



November 2013 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC members

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack, Van Starner

DATE: January 28, 2014

SUBJECT: Fall 2013 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

Please find attached the fall 2013 PMC Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions November 5-6, 2013

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.

November 2013 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its fall 2013 meeting on November 5-6, 2013, in conjunction with the National Research Planning and All Hands meetings on the campus of U.C. Davis in Davis, California. Many participated via conference call.

- North Central Region - Programs doing well; John Wise will take over as Director July 1, 2014 as Bob Hollingworth retires
- Northeast Region
 - Lost some stored residues samples when freezer power was lost at the NY field site
 - Cornell administration questioning “No Indirect Costs” provision of IR-4 grant. NE Region will need a waiver from Cornell to allow his grant to go through
- Southern Region – Operations are running well with the following exceptions
 - Lost a temperature monitoring device at the Homestead, FL Field Center; raw data lost
 - Lori Gregg leaving as FRD in TX.
- Western Region - reported field and lab and QA are running well.
- ARS – Government shutdown in October caused the loss of 2 E/CS and 6 residue trials. Very concerned about budget and another shutdown
- AAs –nothing to report
- NIFA –
 - RFA to be released in mid-November,
 - NIFA is working on REEPorts issues,
 - Monte Johnson will retire at end of December.
- HQ –
 - Johannes Corley is resigning to take a job with WHO; leaving in December,
 - Carolyn Jolly relocated to Washington State; will remain part of IR-4 as an “Off -Site” Study Director.
 - HQ hired Diane D’Angelo full time,
 - Roger Batts will be brought into HQ to be a study director using 50% of his time.
 - HQ will sublet the annex office space in February 2014.
- CLC – would like to see if IR-4 could be written into Farm Bill
- Food Program
 - Running well with anticipated new use numbers to match 2012 at ~1,000.
 - Timelines were impacted by the need to repeat trials resulting from another freezer failure and the government shutdown
 - The number of studies completed and waiting for submission to EPA continues to grow due to the need for submission documents from registrants.
 - The FUW was attended by many more growers this year
 - 2014 Food Use Workshop will include part of a day for Biopesticide priority setting
 - New eQA technology has been launched and is being well received
- Ornamental Horticulture Program
 - Numbers will be down
 - APHIS invasive grants are winding down,
 - Ornamental Workshop was well attended
- Public Health – Potential DoD budget cuts may reduce program funds by up to 20%
- Communication – Gathering much data from Strategic Planning survey, draft to be completed by spring PMC meeting
- ACAC – backlog of labs completion of ASRs is down to a “steady state”
- IR-4 Training and Education Committee – to write an advisory (which becomes IR-4 policy) to address lab and field site freezer issues

- PRA waiver – need a justification when working on crops greater than 300,000 acres; anything under threshold will not need a justification
- David Soderlund agreed to continue to chair the PMC
- Mary Duryea was re-elected as Administrative Advisor chair

Motions and Action Items

MOTION: Accept minutes of the spring 2013 PMC meeting. Approved

MOTION: To add a Biopesticide Workshop to the FUW. Approved

MOTION: To approve the revised Lab Guidance Document. Approved

MOTION: The PMC charges the training committee to draft an advisory on freezer security. Approved with one negative vote

ACTION ITEM: Develop formal guidelines for field researchers and sites about their frozen sample storage

ACTION ITEM: SOR send timelines regarding the deferred trials in TX to Debbie Carpenter

ACTION ITEM: Jerry Baron to have a conversation with MSU Center for Economic Analysis to see if they can put together a study on the negative impacts of having a reduced or flat budget on crops and pesticide use.

ACTION ITEM: Post the revised Lab Guidance Document to the Web.

ACTION ITEM: Matt Hengel to check with EPA and see if storing standards at their site is an option

ACTION ITEM: Jerry Baron to contact Rutgers General Counsel seeking direction on a Data Release Policy.

ACTION ITEM: Send out an outline for Strategic Plan as soon as comments are put together.

