



2005 Annual Meeting Minutes NRSP4 (IR-4) Project

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2005 meeting on February 14th (all day) and 17th (morning) at the Doubletree Hotel in Arlington, VA as part of the IR-4 Strategic Planning Conference held at the same hotel on February 15th and 16th.

Attendees:

- Bob Hollingworth-Chair and Northcentral Region Director
- Bob Holm-Executive Director
- Mary Duryea-Southern Region Administrative Adviser
- Mike Fitzner-CSREES Representative (for Dennis Kopp/National Program Leader)
- Gary Lemme-Northcentral Region Administrative Advisor and AA Chair (February 17th)
- Rocky Lundy-Commodity Liaison Committee Chair
- Marty Marshall-Southern Region Director
- Marion Miller-Western Region Director
- Michael Parrella-Western Region Administrative Adviser
- Nancy Ragsdale-ARS Administrative Adviser
- Dan Rossi-Northeast Region Administrative Adviser
- Paul Schwartz-ARS Program Manager
- Dave Soderlund-Northeast Region Director
- Jerry Baron-Associate Director
- Dan Kunkel-Assistant Director
- Hong Chen-Crop Grouping Workgroup Chair (part-time)
- Sherrilynn Novack-Communications and Publications Coordinator
- Tammy White-Quality Assurance Manager
- Van Starner-Training Committee Chair (part-time)
- Dave Thompson-Fungicide Coordinator (part-time)

Welcome: Bob Hollingworth, Chairperson, welcomed the group to D.C. and cautioned attendees the usual day-and-a-half session was being condensed into a day due to the Strategic Planning Conference being held on 2/15 and 2/16.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the Fall PMC Meeting held October 6th and 7th, 2004 in Davis, California were approved as published on November 15, 2004.

Additional Agenda Items: Fifth International IPM Conference in April 2006 was brought up by Bob Hollingworth. Mike Fitzner noted that information has been sent out by the organizing committee, but IR-4 has not yet been contacted or involved.

Brief Updates from Administrative Advisors, PMC Members and CLC

- ◆ **Dan Rossi.** Dan expressed concern that the proposed FY 2006 budget for CSREES includes a 50% reduction in Hatch Funding to go to a 100% cut in FY 2007. This will have a direct impact on IR-4 with a 50% reduction in Regional Research Funds next year which goes to Headquarters (\$481,000). This has a much larger impact with the 32% fringe benefit overhead assumed by Rutgers University (i.e. total impact over \$630,000 in FY2007).
- ◆ **Nancy Ragsdale.** The ARS IR-4 Program budget is scheduled in FY2006 to lose the FY2002 to FY2004 add-ons which amount to \$724,563 which will have a major impact on the \$3.8 million total budget for the ARS IR-4 Program. Nancy believes that this will result in closing some of the ARS facilities. Nancy noted that a March ARS Peer Review will address some of these concerns.
- ◆ **Dave Soderlund.** Dave gave an annual update for the Northeast Region which had been submitted to the PMC earlier. Dave noted that Tom Burr had recently been appointed as the Associate Dean and Head of the Geneva Agriculture Experiment Station. Dave will meet with him in the near future to discuss the importance of IR-4 at the Geneva Station.
- ◆ **Bob Hollingworth.** Bob gave the report for the Northcentral Region that had been submitted to the PMC on January 31. He noted the NDSU lab will close down on March 31 due to increased efficiencies at the NC Region Lab by Wayne Jiang and his team. The laboratory relocations at MSU are still not finalized as yet. The Illinois Ornamental Horticulture Center is being supported again in 2005 at \$25,000. Gary Lemme, Administrative Advisor for the Northcentral Region, will be leaving MSU to accept the position of Dean of Agriculture for South Dakota State University. The Michigan legislature is looking at further cuts for the agriculture experiment station and the university system.
- ◆ **Marty Marshall.** Marty also had submitted a report to the PMC earlier. A new Kentucky State Liaison Representative will be named soon. Marty noted the region was being active in submitting Pesticide Clearance Requests and that over 50% of the PCR's submitted in 2004 were from the Southern Region. Dr. Mark Matocha is the new Texas State Liaison Representative replacing Rodney Holloway who retired last year.
- ◆ **Marion Miller.** Marion noted her earlier submitted report and emphasized 208 field trials in 2004 vs 215 in 2003. The 2005 field trials will be 231 due to add-ons and other projects. She indicated that additional help for QC review of the Field Data Notebooks was being sought. Marion stressed the activity of the State Liaison Representatives in the Western Region and highlighted the energy of this group. March 7 to 9 of 2005 will involve a GLP Training Workshop in the Region. Marion noted the CDFA funding which helped leverage the purchase of a GC/MS for the lab. There still is not a QA staff person for the laboratory in HI so the Western Region QA staff is covering this responsibility.
- ◆ **Paul Schwartz** of the ARS Team reported that the 1997 and 1998 backlogged analytical samples had been completed but that the 2002 lab samples were still being worked on. In

