



**October 2014 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes**

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC members

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack

DATE: February 6, 2015

SUBJECT: Fall 2014 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

Please find attached the fall 2014 PMC Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions October 29-30, 2014.

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

## October 2014 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its fall 2014 meeting on October 29-30, 2014, in Princeton, NJ

**AA**—Ron Tjeerdema has taken a position in the UCD Dean office. The APLU Board of Advisors is doing a “Futuring” exercise to review their structural issues and hiring goals for the next 20 years. Many Directors will be retiring soon.

**NIFA** – Parag Chitnis has been named Deputy Director of the Institute of Food Production and Sustainability replacing Deborah Sheeley. A 2-year RFA should be issued first week of November with February 14 deadline - assume near level funding. New NIFA Strategic Plan addresses processes within the agency

**Indirect Costs** — exploring options to allow IR-4 to pay host institutions some indirect costs. Options include: 1) Congressional approved change in authorization language; 2) close examination of existing authorization language; 3) making IR-4 a cooperative agreement. Huge danger if full indirect is allowed without a corresponding budget bump to offset payment.

**NRSP Renewal** –This one will be scaled down plan in lieu of a much more substantial review in 2 years. IR-4 should address ESCOP Grand Challenges in the renewal document.

**CLC** – Bee health is on the radar with bans on neonicotinoids and label changes most likely coming down the pike.

**North Central Region** – Even though trials have been reduced, the workload has not declined. They are working on a website to strengthen their outreach and communication efforts.

**Northeast Region** – E. Lurvey is spending a lot of time in South America. NE region will move from Cornell to Rutgers in December 2015, with D. Rossi as Director. M. Ross is shadowing E. Lurvey, to assume Regional Field Coordinator duties for NER. Only Field Research Center in Region 1 is Ithaca. If needed, CN-PMC may be able to help.

**Southern Region** – Hired FRD for Texas. Need to hire in Homestead. There will be a field/QA training held in March in FL.

**Western Region** - Some centers are transitioning due to retirements. Director Tjeerdema has become a Dean, so transition to new Regional Director is in progress

**HQ** – J. Baron is concerned by the lack of new chemistries and reduced field trials; cannot justify hiring new study director with chemistry background; will need to rely on regional chemists more. Concerns on the decreasing numbers of residue trials. There has been an increasing number requests for Biopesticides and efficacy/crop safety work; IR-4 will have to take stock on allocating funds to these programs.

**ARS** – Can no longer do ornamental studies in Prosser. All Prosser funds have been moved to Wapato, which will strengthen the residue studies there.

**Canada** –M. Sethi is very pleased with the relationship with IR-4. They have a MOU with a 5 year Action plan to help China develop a minor use program.

**Ornamental Horticulture Program** – Cristi Palmer is coordinating a pollinator forum in December 2015.

**Communication** – Editorial calendar has been created. Website will be redesigned - obtaining bids from designers

**ACAC** – Backlog at the labs is steady.

**IR-4 Education and Training Committee** – Working with NAICC to hold IR-4 National Education Conf. in 2016 at the same venue and week in Jan. in Orlando.

### **Motions and Action Items**

**MOTION:** Accept minutes of the summer 2014 PMC meeting. Approved

**ACTION ITEM:** Prepare a one-page version of the Vision 2020 to take to the Hill in March 2015.

**ACTION ITEM:** Look at estimated cost of in-life audits for 2015 season. Adjust transition funds for ACDS bills. Send Dave email of what is involved in QA processes so that he can justify budgeting for extra work.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave, Jerry, Dan R. need to have a conference call on strategy to develop a list of monies needed to have it informally reviewed by Rob and made into a one-time ask of Awards Management for the funds to go to Rutgers

**ACTION ITEM:** Look at past E/CS to determine if IR-4 work in this area led to registrations



## October 2014 PMC - Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its fall 2014 meeting on October 29-30, 2014 in Princeton, NJ at IR-4 Headquarters