ACTION ITEM: Have Strategic Plan Draft for spring PMC



November 2013 PMC - Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its fall 2013 meeting November 5-6, on the campus of U. C. Davis, hosted by the IR-4 Western Regional office personnel and via conference call for those who couldn't make the trip. Many thanks to the Western Region for making all the meeting arrangements and serving as gracious hosts,

Attendees:

- Tammy Barkalow—Assistant Director, QAU, IR-4 HQ
- Jerry Baron* — Executive Director IR-4 Project, IR-4 HQ
- Rich Bonanno* - Commodity Liaison Committee Chair
- Michael Braverman – IR-4 Biopesticide & Organic Support Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Doug Buhler – North Central Region Administrative Advisor
- Debbie Carpenter - Assistant Director, Registrations, IR-4 HQ
- Mary Delany – Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Mary Duryea – Southern Region Administrative Advisor
- Matt Hengel—Western Region Laboratory Director (part time, for R. Tjeerdema)
- Bob Hollingworth* - North Central Region Director
- Monte Johnson - NIFA National Program Leader, (via conference call)
- Dan Kunkel - Associate Director, Food & International Programs, IR-4 HQ
- Karl Malamud-Roam - Public Health Pesticides Program Manager, IR-4 HQ, (via conference call)
- Marty Marshall* - Southern Region Director
- Sherrilynn Novack – Public Relations & Communications Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Cristi Palmer – Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Paul Schwartz* - ARS Regional Director, (via conference call)
- Dave Soderlund* - Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
- Van Starner - Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach, IR-4 HQ
- Ron Tjeerdema* - Western Region Director

*Voting members

Tuesday, Nov. 5th:

MOTION: Accept minutes of the summer 2013 PMC meeting. Approved

Brief updates AAs, NIFA, PMC members and CLC.

NCR

D. Buhler reported that Bob Hollingworth will be phasing out of the Regional Director position. John Wise will assume the NCR Director position effective July 2014. Bob and John will both attend the March meeting. On behalf of MSU and the NCR, Doug gave thanks to Bob for his many years of service

to IR-4 and NCR. Bob reported that everything is proceeding smoothly, about 125 sample analyses; have solved anthraquinone analyses issues, and haven't had any major personnel changes.

Northeastern Region

NER field program – The early season was tricky, but everything was planted. Five sample sets were lost due to a freezer failure at the Cornell field site. The NE Region held a State Liaison Representative meeting in Albany in August. NE Region has not had a regional meeting in many years. The general consensus by meeting participants is to have more meetings, as they serve as a good way to stay in touch.

Michele Humiston joined the QAU in the beginning of May, and has been to IR-4 HQ four times for training. Barbara Anderson provided help with field audits. Michele and Barbara have been trying to complete the closure of the analytical program at the Cornell lab, so that a closure letter can be sent to EPA. Three reference standards will need to be retained and will need to be transferred to another lab (likely the SOR lab in Gainesville).

D. Soderlund reported that his grant was blocked and he had to get a waiver to submit the grant as Cornell will not support if there are no indirect costs. He will try to ask for a permanent waiver. He was concerned that they have no one, such as an administrative advisor to champion IR-4 at Cornell. The SOR and WER have to pay a tax on their grant. Since HQ and NCR pay their own rent, there is less pressure from their host universities.

Southern Region

The Southern Region is running pretty smooth with two exceptions. One of their freezers at the Homestead Field Center inadvertently discarded the temperature data logging system when the freezer was replaced; losing raw data. ***ACTION ITEM: HQ to coordinate the development of formal guidelines for field and laboratory researchers about their freezer storage, temperature monitoring and emergency backup/notification systems.***

Lori Gregg is resigning from her FRD role at the Weslaco, TX Field Research Center. The Center Director attended the SOR regional meeting and he was supportive of IR-4 and continuing to host an IR-4 Field Research Center. Their first attempt in hiring a new FRD was unsuccessful as the person they selected already took another job. The TX site will likely miss the spring planting and defer research to the fall. ***ACTION ITEM: SOR needs to send timelines regarding the deferred trials in TX to Debbie Carpenter***

Western Region (report in meeting materials)