2005, ARS will continue to fund the Cream Ridge Ornamental Research Facility at \$50,000. Paul noted that ARS will conduct 300 Super A Ornamental Horticulture Program trials. Nancy Ragsdale discussed the ARS Peer Review on March 2nd to 4th which will be chaired by Bob Hollingworth and will include Jerry Baron, Neal Thompson, and Ray Ratto.

- ◆ Mike Fitzner represented CSREES for Dennis Kopp who had some family matters that prevented him from attending. Mike noted the Plant Science Update publication which provides recent CSREES program information. Amy Rhodes is the Outreach Coordinator and is responsible for the Update. Bill Hoffman has moved into Homeland Security responsibilities. An IPA (Jim Coatsman) has been added as an organics expert to connect better with the organic community. Dennis Kopp will move to the USDA Administrative Building as Assistant Director for Program Planning and will no longer be directly involved in IR-4 activities. A replacement has not been named for Dennis as the IR-4 National Program Leader. Mike will serve in the interim until a replacement has been named. The IPM Centers were highlighted as a success story on important projects like soybean rust, invasive species, training sessions, etc. Mike handed out the FY2006 CSREES budget proposal which includes \$10,485,000 for IR-4 vs the \$11,145,000 approved by Congress for FY 2005. Mike noted a number of Section 406 Legislative Authority programs had been reduced although the overall Department of Agriculture budget is up 1% from the FY2005 Presidents but down 12% from the actual approved budget. The earmarks/special grants are not included and amount to \$1.2 billion which would bring the USDA proposed budget to 3% above FY2005 levels if approved. The CSREES budget reflects three major priorities as follows:
 - Increase National Research Initiatives (NRI) funding by 39% (genomics, water quality, food safety, etc).
 - Redirecting formula funding to competitive programs. In FY2007, the Presidents budget would zero out Hatch Funds (\$179 million involved) and shift the dollars from extension funding.
 - Consolidated budget lines to streamline program delivery, (i.e. involves RAMP, CAR, Methyl Bromide Transition, Organic Transition, Regional IPM Centers, etc). Involves \$43 million in FY2005 budget.

Other important budget items: **1)** \$75 million for land grant university grants program; **2)** impact on IPM Centers is a concern; **3)** increase from 20% to 30% in NRI for applied research programs; **4)** removes the indirect cost cap of 20%. This could increase to 45% to 50% in some universities and could impact IR-4.

- ◆ **Rocky Lundy.** Rocky was grateful that the CLC was successful in obtaining an increase in FY2005 to \$11,145,000 which was above the Presidents asking of \$10,485,000. Rocky noted the newly constituted CLC will be meeting later in the day with new members approved at the October PMC Meeting. Rocky noted that his goal for the CLC would be to at least match the FY2005 funding level of \$11,145,000. The PMC stressed that the \$481,000 NRSP-4 funds were in extreme jeopardy of being lost which means a loss of over \$630,000 when the 32% fringe benefits Rutgers University provides are included. The total potential IR-4 program budget cuts could amount to over \$2.0 million (\$660,000/CSREES, \$630,000/RRF, and \$724,000/ARS).

