



Minutes—Executive Summary  
**PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
*Fall Meeting, 2016*  
*Princeton, NJ*

**PMC Meeting - Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at IR-4 Headquarters**

Attendees: M. Hengel, D. Rossi, L. Gu, M. Bledsoe, J. Wise, J. Baron, P. Schwartz, V. Starner, S. Novack, R. Hedberg, K. Malamud-Roam, M. Braverman, B. Hillman, D. Buhler, R. Tjeerdema, C. Palmer (on phone day one), D. Kunkel (day two)

1. **Executive Session (8:00 am to 3:00 pm)**
2. **Approval of minutes, new agenda items—Motion to approve. Accepted**
3. **Brief updates from AAs, NIFA, PMC members**
  - a. D. Buhler—good point in the 5yr. budget. NRSP review committee in good shape.
  - b. R. Tjeerdema—Secured 50% more space for analytical labs. Will shut down for 3 months.
  - c. B. Hillman—Working on moving the work from Cornell University location to Snyder Farm in NJ
  - d. R. Hedberg— Dan Rossi was elected into the USDA NIFA Hall of Fame
  - e. NER—things are running well
  - f. SOR—Completed all but 2, 2015 field trials. Submitted 9 analytical summary reports to headquarters. QA team finished 95 FDBs, and conducted 4 laboratory critical phase inspections for the Tifton Lab.
  - g. NCR—Making good progress on backlog in the lab. D. Doohan would like to do GLP field trials
  - h. WSR—RFC position has been announced and widely distributed. Will move the main lab in Meyer Hall to the old Environmental Toxicology Building in the spring. The lab will shut down for 3 months. Completed the last ASR from WSU.
  - i. HQ—IR-4 is on a good pace for new food use registrations. 2016 was the most challenging year yet. Rutgers' new financial system has many kinks and is not set up for sub-awards. HQ will regain the annex in February. New approach to web redesign will keep old site and make a new generic site for the public. Met with Barbara Glenn on the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to discuss IR-4 funding involving the Regional Specialty Crop Block Grant Funds.
4. **2017 NIFA Funding** RFA –Early December with January 30 as submission with distributions in the summer 2017.
5. **Strategies for FY 2018 funding** –Won't know until election is settled expect level funding
6. **Path Forward**—Third communique sent in September.
7. **Efficiency Improvement Teams**— It is of utmost importance to reduce the number of backlogged projects at the labs. The PMC has put aside ~\$300K to eliminate backlog. There will be other exercises to find efficiencies.
8. **There were new CLC Members nominated**
9. **Awards**—SOAR Awardees: Brian Flood, Andy Senesac, David Monks.
10. **Reports/Updates**
  - a. Food Use Program
    1. 2016 Workshops were very successful
    2. Successes: To date, EPA approved tolerances supporting 685 uses with 13 chemicals. There were 27 product submissions. In Crop grouping, the Final Rule Posted on May 3, 2016 for Tropical Fruit Groups

3. Regulatory/30 Month timeline—41 studies are awaiting submission,
4. Research Planning--Based on the anticipated 2017 budget, allocate \$1.9M for NIFA field residue trials + \$180k for residue trials from TASC grant  
~\$450,000 to be dedicated for performance research & \$50k for difficult trial extra funds.
5. QA/eQA –EPA GLP Compliance a11 audit notification in 2016. WSU FEQL to be decommissioned after EPA inspection. eDocs have been added to the system. eDoc team has been assembled at HQ. SOP to be ready by end of 2016
6. Laboratory issues/ACAC
  - Laboratory Backlog—has been reduced from a high in October 2010 of 51, to as low as 24 in October 2013 to the current backlog of 32 in October 2016.

