley commented on the Canadian/US joint projects. There are two studies in ’08 with Canada as study director. This is proceeding better than ’07 due to improved communication. The US FRDs are challenged with the daily tracking that is required for Canadian studies as this is not a US requirement.

**Research Trials** - Dan Kunkel raised concerns about ‘06 study ASRs still out and now in ‘08 these should be in report prep. Discussed the freezer failure issue and suggested including a requirement for a mandatory back-up be stated in the Laboratory Guidance Document. He is going to go through the document and highlight the items that should be mandatory such as freezer temperature alarm, backup power, etc. It looks as though we are on target for another > 1000 new uses registered.

**QA**-Tammy White reported that the total number of inspections at time of reporting was 13with months left in the year. Last year, the total was 18 for the entire year. The number of EPA inspections has increased significantly and it now takes approximately 9-16 IR-4 “man days” for an EPA inspection. This really needs to be figured into future budgeting.

**Communications Update** – Sherri Novack reported that the Global Minor Use Portal has been updated and has a new look. IR-4 garnered publicity in the form of an article, on Biopesticides working in combination with conventional tools in American Vegetable Grower Magazine. Work continues on Newsletters, Website, and is slow on Report Cards. An IR-4/EPA/USDA 2-day Tour is being planned for October 1-2, 2008

## Wednesday, July 9, 2008

**Food Use Workshop** – Van Starner gave a summary of the Strategy Document for the workshop and discussed deadlines. Dave Soderlund questioned if this was the long-term strategy, to follow these assumptions and can we continue this size of a program if the budget remains flat. Dave believes we should balance the entire program in the future. The PMC okayed 13 “A” projects for each discipline.

**Training Committee** – Van Starner for Debbie Carpenter provided the basic agenda. Bob Hollingworth gave Kudos to Debbie for her training in Michigan. Debbie will repeat the training for HQ study directors in August. The group felt adding a half-day GLP training onto the front end of the National Education Conference (NEC) would be valuable for all the new people. The regional directors will support this and fund the training for their participants. RFC/LRD will be asked how many people they think will need this training and if twenty or more are in need, the Training Committee should plan to add this to the agenda. Additionally, it is important for the group as a whole to learn the lessons from Canadian projects; this should be added as a topic for the NEC.

**Strategic Planning Conference (SPC)**– Jerry Baron handed out a draft agenda of the Strategic Planning Conference (SPC) being held in Pentagon City, Va., December 9-10, 2008. The group made recommendations for speakers and added topics such as the status of funding and futuristic regulatory trends with comments by EPA (IR-4 getting a free ride at EPA?) or CropLife. Of interest too are the future trends in biotech. Where is it going with BT eggplant etc. There was also a suggestion to add a sound bite about the Ag Experiment Stations and indirect costs. Dave Soderlund suggested there be a discussion on trends in research support for specialty crops stating why IR-4 is different and why we can't tap into some funds due to indirect costs. He felt this should be something everyone hears together. Those universities play a big role in IR-4 and how this could be jeopardized in the future. Some felt that ornamentals should be one focus at the SPC, and that ornamental growers should be encouraged to participate. One concern is if there are discussions surrounding ornamentals without a good ornamental stakeholder representation, these discussions could be moot. The CLC recommend getting a professional facilitator to manage the meeting. Mark Robson offered Mary Nikola as an option at no charge. Recommend against small group discussion. Prefer being able to hear entire group speak. Compromise was to reduce the number of breakout groups from 12 to 3 so we are still at a manageable number. Perhaps we can have small groups in morning and mixed groups in afternoon of second day. Paul Schwartz encouraged the group to make sure the Strategic Planning Conference gives the PMC tangible results for developing a strategic plan. Jerry will revamp the agenda to include suggestions and comments from the PMC. He will distribute to the PMC for quick comment.

**Global Activities** – Jerry Baron reported that IR-4 Headquarters is moving forward to develop plans, protocol, strategies for an international trial using an active ingredient where individual country registrations/residues already exist. This pilot will help determine the feasibility of future global efforts. It will not be a GLP or regulatory study. Michael Braverman will head up this project which should span 3 years and will be funded through USDA-FAS at \$250,000 per year. The PMC made very favorable comments and commended Jerry on this effort. This could be the next step for IR-4's future.