- ◆ **Bob Holm.** Bob stressed the accomplishments of the 2004 program to offset the gloom of the group in discussing the FY2006 budget challenges. His report issued to PMC members and AA's along with internal regional staff on February 7th highlighted the record 1014 clearances which were a 28% increase over the previous record of 793 food use clearances in 2003. In the last 7 years, the 3967 clearances for food uses amount to nearly 48% of all the clearances in the programs 42 year history. He recognized all components of the program (Regions, ARS, and Headquarters) in making the accomplishments happen.

- ◆ Dan Kunkel. Dan reported on the following areas:
 - **2004 Work Plan.** Dan noted the 1014 new food uses obtained from 955 new chemical uses (479 with carfentrazone), 25 new biopesticide clearances, and 34 Section 18 uses.
 - **2005 PRIA Work Plan** (will no longer be the old Work Plan). IR-4 has submitted 268 petitions. The PRIA Work Plan should be posted on the EPA website soon and the Agency plans to provide IR-4 with expected 3,6 and 9 month completion dates. The following petitions are expected to be approved by 3/31/05: s-metolachlor/many uses, buprofezin/pome+stone fruit and avocado; abamectin/avocado, basil and manufacturer projects; clofentezine/persimmon, cyfluthrin/root crops, grasses and turnip tops; pymetrozine/asparagus, oxytetracycline/apple and fludioxonil/pomegranate. Many of these petitions were part of the former 2004 Work Plan. Dan believes that between the EPA, CDPR, and PMRA , IR-4 may continue its high level of clearances.
 - **Field Data Notebook Update.** Dan reviewed the 2003 and 2004 FDN's and their status by group (i.e. FRD, RFC, QA and HQ). Most of the FDN'S in 2003 are with the RFC's with only a few at the FRD's.
 - **Outstanding Analytical Summary Reports (ASR'S).** Dan indicated that all of the 2001 ASR's have been submitted while there are 46 outstanding for 2002. He stressed there are a number of outstanding 2003 ASR's that should be submitted in order to meet the 30-month completion schedule. The regional directors and Paul were requested to follow-up to determine the status of the outstanding 2003 ASR's.
 - **Research Update.** The number of field research trials in 2005 are 637 vs 612 in 2004 and 678 trials in 2003. He noted that 33 trials in 2004 and 35 trials in 2005 were paid by outside sources. Marion noted the Western Region will conduct 231 trials (vs 219 on list) bringing the total to 649 for 2005.
 - **30-Month Completion Goal.** For 2001, 51 studies were identified and 40 were submitted or 78% of the total. For 2002, 64 projects were identified and 23 should be submitted by the Summer PMC Meeting. For the 2003 projects, 58 projects have been identified with 23 having data (FDN's and ASR's) available for report writing (in preparation).

- **Procedural Changes Due to PRIA.** All petitions submitted after March 23, 2004 need to include the tolerance petition, Notice of Filing, registration application and supporting data/labels.
- **EPA Changes.** A new Minor Use Team Leader replacing Hoyt Jamerson is expected to be named soon. Dan Rosenblatt is the Minor Uses, Section 18's and Inerts Branch Chief. However, the Inerts Branch will be made a separate branch while the Risk Assessments group (ARIA) will be added to the Registration Division Minor Use Branch. Dan noted that Tina Levine is the new HED Director replacing retiring Margaret Stasikowski, and that Luis Suguiyama is coordinating the CDPR and NAFTA joint reviews.

Biopesticides Grant Program. Bob Holm presented the recommendations of the Biopesticide Grant Program Review Committee comprised of Michael Braverman/Biopesticide Manager, Bob Holm, Jerry Baron, Paul Schwartz, the Regional Field Coordinators (Edith Lurvey, Becky Sisco, Charlie Meister and Saturo Mayazaki), Jack Norton and Ely Vea. The Committee reported on the outcome of the recommendations for Early Stage (\$75,000), Advanced Stage (\$300,000 including \$25,000 from previous years) and Grant Program (\$200,000 including \$100,000 from BPPD) project recommendations. The PMC approved the recommended projects.

Strategic Planning Conference. Jerry Baron reviewed the schedule of speakers for the February 15th session and outline of the breakout session for February 16th. He noted over 125 registered attendees including a good mix of stakeholders. Dave Soderlund stressed that the PMC members should serve only as resource people during the breakout discussions.