### Attendees:

- Tammy Barkalow—Assistant Director, QAU, IR-4 HQ
- Jerry Baron\* — Executive Director IR-4 Project, IR-4 HQ
- Rich Bonanno\* – Chair, Commodity Liaison Committee
- Michael Braverman — IR-4 Biopesticide & Organic Support Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Doug Buhler — North Central Region Administrative Advisor (via conf call)
- Debbie Carpenter — Assistant Director, Registrations, IR-4 HQ
- Mary Delany – Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Mary Duryea — Southern Region Administrative Advisor
- Rob Hedberg — NIFA National Program Leader
- Matt Hengel\*—Western Region Representative
- Dan Kunkel — Associate Director, Food & International Programs, IR-4 HQ
- Karl Malamud-Roam — Public Health Pesticides Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Marty Marshall\* — Southern Region Director
- Sherrilynn Novack — Public Relations & Communications Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Cristi Palmer — Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Dan Rossi — Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
- Paul Schwartz\* — ARS Regional Director
- Manjeet Sethi—Canadian Pest Management Center
- Dave Soderlund\* — Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
- Van Starnier — Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach, IR-4 HQ
- John Wise\* — North Central Region Director

\* Voting members

Minutes from the Summer 2014 PMC meeting. **MOTION:** to Approve - Approved

### Canada:

- M. Sethi reported that CN-PMC is very pleased with the relationship with IR-4.
- They have a MOU with a 5-year Action plan to help China develop a minor use program. They hosted Chinese scientist in August. This relationship will benefit the U.S. and Canada. The Chinese are using U.S. MRLs, not EU, and they use OECD information.
- The CN-PMC is budgeted on a 5-year cycle. They are in Growing Forward - Policy 2.
- This budget cycle allows for US-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) for international trade implementation. RCC implementation translates to increased international harmonization, prevents trade barriers/MRL issues, provides cost savings through collaboration and formulates and distributes effective IPM strategies. It also achieves parity with U.S. in delivering new crop protection tools and technologies, and formalizes tech transfer role for AAFC biopesticides research.
- M. Sethi also reported they are fully staffed.

## AA

- M. Delany reported that R. Tjeerdema has taken a Dean position.
- D. Rossi reported the Directors are mostly working on the renewal plan, and the APLU Board of Advisors is doing a “Futuring” exercise to review their structural issues and hiring goals for the next 20 years. Many Directors will be retiring soon.

## ARS

- P. Schwartz reported that ARS can no longer do ornamental trials in Prosser. All Prosser funds have been moved to Wapato, which will strengthen the residue studies.
- An ARS Liaison Representatives committee meeting will not be held this year due to budgetary constraints. ARS will attempt to accomplish the same tasks by correspondence and webinars.
- Paul and Bernie have been relocated to the Sustainable Agriculture Systems Laboratory and have a new address.
- There were no new hires.
- Since ARS is under a continuing resolution, they do not know what their 2015 budget is at this time.