**Public Health Pesticides**– Jerry Baron noted that IR-4 Headquarters is entering into a cooperative agreement with USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to provide regulatory support for their public health pest management initiative. ARS public health initiative involves providing new and innovative technology to be used by the Department of Defense's Deployed Warfighter Protection Program (DWFP) by identifying and/or developing newer reduced risk toxicants, repellents, and attractants to protect military personnel against insects that transmit disease. This is a 3-year program funded at \$175,000 per year for IR-4 to provide regulatory support expertise along

with a Rutgers University post doc to clear products like pyroproxyfen, spinosad and some newer chemistries. If any funds become available that the IR-4 Project as a whole can tap into, all regions must be given an opportunity to tap into these monies.

**Budget-** Jerry Baron noted that there is nothing new until election. Likely see a continuing resolution throughout the next several months.

**Farm Bill-** Jerry Baron reported he is considering drafting a proposal for seed treatment project to tap into some of the \$27 million set aside for Specialty Crops. The seed treatment project seems like a good fit for this because these monies require a 1:1 match and currently, industry is supporting the seed treatment projects underway at IR-4.

**Renaming the Biopesticide Program** – Jerry Baron noted that IR-4 has done a poor job at letting organic growers know what IR-4 is and how it can help them, therefore, we would like to rename the program to include this grower group. Suggested name change is: The IR-4 Biopesticide and Organics Support Program. Paul Schwartz questioned if this will dilute the program. Dave Soderlund commented it will enhance the program. MOTION: Paul Schwartz- Move that we accept the renaming changes as proposed by HQ. Seconded. No Discussion **Approved 7-yes, 0-no**

**National Excellence Awards** – Marion Miller made a MOTION that the PMC should serve as the selection committee for the Awards. Seconded: Paul Schwartz. Discussion: Marty will serve as chair of the selection committee. A call for nominations will be sent out from HQ soliciting nominations for the award with forms being returned by October 1, 2008. The selection committee will have a recommendation to vote on the award winner/s by December PMC meeting.

**Approved 6-yes 0-no one member absent**

**Meetings with PMC** – The group discussed the need for the PMC to meet at least once every three years with Regional Field Coordinators, Study Directors, Laboratory Directors, Quality Assurance Unit. Plans to meet: December 9, 2008 AM the PMC will meet with RFC and SD, February 26, 2009 AM the PMC will meet with LRD and QA.

**IR-4 restructuring** – MSU has reiterated its commitment to IR-4 for the laboratory space needed to accomplish IR-4 work. The current space could be renewed or they are looking at potential space on campus in a 4,000 sq. foot lab area where ½ could be wet lab. If this lab space is chosen to house IR-4 there will need to be some monies attached to resolve some air handling issues. There is a lot of discussion of the Michigan biotech lab moving as a cluster off campus. The bottom line is MSU will maintain its commitment for appropriate space for IR-4. Given this commitment from MSU, the decision as to which lab to close comes down to institutional support. The question was raised, We want to come up with \$700K to improve field sites. Is there the potential for all of us to reduce cost and apply for Canada's lab work? This brought about a good deal of discussion around keeping the lab open by working on Canadian lab trials. Ian Gardener explained the bid process and that it is a two-fold process one of standards and the other of money. Each process is graded separately and then the two are combined giving the bidder a "score". This score is then used as the selection criteria and Ian felt there could be no way that IR-4 could win all or even the majority of the proposals for Canadian work. Mike Parella stated that this would not solve the problem. There was even more discussions on ways to save a lab from closing. After further discussion, Mary Duryea stated, we voted to close a lab and we need to stick by our vote. Bob Hollingworth suggested he and Dave should leave the meeting in order to allow the others to uninhibitedly discuss which laboratory should be closed. He and Dave left the room. A vote was then taken and the Northeast Laboratory was the lab slated for closure. The closure transition will include

1. No new samples being assigned to NY lab at the 2008 NRPM
2. 2009 the lab will complete analysis of the 2008 samples

3. 2010 the lab will shut down except for LRD who will complete any outstanding sample analysis

Bob and Dave returned to the room and were informed of the vote. Dave commented his has committed to his employees support for two years after the closure date begins, which he indicated would start July '08. The 15% administration charge will still apply during this time. Dave also stated a new NE Regional Director will need to be appointed as he no longer feels he is an “effective participant in the program”. He will remain the director as long as needed to address the needs of his staff.

### **Future Meetings**

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 15-17, 2008  
Holiday Inn Capital Plaza  
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  
Pentagon City, VA

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