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- b. Biopesticide and Organic Support Program—More registrations for *Aspergillus flavus* submitted. Waiting for feedback on Crown Gall Resistant Transgenic Paradox Walnut Rootstocks line. Submitted additional data requested by EPA for *Aspergillus flavus* on dried figs to reduce aflatoxin. EPA requested residue data for benzyladenine on avocado. The second Biopesticide Workshop was held in September. Participants voted on the top three priorities per discipline and category.
- c. Compiled and posted 7 summary reports based on the high priority projects conducted through 2015. US EPA approved 1 new label based partially on the efficacy and crop safety IR-4 generated. Have begun developing an online system for researchers to select trials for the following research year. Also created an efficacy module. CWR project will be completed with the submission of a final report due October 31. Boxwood Blight and Impatiens Downy Mildew have been a successful collaboration with several different research avenues. Out of the APHIS downy mildew project, we submitted an SCRI planning grant proposal with a larger team. This was selected for submission of a full planning grant proposal for scientific review. Pollinator Protection— This NIFA SCRI grant officially started 9/1/2016, but the contract is somewhat delayed due to obtaining IRB approvals. Meta-analysis for Efficacy Data— Have collected numerous researcher reports with raw data. Attended a Bioproduct workshop to explore reasons for slow adoption of bioproducts within greenhouse ornamental horticulture and vegetable production.
- d. Public Health Pesticide Program Update- The DoD/ARS grant was raise through September 2017. Hiring FTE research assistant. Zika has impacted Florida and Puerto Rico leading to request to expand toolbox. New attract and kill tools being developed. New AIs & classes being tested as well as new application technology. Revisiting existing prevention of dissemination and barriers to adoption tools.
- e. Communication Activities Decision to create a new website for the public and keep the old site for the “power users”.

**11. International Update**—D. Kunkel announced the GMUS-3 will be held October 1-4, 2017 in Montreal. Received new USDA-FAS TASC grant to enhance data sets to satisfy International data requirements to established MRLs.



Minutes  
**PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*Fall Meeting, 2016*

*Princeton, NJ*

**PPMC Meeting – Wed and Thur, October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at IR-4 Headquarters**

Attendees: M. Hengel, D. Rossi, L. Gu, M. Bledsoe, J. Wise, J. Baron, P. Schwartz, V. Starnier, S. Novack, R. Hedberg, K. Malamud-Roam, M. Braverman, B. Hillman, D. Buhler, R. Tjeerdema, C. Palmer (on phone day one), D. Kunkel (day two)

- 1. Executive Session (Oct. 26 - 8:00 am to 3:00 pm)**
- 2. Approval of July 2016 minutes – approved as presented; new agenda items – a few minor things, including Awards**
- 3. Brief updates from AAs, NIFA, PMC members**
  - a. NCR AA D. Buhler – IR-4 is at a good point in the NRSP 5yr. budget cycle, via NRSP review committee funding approval.
  - b. WSR AA R. Tjeerdema - Secured 50% more space for Western Region analytical lab, which will be moving to a new site on campus over the next year
  - c. NER AA B. Hillman – IR-4 FRD in Region 1 is successfully being moved from Cornell/NY location to the Rutgers Snyder Farm in NJ
  - d. NIFA R. Hedberg— The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) honored several of its land-grant university partners during its annual Day of Appreciation ceremony. Those honored were recognized for supporting NIFA’s vision to catalyze transformative discoveries, education, and engagement to address agricultural challenges. Their most important annual award, the Hall of Fame Award, was presented to a number of candidates, including Dan Rossi. Expect flat funding for 2017; depend son next President; an IPM meeting the week before had good IR-4 input; Feb. 15-16 meeting for technical science programs will have big IR-4 input; RFA to come out in early Dec., with a 60-day completion target – hope is for a June decision
  - e. ARS P. Schwartz -report in meeting materials; Lisa Smith has been contracted to do Tifton lab QA; ARS Specialty Crops position was filled by Joseph Munyaneza, who had been at the Wapato, WA, lab
  - f. NER Reg. Dir. D. Rossi – report handed out; 2016 is the last year of field research at the Cornell/Ithaca site; transition to the new EPA Region 1 site at the Rutgers Snyder Research Farm in Pittstown, NJ, continues, with the new FRD Jennifer Fisher conducting 3 residue trials in 2016 to learn how to operate under GLPs