## NIFA

- R. Hedberg reported that Parag Chitnis has been named Deputy Director of the Institute of Food Production and Sustainability replacing Deborah Sheeley.
- A 2-year RFA should be issued first week of November with a Feb. 14, 2015, deadline – need to assume near level funding for this RFA.
- There is a new NIFA Strategic Plan that addresses processes within the agency. It plans to cut out unnecessary steps and focuses on transitions. He encouraged IR-4 to reference this plan while doing their own renewal.
- He also urged IR-4 to discuss collaborations with IPM centers and IR-4’s priority setting process in the renewal document.
- Indirect Costs - exploring options to allow IR-4 to pay host institutions some indirect costs. Options include:
  - 1) Congressional approved change in authorization language during the next Farm Bill process;
  - 2) Close examination of existing authorization language e.g. is IR-4 authorized under USC 450Ic to 450Ie;
  - 3) Making IR-4 funds transfer a cooperative agreement vs. a Special Grant. Rob would like this to be a 5-year funding agreement. This could be a possibility for 2017. This could help IR-4’s stature at universities. Rob was asked if these agreements are stable. He replied he has used this for SARE for 25 years. Another question was if the money could be bumped up within the 5-year period. If there was proper justification it could. These agreements do not require a mandatory match.Huge danger if full indirect is allowed without a corresponding budget bump to offset payment.
- NRSP Renewal –This will be a scaled-down plan for a much more substantial review in 2 years. IR-4 should address ESCOP Grand Challenges in the renewal document. Timeline is to give to review panel November 13, 2014, then it will be distributed to the regions where regions will make recommendations at the June 2015 meeting, and a final vote will be in September 2015. Things to include in the document include:
  - Needs based justification for budget
  - Show IR-4 is significant in dealing with issues in the public good
  - Discuss with shifting and enhanced needs i.e. Biopesticides, Public Health, E/CS requirements
  - Weave in information about IDC, don’t pitch it Cornell can be used as an example
  - Don’t deviate from the number identified for IDC in Strategic Plan

- Include IPM/IR-4 collaborative efforts; i.e., giving IPM a priority at FUW, having them review PCRs for products that are conducive to IPM
- Communicate the unique service IR-4 provides

## HQ

- J. Baron is concerned by the lack of new chemistries and reduced field trials; cannot justify hiring new study director with chemistry background. D. Carpenter and registration team will rely on the regional chemists more. IR-4 may need to revisit how funds are distributed and may need to consider doing more E/CS studies and biopesticide research.

## CLC

- R. Bonanno reported that bee health is on the radar with bans on neonicotinoids and label changes most likely coming down the pike. They are trying to make sure the ornamental industry does not become the scape goat for the bee kill incident. Varroa mite is another problem affecting bees. There are many unknowns and questions regarding bee health, including keeping beekeepers informed and understanding if products are being used in accordance with label directions.
- There was no nomination of new CLC members at this time.

## North Central Region

- J. Wise reported the region is healthy and stable. His shadowing of B. Hollingworth was particularly helpful and recommended shadowing be a part of planning for all the regions.
- Even though trials have been reduced, the workload has not declined. Studies are more complex requiring more decline trials, or field restrictions and standards are more complicated. All of this keeps the workload the same even though there are fewer trials.
- The NCR is also working on a website to strengthen their outreach and communication efforts.

## Northeast Region

- D. Soderlund reported the NER is repeating trials that were lost last year.
- M. Humiston completed in-life audits.
- E. Lurvey is spending a lot of time in South America and is still trying to work with HQ on the funding for this work.
- **Transition of NER to Rutgers**
  - NER operations will move to Rutgers University in December 2015. D. Rossi will be acting Director and M. Ross is shadowing E. Lurvey to take on her Regional Field Coordinator duties when Edie retires in 2015. M. Ross will work 60% of her time as RFC and the other 40% as FRD.
  - D. Soderlund is concerned that there is only one field research center in Region 1. The center is a Cornell center in Ithaca, NY. Currently, he is fighting to maintain that center but once he retires there will be no one championing for the center. IR-4 needs to plan on an alternative, should Cornell no longer sustain this center. If needed, CN-PMC may be able to help.
  - NER has carryover funds to support staff through December 2015 and will pay for contract QA if needed, but there are also more carryover funds that need to be spent or redirected. Dave will work with Rob Hedberg on a plan to properly address this.
  - D. Soderlund would like a budget that identifies the expenses of the transition. There needs to be a salary adjustment for M. Ross. She currently has part-time help but with her new role, she will need a full-time assistant. Salary monies are in good shape with ~\$85K being freed-up. The NER has a QA point person but if she obtains another job within Cornell or elsewhere she will leave. The NER has carry-over money till July of 2016 - could use some of this money as an early infusion for M. Ross. Her scope of work needs to be modified. NER has money for travel. If we modify fee for service with Rutgers, this might allow a new hire for QA in NE.