The region is on target this year, with just a few trial and funding issues. QA is now functioning with Martin and Sherita; Jim McFarland retired last summer. The regional lab has freezers in two locations. UC Davis Building Facilities has offered to provide most of the funding for upgrading the freezers. HQ and the Western Region will provide remaining funds to replace the freezers. Becky, Mika and Matt were recognized for making all the arrangements for the meeting

ARS (report in meeting materials)

No personnel changes. The budget cuts are concerning everyone. ARS was forced to participate in the Government shutdown and most employees were furloughed. The shutdown resulted in the loss of two E/CS trials and 6 residue trials. No lab work was lost due to the shutdown. Funding cuts in the Pacific West Area continue to be a major concern. All travel has been severely restricted. ARS provided some temporary funding to HQ, and tried to make up part of the difference that was lost in the Pacific West Area. In spite of the funding cuts, the people in the west seem to be able to continue IR-4 work. ARS cannot make any further commitments of passing on temporary funding to HQ or the Pacific West Area.

ARS has terminated its agreement with Univ. of MD that has supported Ed Beste/Ray Frank since 2005, which resulted in completion of 415 ornamental trials.

Commodity Liaison Committee

R. Bonanno sent out an email to the CLC members about funding cuts in the ARS's Pacific West Area. IR-4 having a permanent presence in the farm bill.

NIFA

M. Johnson indicated the RFA for 2014 funding is expected to be released by the middle of November. Monte informed the PMC of his retirement at the end of December. NIFA is working on fixing the REEPorts computer system.

HQ

J. Baron expressed some concern about succession planning at IR-4 HQ. Few opportunities to bring on future leaders, as funds are tight and limited new hires. Johannes Corley is leaving IR-4 late December to run a WHO laboratory in Austria. Carolyn Jolly has moved to Seattle; she will be transiting into an off-site Study Director. Roger Batts, NC State FRD, will be helping IR-4 HQ as a part-time (50%) off-site Study Director. His field responsibilities will be reduced a corresponding percentage. This should help with the excess capacity in Region 2.

Other points:

- Public health grant has potential to be cut by 20%, if suggested DoD cuts are instituted.
- HQ has an offer to sublet the annex office space starting in Feb., 2014.
- Have many expiring grants in FAS and APHIS coming up shortly.
- 50 year anniversary celebration is coming to an end. The 50 year history publication is nearing completion.
- Strategic planning survey has been on the front burner and has received nearly 500 responses.
- There has been a push to get the language in the Farm Bill, to expand from *minor use* to *specialty crops*, and to get international language put in the conference committee. This would be a reauthorization of IR-4.
- Baron attended the Ag Experiment Station Directors meeting in Columbus OH and made a well-received presentation about IR-4.

Food Program

D. Kunkel reported that IR-4 has over 600 tolerances to date, and he thinks 10 more AIs will be completed this year, including etofenprox -Total is expected to be 30 chemicals with around 1000 new uses. Thus far in 2013, submissions for 17 AIs have been made.

D. Carpenter reported that timelines have been impacted by things beyond IR-4 control such as the government shutdown, resulting in a few trials needing to be redone due to FRDs being unable to work at critical timepoints in the study. In addition, there was also another freezer failure, and some completed trials will need to be repeated as the samples thawed. Freezer failures occur, and the key is to detect a freezer problem before the samples thaw. When a problem is not detected, it delays the study, costs time and money, and affects IR-4s credibility with registrants and growers. This item has been discussed by the PMC as a result of past freezer failures, with the request for all to look at their own freezer operations. As a result of this freezer failure the PMC has charged the training committee with drafting an advisory documenting what systems need to be in place for each freezer storing GLP samples.

MOTION: The PMC charges the training committee to draft an advisory on freezer security. Approved with one dissenting vote

The Lab backlog is being successfully addressed and when problems arise, they are discussed through the ACAC Committee. There are fewer studies at contract labs, and being written by contract writers. This provides a cost savings to IR-4.