CLC Charter. Rocky noted that two sections of the charter are not being followed as stated: **1)** Electing the Chair and **2)** Executive Committee. Rocky will discuss with the CLC during the meeting later on the 14th. The PMC was comfortable with the CLC nominating and electing their Chair.

Outside Contracting by IR-4 Labs/Marion Miller and PMC Members. Bob Hollingworth indicated that the Northcentral Region has considered obtaining grants outside the IR-4 Program. One challenge noted was the CSREES form that requires that equipment funded by CSREES for IR-4 is to only be used by IR-4. Marion indicated she felt that the equipment restriction is not reasonable because some IR-4 instrumentation and equipment has been purchased by funding from other sources. Dave noted that equipment purchased by a federal grant is the property of the university. Marion has asked for clarification from Dennis Kopp and CSREES. Marion stressed that the Western Region serves as a good model program for IR-4 by being entrepreneurial in obtaining outside funding. At U.C. Davis, two labs (IR-4 Regional and Trace Analytical) have been in operation in the Environmental Toxicology Department. Marion stressed that IR-4 greatly benefited by the merging of the two labs under Taka Shibamoto as PI (Taka was previous Western Region Director). Matt Hengel is current IR-4 Regional Lab Coordinator and Director of the Trace Analytical Laboratory. All instruments are under GLP conditions. Marion emphasized that the combined functions of the two labs has not compromised the output of IR-4. Most of the extramural funding now is coming from IR-4 Headquarters through industry solicitation. In recent years, Ann George/WA Hops Commission has provided funding to the Western Region Labs. Marion noted that separation of the IR-4 Lab

and Trace Analytical Lab (TAL) instruments would greatly reduce the productivity of both laboratories. The Canadian AAFC contract for analytical work is through the TAL and Taka Shibamoto is the PI. There is no indication that this contract will affect the Region's lab productivity. Mary indicated that IR-4 should emphasize the partnership efforts of the extramural funding rather than the potential siphoning off of resources. Mike Fitzner offered that the CSREES grants specialists may interpret the regulations differently. He indicated that the paperwork and proposals should be able to withstand audits. Marion revealed that CDFA recently audited the 2 year, \$640,000 grant to the Western Region and the region fared very well. Dave pointed out that external funding has a significant impact given the high personnel costs which account for 80% of the Northeast Regions budget.

Status of Ornamental Horticulture Program and Workshop/Jerry Baron. Jerry outlined the 2004 research activities which included 525 field trials on efficacy and crop safety which were more than anticipated with the Super A priorities in the areas of Entomology and Weed Science. Protocols need to be more detailed than in previous years to be effective. The stakeholder feedback has been positive. The crop safety (B and C Priority) projects were still a high percentage of the program. The Ornamental Research Centers in IL, CA, NJ, and NY were fully operational thanks to funding from ARS for the NJ Cream Ridge site. The number of clearances was 216 in 2004 which was down from previous years resulting from the need to develop new procedures to capture successes (i.e. new pests rather than new species). Ely Vea has been serving in the interim between Bob Herrick's departure and when Cristi Palmer will return full-time to process trial data. Cristi has been hired on a part-time basis after a thorough interview process with 31 candidates. Cristi will return from maternity leave in May. In 2005, the Super A priority projects will be the key focus and protocols have been posted on the IR-4 website. The funding guidelines will be modified from the \$2000 for efficacy trials per treatment and \$1000/treatment for phytotoxicity/crop tolerance trials to \$1000/treatment for efficacy trials. Michael Parrella observed that the mealy bug trial with 12 treatments and 4 replicates/treatment was not reasonable and should be at least 8 replicates/treatment and at a higher funded level than \$1000/treatment. The PMC noted that it is highly desirable to provide project funding accountability to registrants on IR-4 generated crop tolerance and efficacy data. The PMC desires that the Ornamental Horticulture Program funds go directly to the Regions in future years rather than going into the Headquarters budget and being subcontracted to the regions which makes it a two step process. In 2005, the PMC decided that Headquarters should distribute grants directly to the researchers. The PMC delegated to Headquarters and the Regional Field Coordinators the responsibility to set per treatment cost reimbursements.