**ACTION ITEM:** Look at estimated cost of in-life audits for 2015 season. Adjust transition funds for ACDS bills. Send Dave email of what is involved in QA processes so that he can justify budgeting for extra work.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave, Jerry, Dan R. need to have a conference call on strategy to develop a list of monies needed to have it informally reviewed by R. Hedburg and made into a one-time ask of Awards Management for the funds to go to Rutgers

### **Southern Region**

- M. Marshall reported the SOR has hired Cristina Marconi as the FRD for Texas.
- M. Marshall is encouraging Homestead hire a replacement for Reed Olszack soon so that person could be well trained to work there. The center did ask for more funding and Marty agreed to provide this for only one more year.
- Amanda Hogel is doing more of the QC work.
- There will be southern region training event March 10-11, 2015. The SOR will host the summer PMC meeting in Florida.

### **Western Region**

- M. Hengel reported that some of the WSR centers are transitioning due to retirements.
- Field, lab and QA are all running smoothly.
- The WSR will continue conducting training webinars but might scale down the frequency. They have gotten a lot of comments about the helpfulness of these webinars.
- The WSR IR-4 and the Western region IPM center meet together every 4-8 weeks to discuss shared interests.

### **Food Program**

- D. Kunkel reported that there are a lot of changes within EPA. There are new Herbicide/Fungicide and Insecticide Branch Chiefs. There are more than 12 positions open at this time. By the new calendar year up to 200 people will retire. Susan Lewis is the new Registration Division Director; Lois Rossi has retired and is consulting with IVCC. Jack Housenger is the new OPP Director. Jerry and Dan will plan a visit with him.
- The “New Uses” numbers were down this year due to the ebb and flow of studies. There were 265 “New Uses” for 12 chemicals. Perhaps it is better to evaluate the numbers using a 3-year rolling average. The number of submissions will be up this year. Crop grouping is moving along - 9 of 22 groups have been codified, but IR-4 has completed work on 14 or 15. Revised Crop Groups 4 and 5, plus new Group 22 (stalk and stem veggies) and tropical groups 23 and 24 are pending final rule.
- Field data books are moving through the system.
- There is a new person in the WSR who is in training and a new person in SOR.
- The numbers of trials for the field are decreasing because IR-4 is paying more per trial, as they become more complicated. There is an increasing need for efficacy and crop safety.

**ACTION ITEM:** Look at past E/CS to determine if IR-4 work in this area led to registrations

- For 2015 the Food Program will have 352 trials. The target for 2015 was at \$2.15 million - we are over by \$21K for the field sites. We were \$14K under the \$200K for the efficacy/crop safety. We are \$18K overall for the food program. If things change and studies drop we will be adjusting. There were 2 PPWS project priorities that were used in place of residue studies; \$45K went to one of these, and \$20K to a tropical PPWS. Clover seed growers are providing \$20K, pea and lentil council \$39K, and there is a TASC grant for phosphite/tree nuts for \$90K.

- **Timeline Update**— 60 studies are waiting for registration documents to be submitted and additional 42 are classified as TBD. Other issues include: ARS lab difficulty, storage stability, and QC variability.
- **Food Use Workshop** - V. Starner reported that this was the 4<sup>th</sup> year of selecting most critical need projects not by discipline. Summary of all 2015 residue studies: 60 new studies with 50 “Red A” trials, ~500 trials & 8 processing studies, 5 will be sponsored or partially funded. There will be more than 50 different chemistries, 2 PPWS studies and 13 joint studies with Canada. Next year IR-4 will hold Global/Food Use/ Biopesticide workshops consecutively in Chicago. The NRPM will be held October 27-29 in Princeton.
- **QAU Update** – T. Barkalow reported they have written letters to decommission University of Hawaii and Cornell labs. eQA system is working through technical glitches and she is troubleshooting with FRD on training needs. There were 2 scheduled audits with Dr. Bari and the other USDA ARS Salinas field test site. Audit of FDB and Final Report are moving as expected. The QA web page is being updated; Field SOPs are being added to the page. The QAU is building consensus on standardization for findings and interpretations. Issues will be published in the Fall QA meeting minutes.