One item of growing concern is the number of studies completed and awaiting submission documents from the registrants. At the previous meeting in July, 2013, this number was 79 studies, and it has now grown to 100 studies. This represents work that has been completed by IR-4, but is not yet submitted to EPA for regulatory action. For these studies, IR-4 believes submission documents will be received and delays are due to such things as registrant manpower, IR-4 not completing a study in time to go in with a “first submission”, and the registrant’s request to bundle studies for submission and submit all crops for a given active at the same time. In addition to these 100 studies, there are 34 additional studies which have been completed but which there is no longer a path forward for submission because of regulatory concerns. These are listed as TBD, as IR-4 hopes to submit these sometime in the future when current regulatory concerns have been addressed by the registrant. .

Crop grouping update - comparing NAFTA and Codex crop groups, fruit types have been codified in the regulations. Vegetable types are the next large group of crops to be processed through Codex.

Crop group revision proposals first go through NAFTA review (Canada and US) and then Codex; only have 4 more crop group revision submissions to make to EPA.

The number of field trials has been reduced from 652 in 2005 to 525 for 2013 with about 500 total trials for 2014. This reduction in trials is due to budget cuts and increasing expenses due to more complicated trials. It was suggested that a study be performed on the impact of the cuts on crops and pesticide use.

ACTION ITEM: HQ a conversation with MSU Center for Economic Analysis to see if they can put together a study on the negative impacts of having a reduced or flat budget on crops and pesticide use.

Kudos were given to the ACAC group for working off the significant backlog of sample analyses in the IR-4 labs, and for the continued improvement in communications between the labs and helping each other as appropriate.

QA

T. Barkalow reported there have been 9 EPA audits of IR-4 sites in 2013. Three of these audits have been closed. Waiting on closure letters for University of HI, Rutgers and NM. The QAU was notified of potential audits of University of MD and another one at Ohio State with Casey Hoy, but that site was decommissioned in 2007, and that will bring the total to 11.

eQA – Tammy is invited to talk at NAICC about implementation of the new eQA system. The implementation of the system has gone very well.

Diane D’Angelo has become a full-time permanent QAU employee effective Aug 20. HQ is not replacing B. Patel. J. Forder is providing some QA assistance for the SOR.

Ornamental Horticulture Program

C. Palmer requested the Ornamental Horticulture Program be included into whatever economic analysis is done. She gave an update on her numbers and crops impacted by IR-4 research. Gladiolus Rust project is winding down. Chrysanthemum White Rust project is still active but not suggesting a 2014 allotment. Boxwood Blight was a successful collaboration with very active researchers. Future activities include

refining fungicide application timing based on epidemiological factors and continued screening for host plant tolerance. IDM was also a successful collaboration. Future activities include further studying fungicide timing and longevity, variability in isolates which could lead to faster resistance development. Cristi is continuing to be invited to speak at various meetings.

Biopesticide and Organic Support

M. Braverman, provided updates on projects and the grant program. Deadline for 2014 proposals has been extended to Dec 9th due to the government shutdown. Funding for 2013 program is still being processed and this presents a hardship to the researchers who put the money out and don't receive compensation for a year later.

Michael would like to add a biopesticide component to the FUW and select priorities there. This could change competitiveness of the program. Adding Biopesticides to FUW provides the opportunity to have industry input. IR-4 might consider a hybrid approach such as declaring the needs and then put out the call for proposals. ***MOTION: To add a Biopesticide Workshop to the FUW. Approved***

Public Health

K. Malamud-Roam discussed the impact of the 20% reduction in the grant. Had some unspent money that was rolled over, and will retain the research assistant until the end of her term. IR-4 will finish the current etofenprox study, but won't start anything new this year. Have some travel money, and looking at options for additional funding. Working closely with EPA, and the all crops etofenprox tolerance will be issued by Thanksgiving. Looking at cumulative residues after multiple applications over the entire spray season. The Western Region provided much assistance to this project.

New approaches for public health pesticides for deltamethrin, and new approaches to old products. Major turnover in public health pesticides; resmethrin is on the way out, and there is strong desire to bring in newer products. Chlorpyrifos – has a niche and requires some extraordinary negotiations.