Pilot Efficacy Project/Jerry Baron. The PMC approved funding of \$150,000 for 2005 vs \$168,000 that was requested. The Regional Field Coordinators agreed to run the pilot program under a 10% reduction for each discipline (i.e. Weed Science, Entomology and Plant Pathology). Jerry noted that some interesting new technology has surfaced, some of which will have to be dealt with under confidentiality agreements. California does not allow confidentiality agreements unless full overhead is paid. Protocols for 2005 trials are being developed and were completed for the plant pathology area on Phytophthora. The Weed Science area is well organized due to IR-4's involvement in WSSA's Herbicides for Minor Uses Committee. Headquarters will distribute the funding directly to the regions.

Crop Grouping Project/Hong Chen. Hong updated the PMC on 2004 activities and planned 2005 projects. The bulb vegetables petition has been completed and the small fruits, cereal grains and grasses and tropical fruits crop groups are planned for 2005 submission. The bulb vegetables crop grouping will increase the number of specialty crops covered from 7 to 25. Several electronic databases are under development including CODEX and EPA crop group tables, crop vocabulary, US and Canada crop distribution maps and dry matter. IR-4 Senior Management has helped in recruiting international members from Japan and Europe. Currently there are over 140 members from 13 countries who are actively involved and three EPA staffers are working full-time on the project. Medicinal crops are being added to the crop grouping reflecting the U.S.'s leading importance in global production. Hong and Dan are members of the CODEX Committee on Pesticide Registration. The WHO/FAO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) has invited Hong to become a member to provide IR-4 expertise on crop groupings and facilitate specialty crop MRL submission. Dan added that IR-4 has proposed that the EPA publish in the Federal Register each crop grouping when submitted rather than waiting until all petitions are submitted. The PMC complimented Hong on her efforts on this important strategic project.

Training Committee Report/Van Starner. Van noted the last Training Committee Meeting was held in September. The major focus is on the 2006 GLP Training Meeting in conjunction with the spring PMC Meeting. The Training Committee will meet February 14th (evening). To-date, six IR-4 Advisories have been published. The website contains GLP training opportunities. The 2006 GLP Training Meeting will focus on “*big picture*” issues rather than specific regional or local concerns. The lab group is planning a separate day on lab related issues. Van noted that only the Southern and Western Region Field Coordinators are notifying him that the Training Advisories are being sent to the FRD's. The Northcentral and Northeast Region Directors were requested to follow up with their RFC's.

Soybean Rust/Dave Thompson. Dave stressed that Asian Soybean rust was positively identified in the U.S. last fall. Dave has been part of a Soybean Rust Task Force led by Kent Smith/USDA-OPMP to address the problem along with Alan Straw/University of Tennessee to focus the issue on specialty legume crops that fall into Crop Group 6/Legume Vegetables, Crop Group 7/Foliage of Legume Vegetables and Crop Group 18/Non-Grass Animal Feeds. Most of the concern is for snap beans, lima beans and possibly dry beans. The major fungicide focus is on the triazole and strobilurin classes of chemistry that are registered or Section 18 approvals have been granted for soybeans. There is a concern about the fungicides for specialty crops because of the belief that soybean producers will purchase inventories restricting the availability for specialty legume crops. Dave has put together a matrix of fungicides and specialty crops for potential Section 18's. Dave has some concern about propiconazole (generic product) and myclobutanil availability and product support. Some of the broader spectrum products and like chlorothalonil and the EBDC fungicides are labeled for soybean rust but only provide suppression. Brian Flood has developed a pamphlet entitled “*Soybean Rust Pest Management*” which he shared with the PMC along with his beliefs about the challenge. Brian is not encouraged that the strobilurins will be a good solution without the use of triazoles. Several companies are looking at package mixes of strobilurins and triazoles (i.e. Syngenta with Quilt). Brian believes that the East coast and areas below I-40 where lima beans are grown will be in jeopardy. Brian indicated that the Midwest Food Processors Association may be able to provide

some funding for residue trials if needed. Dave's major concern is lima beans for propiconazole and trifloxystrobin. Brian noted that Del Monte would be interested in providing analytical support and Dave indicated that Syngenta and probably Bayer might consider conducting lab work. There may also be USDA funding. Headquarters will investigate industry funding sources to add lima beans to the 2005 field program where propiconazole is being run on snap beans. Dave will investigate costs and propose to Headquarters management possible field trial implementation this summer.