### **Ornamental Horticulture Program**

- C. Palmer reported that the program is moving along as expected. During the first half of 2014, the program compiled and posted 11 summary reports based on the high priority projects conducted through 2013.
- Invasive Specie research - *Gladiolus Rust* - this project is winding down. *CWR* - this project is still quite active with analyzing the samples collected from the overwintering experiments using PCR, microscopy and ELISA/Western blot when the final monoclonal antibodies have been fully tested. *Arthropods* - active shipping back and forth examining impacts of treatments during transit; however, there were some pitfalls with the cuttings not surviving as well through shipment as anticipated. *Boxwood Blight* - this has been a successful collaboration with several different research avenues from fungicide trials, host tolerance trials, epidemiological studies, overwintering studies, survival studies, population dynamics, and development of isothermic lamp assay. *Impatiens Downy Mildew* - very active collaborators have developed quite a bit of efficacy data in a short time.
- Since March, we have been working with a small team of ornamental horticulture entomologists and bee entomologists to develop an SCRI Planning Grant Proposal to gather stakeholder input and expertise to craft and prioritize research activities related to the impact of neonicotinoids (and possibly other crop management tools) used for ornamental horticulture production and environmental horticulture landscape management on bees. The proposal was not funded. However, IR-4 was approached by members of the crop protection industry to proceed with this workshop as a means to 1) educate ourselves on the regulator aspects of this issue (ie. EPA required studies, risk assessment as applied to pollinator protection); 2) understand current grower perceptions and concerns; 3) relay ongoing research activities and recent results; and 4) develop a general roadmap for future research activities. The new pollinator workshop will be focused strictly on the intersection of ornamental horticulture and pollinator health. The planned date is Dec 15 and 16 in the Baltimore, MD area.
- Cristi also expressed her concern with losing the Prosser researcher (Rick Boydston) and the impact that will have on the Orn Hort program.

### **Biopesticide & Organic Support**

- M. Braverman reported on the participation, meeting, structure and results of the first Biopesticide & Organic Support workshop. There were 180 participants and ~80 new requests. There were a number of speakers from university/extension, USDA, industry, IR-4, and grower/commodities. Michael spent time discussing the workshop with the RFC. Some concerns were expressed, and include:



- The voting process
- Balance of people from regions
- Priorities opened on the floor
- Too many presentations
- Industry presentations needed more time
- Keep the workshop on an annual basis

Results were posted to the [www.ir4.rutgers.edu](http://www.ir4.rutgers.edu). Funding allows for 26 trials at \$15K per trial. Next step is to collect and evaluate data for potential products. Workgroups were formed. Protocols need to be developed and evaluated by research, extension, and grower communities.

Michael discussed the idea of bundling all workshops. Concern was expressed that integrating biopesticides into the Food/Ornamental/Public Health might create a loss of identity. IR-4 needs to consider swapping funds across programs. Since biopesticides is a growing segment with many new requests and the food program is trending toward fewer requests, perhaps there should be a shift in funding more toward where the work is needed. (i.e., biopesticides, efficacy/crop safety [E/CS])

- How to identify deliverables in biopesticides needs to be defined.

### **Public Health**

- K. Malamud-Roam reported the DoD/ARS grant has been renewed but will be cut in 2015 by ~20-25%. This will prohibit the program from obtaining another assistant when Jennifer Wain's term expires in June 2015. He is exploring other funding mechanisms including the Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Armed Forces Pest Management Board, Innovative Vector Control Consortium and providing contract support for Small Business Innovative Research grantees. Lois Rossi is now working with IVCC as a consultant.
- Etofenprox project is in Phase II. Residues were found.