International Activities

D. Kunkel reported that the Global Minor Use Summit steering committee was charged to develop a white paper to support import MRLs - hope to finish the paper by early 2014. Also, the committee would like to establish a global database to identify needs, and see what work is being done. Filling in some of the gaps which happened when IR-4 did data extrapolations. Planning a global Workshop in 2015.

Funding sources for global IR-4 work were also identified.

Issues in 2013 – trial differentiation and cutting the samples. Trying to increase the amount of dialog with JMPR and Codex. Partnership with Canada is still excellent.

Communications

S. Novack reported the 50th anniversary marketing campaign still continues with poster presentations. Most of her focus has been the strategic planning survey. The survey is presenting a lot of good data. The process of the survey is working out very well with almost 500 responses.

Other updates

ACAC Committee Update/Laboratory

M. Hengel reported, the ACAC has shifted its thinking from regional to programmatic. They have knocked the backlog down, and have almost reached a steady state. Next year Matt can remove Hawaii from the list since it is shutting down IR-4 work.

Equipment is getting old and the newer machines can analyze samples much quicker and cleaner. Need to build equipment costs into budgets as a recurring cost. A lease is \$60-80K each year for 5 years. At the end of the 5 years the center owns the machine. If a service contract is included the cost is closer to \$80K. J. Baron was contacted by a company asking if there was a “wish list” for equipment as they were able to provide some additional funds at year end. The Western Region was able to use the additional funds. It was suggested all the analytical labs maintain a “wish list”, and that the strategic plan include a focus on equipment upgrades and/or replacements.

Dave Soderlund reported to the PMC on the great work the ACAC is doing.

Lab guidance document revisions

The ACAC committee updated the Lab Guidance Document. The directors reviewed the document and the committee submitted the document for PMC approval to begin using it. ***MOTION: To approve the revised Lab Guidance Document. Approved - ACTION ITEM: Post the revised Lab Guidance Document to the Web.***

The ACAC Committee would like direction on developing a policy on writing SOPs for standards. The labs are satisfied that reference standard retained samples are being stored in compliance with GLPs. There is some space in the EPA Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at Ft Meade for about 8 standards. ***ACTION ITEM: Matt to check with EPA (Paul Golden at Ft. Meade) and see if storing additional standards at that site is an option***

Review of 2013 Food/Ornamental Workshops & Priority Setting Process

Both workshops were well attended. V. Starner reported there were more growers at the FUW than had been attending in recent years. For the 2014 food program: approved was 2.15 million for field research, with 1.9525 for residue with about 80 ARS and 40 Canadian trials, and about \$200K for E/CS; or \$150k for E/CS and \$50K for difficult trial extra funds.

Have 58 Red A trials, one is an international Red A the other 57 are for a variety of reasons. There will most likely not be room for “B” priorities. Pete Caulkins, who coordinates the IR-4 PRIA Exemption at EPA was as able to witness that the priority setting process at the workshop is grower, not company driven.

Exploring hotel venues for Atlanta for 2014 FUW, probably Sept 9, 10th or the 16th, 17th; the 2014 NRPM is tentatively scheduled for Oct 28-30 at HQ.

Ornamental Horticulture Workshop

C. Palmer reported the Workshop was successful due to the increased involvement of Becky/Mika, Edie and Michelle, who lead sessions.

There was also a successful tour prior to the workshop and IR-4 received many positive comments on touring the APHIS inspection station. The NCR was not well represented and requested having teleconference availability at future workshops.

PRIA Waiver/IR-4 Public Interest Finding

EPA is changing how they determine if an IR-4 petition should be granted a PRIA Waiver because it is in the public interest. Originally it was just a matter of if IR-4 did the work it was in the public interest. The next version became very restrictive, limiting IR-4 to the >300,000 acres definition of minor crops. Now,

it is somewhere in between, if there are less than 300,000 acres then it is OK and if the crop is grown on more than 300,000 there must be a justification.

EPA has asked that IR-4 submit a listing of projects for 2014 and why IR-4 believes each project is in the public interest. They will review and then “engrave it in stone” so that as people change, there will be a written record that they approved. This will help prevent IR-4 from spending resources and then have submissions rejected.