Industry Funding and Relationships/Bob Holm. Bob reported that IR-4 Headquarters had kept good records on crop protection industry and commodity group contributions to IR-4 Headquarters over the years with excellent records since 1990. Since then, the crop protection industry has contributed \$8,462,919 and commodity groups have given \$630,878. Over half of the commodity group funding came in the 1996 to 2004 period while 75% of the industry funding has come since 2000 when a concerted effort has been made by Headquarters to raise funding support from companies. Bob had requested that the regions provide their industry and commodity group funding sources and amounts shortly before the meeting and only the Western and Southern Regions had time to respond. Bob will provide a consolidated Headquarters and Regional report at the Summer PMC Meeting with inputs from the Northcentral and Northeast regions.

IPM Center Report/Rick Melnicoe. Rick represents the IPM Centers as their IR-4 liaison. He noted the participation by IR-4 in IPM Center Advisory Committees and participation in Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) Workshops. IR-4 has allocated 5 PMSP priorities as A priority projects. The IPM Centers funding of efficacy work on onion thrips led to an A Priority at the Food Use Workshop last fall. There are now 88 PMSP's on the IPM Centers web site with 20 PMSP's completed and posted since last February. The Centers have completed 19 Crop Timelines to help the EPA pinpoint more detailed worker exposure issues. Rick noted the IPM Center Newsletters and other information updates. Pest Alerts have been written for Emerald Ash Borer, Asian ladybeetle, Soybean Aphid, Soybean Rust, Sudden Oak Death and West Nile Virus. Information about each IPM Center and links can be found at <http://www.ipmcenters.org>.

Outreach Program Activities/Sherrilynn Novack. Sherrilynn highlighted a new report entitled "*Year in Review 2004*" which is a glossy 4-page (8-sided) publication which condenses the 2004 Annual Report into a more readable format. Mary suggested it should be sent to each Agriculture Experiment Station Director. Sherrilynn prepared a packet for each CLC member which included the Year in Review, January Newsletter, State Report Cards, An Ornamental Brochure, etc. for them to use for key legislative contacts.

QA Issues/Cost and Comparative Workloads across Regions/Tammy White. Tammy provided an update on EPA inspections since last October resulting in a total of 10 inspections in 2004. A University of California/Parlier inspection was postponed due to the EPA inspector's unavailability. The QAU held a meeting in conjunction with the October National Research Planning Meeting to review QA SOP's and begin the revision process. The next QA Planning Meeting will be held March 15th and 16th, 2005 at the University of California, Davis where 2005 QA assignments will be finalized as well as SOP's and checklist updates will be reviewed. Tammy provided an analysis of QA resource utilization by region with a breakdown for 2003

and 2004 inspections, regional budget breakdowns and job duties and resources by region as percent of time allocated. There were 91 final report audits in 2003 and 62 in 2004. The QAU is currently up-to-date on final reports. QA costs were \$1,132,225 in 2004 or 9.8% of the total food use program budget and are \$1,206,622 or 9.1% of the 2005 food use budget. Tammy has a goal of 13 to 15 final reports/region and 30 at Headquarters per year for a total of 85 to 90 final reports annually. Another goal is 100 FDB's per region. The final conclusion was to continue to work with QA consultants where costs are flexible and IR-4 only has to pay for services that are used rather than fixed expenses of hiring additional permanent QA staff. The PMC thanked Tammy for the excellent detailed analysis of the entire QA program. The PMC requested that Tammy provide an annual update on comparative QA costs and workload distribution by activity. Tammy will share the summary output tables with the QA Group at the March QA Meeting.

Dow Foundation Equipment Funding. Bob Holm reported that Dow AgroSciences requests for IR-4 funding from the Dow Foundation were unsuccessful. However, Dow AgroSciences recently notified Bob that laboratory instruments and supplies will be made available to IR-4 as a result of the closing of some of their laboratories due to consolidation. Bob will provide the Regional Directors with a list of the equipment and supplies available as soon as it is received so the Directors can start to determine their individual lab interests and needs.