### **Communication**

- S. Novack reported that there were many issues with the Summer IR-4 Newsletter that significantly delayed it from being produced. After discussions with Jerry, Karl Malamud –Roam and Cristi Palmer, the Summer issue became the Summer/Fall issue. Going further, an editorial calendar was created and distributed to the Newsletter committee members.
- Karl and Cristi agreed to be scientific copy editors for the newsletter.
- In response to recommendation from the Strategic Planning survey, the website will be redesigned to be more user-interactive, more user-friendly and intuitive.

**ACTION ITEM:** Prepare a one-page version of the Vision 2020 to take to the Hill in March 2015.

### **ACAC**

- M. Hengel reported on the laboratory backlog.
  - Tifton lab had suffered due to budget cuts but has picked up when other labs took some of the trials to ease the burden.
  - Yakima is making progress. S-Metolachlor is going slow. They can run quinoxifen on an older machine while working on the s-Metolachlor. The lab director is only working on IR-4 samples about 30% of his time. He is responsible for other duties at the lab. P. Schwartz will look into freeing up more of his time.
  - NCR lab is progressing. S. Erhardt knows what needs to be juggled in order to meet timelines.

- SOR lab is steady; flonicamid is on hold. The lab will hook up with manufacturer on fluensulfone and penflufen.
- The WSR is doing well. They are trying to get standards method on pyroxasulfone that is conducive with grasses.
- The PMC is pleased with the ACAC reports and would like the committee to continue presenting these reports. Sue will be taking over as chair of the ACAC.

#### **IR-4 Training and Education Committee**

- V. Starnier reported IR-4 is working to align the National Education Conference in 2016 with the NAICC annual meeting in Orland, FL in Jan. Van also made suggestions on committee membership changes, which were accepted.

#### **International Activities**

- D. Kunkel reported on posters and papers presented at the IUPAC workshop in August 2014. He also reported on the progress toward finalizing a Global Priority Setting Workshop. He is also sitting on a committee that is producing an industry white paper entitled: Challenges to Establishing Harmonized Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for Facilitating Global Trade, Crop Life. He also reported on the JMPR submissions in 2014.

#### **IR-4 & IPM**

- J. Baron reported that Keith Dorschner attended National IPM Coordinating Committee meeting. IR-4 is a voting member of the committee. The group is looking at IR-4's priorities and will be given one priority for the IPM centers. IR-4 will also invite the IPM group to the Ornamental Horticulture Workshop next year.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- **USDA Peer Review**  
November 12-14 2014  
NIFA Headquarters  
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Washington, DC
- **IR-4/CLC Joint Meeting**  
March 4-6, 2015  
Washington, DC
- **Southern Region Training Meeting**  
March 10-11, 2015
- **8Th International IPM Symposium**  
March 23-26, 2015  
Salt Lake City, Utah
- **Canadian Biopesticides and Minor Use Pesticides Priority Setting Workshops**  
March 24-26, 2015  
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada
- **Western Region 2015 SLR/CLC Meeting**  
April 21-22, 2015

Portland, Oregon

- **Southern Region Meeting**  
August 18-19, 2015  
Coconut Grove, FL
- **2015 NCR IR-4 Liaisons Committee summer meeting**  
August 24 (Mon) 1:00 pm – 25 (Tue) noon, 2015  
Michigan Biotechnology Institute,  
Lansing, MI
- **2015 Global/Food Use/ Biopesticide Workshops**  
September 20-25, 2015  
Chicago, IL
- **Ornamental Horticulture Workshop**  
October 6-8, 2015  
Chicago, IL
- **National Education Conference**  
January 26-29, 2016  
TBD
- **XXV International Congress of Entomology**  
September 25-30, 2016  
Orlando, Florida