National IPM Meeting

The meeting occurred during the government shutdown. Keith Dorschner attended the meeting. It was scaled back, and there was not much to report.

Meeting with ARS Pacific West Area Director

J. Baron, D. Soderlund and R. Bonanno met with ARS’s Pacific West Area Director, Andy Hammond prior to this PMC meeting. The intention was to voice concern about disproportional funding cuts to IR-4 operations in the Western Region ARS field and lab facilities (Salinas and Wapato). Bonanno communicated to Hammond about the importance of the ARS sites to the specialty crop industry.

Hammond stated that IR-4 is not part of the core mission of ARS allowing him to make larger cuts to ARS IR-4 work than to other programs in the region. It is unclear if ARS will be able to make lease payments on the Wapato lab LC/MS/MS equipment in June.

Policy on release of data

IR-4 has been approached about releasing its data from an oyster trial. There is no formal policy, but in general, once a use is registered, IR-4 will provide the data to interested parties if the domestic growers have full access to the use. The PMC felt HQ should submit the request to the Rutgers General Counsel for their opinion. ***ACTION ITEM: Baron to share with Rutgers General Counsel and let them provide direction on a DRAFT Data Release Policy.***

Budgeting

IR-4 should plan for the numbers that they had in 2013. No change for ornamentals, and biopesticides. President’s budget includes IR-4 at 12 million. We’ll ask for the maximum amount allowed in the RFA. Regions also will put in for the amount in RFA.

Wednesday, Nov. 6th:

Response to Sonny Ramaswamy’s vision

PMC advises no response be given at this time.

Strategic Planning Direction/Future Outlook of IR-4

D. Soderlund commented that despite support for resistance management it is not our core competency. The reason for this area of interest is that there are so few tools for minor crops. Public Health program is investing in resistance management due to the few tools they have available. Justification for investing in resistance management is in areas where there are limited tools. D. Kunkel commented that resistance and pollinators may push the budget in the future.

IR-4 does have people at sites that can do efficacy and do it now. M. Duryea suggested exploring those people doing applied and basic research on “emerging pests” efficacy.

There is concern about the next generation and finding people to do IR-4 research. The SOR is not as concerned because they have younger people doing applied research, however the other regions and HQ do share the concern. Since most extension educators are being asked to do applied research, IR-4 should reach out to those researchers who have good training at a Master's Degree research level, in order to create a pool of people.

The strategic plan needs to include the cost of equipment. If IR-4 can plan on replacing older equipment with newer versions, the analysis will not take as long and studies could be moved along quicker. The lag time for registrations is a complaint coming from many taking the strategic planning survey. The strategic planning survey is also trending that the biopesticide program needs expanding.

S. Novack commented that the 4H network is a group IR-4 hasn't tapped. Perhaps there is a simple message we can put on a loop for SLR to take with them to grower meetings. A message that talks about what IR-4 has done for you; or more technical, like IR-4 is integrating biopesticides with conventional chemistry.

The strategic plan should discuss the shift in IR-4's focus to stay relevant by addressing emerging needs, and emphasize IR-4's responsiveness to these new drivers that are important now and in the near future that weren't evident 5 years ago.

A draft strategic plan will be ready for the March PMC meeting. ***ACTION ITEM: Send out an outline as soon as comments are put together and have Strategic Planning Draft for Spring PMC***

Upcoming Meetings

Review of alternative meetings format/additional time & savings opportunities
Most found the virtual PMC meetings to be difficult to work with. Perhaps there is better technology but right now it is hard to hear and some conversations are much better being discussed in person.

PMC meeting March 4-5 Tuesday a.m. is CLC, p.m. is PMC and CLC
Wednesday - PMC, and go home late Wednesday night or Thursday morning.
The AA's may have a conflict with the CARET meetings

FUW – 9/9-10 or 9/16-17; Dave is going to San Fran for IUPAC on August 10-14. This is with the Agro Division of ACS. They are integrated.

PMC Chair election – D. Soderlund will be chair; Re-elected - Mary Duryea as AA Chair; there was no Executive Session