Future Meetings. Jerry Baron discussed the following upcoming meetings:

- Summer PMC Meeting - July 12 and 13, 2005 at the Wyndam Hotel in Burlington, VT
- IR-4 Food Use Workshop – September 13 to 15, 2005 at the Marriott Hotel in San Diego, CA
- IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop – October 10 to 12, 2005 in Charleston, SC
- Fall PMC Meeting – October 12 and 13, 2005 in Charleston, SC
- National Research Planning Meeting – November 2 and 3, 2005 at IR-4 Headquarters in North Brunswick, NJ

CLC/Rocky Lundy. Rocky noted that the CLC has some morale issues with the Program. There is a feeling that the use of the CLC is mainly to raise funding and not for program inputs. The sore spots are efficacy trials and biopesticides. The efficacy program has moved from efficacy to support additional labeled uses for products with tolerances to a pre-PCR program. It was proposed that the CLC should participate more directly in PMC Meetings to discuss the CLC issues rather than at the social gathering that was held this year. The suggestion was for between one to two hours at the end of the day of the separate PMC and CLC Meetings. Some CLC members believed that the CLC should have a voting role on the PMC. Rocky indicated that he planned to appoint some members to an Executive Committee (the CLC Charter approves up to 8) to provide more effective interface between the CLC and PMC. Rocky brought up the issue of how the PMC would respond with the worst case scenario of a \$2 million budget cut. The initial response was that the pilot efficacy program would be dropped. CLC charter changes were discussed. One issue was removal of a CLC member sometime during their 4-year term if a member was not active. The CLC would also like to revise the appointments and

election section to the CLC charter. The PMC recommended that the CLC review their charter and present the revisions to the PMC at the Summer PMC meeting. Rocky indicated that the political atmosphere in D.C is vicious. Some major contacts have been lost due to the reelection process. Rocky noted that Doc Hastings, a congressman from WA, may be a new champion for the IR-4 budget. Rocky indicated he was considering returning to D.C. later this spring to make congressional contacts and possibly hold a briefing luncheon.

Follow-Up to Strategic Planning Conference. The PMC met on February 17th after the Conference to discuss follow-up strategies. It was felt that the Strategic Planning document was mainly to influence the administration of ARS and CSREES and should focus on major program initiatives and budget considerations. The document will cover the period of 2006 to 2008 (rather than a 5 year period) to coincide with the next NRSP-4 review period (2003 to 2008). The budget influence of the document at the ARS and CSREES Administration level would not be until the FY 2008 budget year. Jerry Baron volunteered to write the first document draft by March 31st. The following sections were proposed: *1)* Program overview, successes and comments from the NRSP-4 review; *2)* Future challenges and needs; *3)* Priorities and action items and *4)* Budget justifications. The PMC decided to use the Summer PMC Meeting as the key time to discuss and debate the outcomes from the Strategic Planning Conference which were summarized by Jerry as handouts to the PMC. The target for a final revision would be the Fall PMC Meeting.

The PMC endorsed the Aquatic Herbicide Working Group Proposal that had previously been agreed to by the PMC at the Fall 2004 PMC Meeting with the contingency of the support by the Strategic Planning Conference. The Strategic Planning Conferences endorsed the proposal in their recommendations with the restriction to only work in areas that are used in agriculture. The PMC reinforced their support for the Aquatic Herbicide Program and the Aquatic Herbicide Working Group efforts. The next steps will be for the Working Group to secure source (s) for funding to get the program initiated.

Other items discussed were international harmonization initiatives and communications (especially the web site and making it more user friendly to the general public). Sherrilynn suggested that IR-4 hire an agency to provide professional web site revision. She will investigate this opportunity and bring a proposal to the Summer PMC Meeting. Sherrilynn will be also investigating the charge from Goggle to place the Headquarters website at the top of the IR-4 search list. Gary Lemme volunteered the support from the Michigan State University Experiment Station Marketing Expert to help Sherrilynn with the communications and outreach activities.