- g. SOR Reg. Dir. L. Gu – Region completed all but 2 of the 2015 field trials; analytical lab submitted 9 analytical summary reports to HQ from Jan. to Oct.; QA team finished 95 FDBs, and conducted 4 lab critical phase audits for the ARS Tifton Lab
- h. NCR Reg. Dir. J. Wise – written report to be submitted to S. Novack; reported making good progress on backlog in the lab; are in process of replacing some who are retiring; D. Doohan (Ohio State) would like to do GLP field trials, and he plans to attend the 2017 NEC in Orlando; may give him a small number of 2017 GLP trials to begin his understanding of GLP requirements
- i. WSR Reg. Dir. M. Hengel - report in meeting materials; UCD has posted the RFC position, the announcement has been widely circulated. The application deadline Nov. 9; if there are no good candidates they will extend the deadline; a search committee is in place. The analytical operations will be moving the main U.C. Davis IR-4 lab in Meyer Hall to the old Environmental Toxicology Building; upgrades to the building are on pace for the move; all Meyer Hall lab operations are slated to close 2-3 months in late 2017, then back up by Jan. 2018; will be hiring a service provider to manage moving and reinstalling the equipment; completed the last ASR from WSU, and remaining freezer samples will be shipped to U.C. Davis lab; a decommissioning letter will be written
- j. HQ Exec. Dir. J Baron –IR-4 is on a good pace for new food use registrations in 2016, even though this was the most challenging year finalizing the residue research plan. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS-3) will be held Oct. 1-4, 2017 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Rutgers increased its fringe rate by 6.7%, retro to 2015. Rutgers’r new financial system (Cornerstone) has many kinks and is not set up for sub-awards, which has put an increased burden on departments to enter items into the new system. Q will regain the annex in our building in February with the HQ lease ending in mid-2019; there’s a new approach to the IR-4 web redesign due to cost concerns– we will keep old site and make a new generic site for the public, and we’ll purchase a new domain name.

Jerry met with Barbara Glenn on the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to discuss IR-4 funding involving the Regional Specialty Crop Block Grant Funds. There are follow up visits planned.

- 4. **CLC Chair M. Bledsoe** – the CLC “Hill-visit” sub-committee has been very active training other CLC members about making Hill visits

#### **Decisions/highlights from Oct. 26 Exec. Session:**

##### **1. 2017 NIFA Funding**

RFA –Early December with January 30 as submission

Preliminary Discussions on Distribution—June would be optimistic, more like August

##### **2. Strategies for FY 2018 funding** – Won’t know until election is settled - expect level funding

##### **3. Path Forward**—Third communique sent in September. Would like to include the Alternative Sources of Funding document with timelines and goals established.

**4. Efficiency Improvement Teams** - It is of utmost importance to reduce the number of backlogged projects at the labs. The PMC has put aside ~\$300K to eliminate backlog. The plan is to have labs eliminate 2 studies in year one, 6 studies in year 2 and up to 12 studies will be contracted out. The money will come from a 2.5% decrease in all funding across the board. (Food, Orn Hort, Biopesticide, HQ and Regions). If backlog continues after these steps, the lab will need a variance on justification for the backlog signed by the Regional and Executive Directors.

The plan for the efficiency improvement team for the labs will begin in three stages. The first is a self-evaluation where the labs will respond to targeted and open questions (M. Hengel, J. Wise & L. Gu will come up with these) for how they feel they can improve the process. The second stage will be a face-to-face meeting at the National Education Conference (NEC). The third stage will be interviews by Debbie Carpenter at each of the labs. They will involve QAU after Debbie has completed her report on the labs. It will look at the flow of work and where there may be bottle necks.

The efficiency improvement team for the field (led by D. Kunkel) will examine the processing/distribution of field data books and other documentation connected with field data. The team includes HQ SD, QA and various FRDs. The team will be meeting several times, but not in a face-to-face at the NEC.

Both teams are expected to complete their efforts and have their recommendations in place by the time of the summer 2017 PMC meeting

There could be other efforts in 2017 and beyond to find additional efficiencies, such as streamlining the grant application process to follow a particular template (R. Hedberg suggested using the one with the best review); also could consider combining in some way the Food Use/Biopesticide/Ornamental programs; etc.

#### **Other reports (Oct. 27):**

- 1. Nomination of New CLC Members** —M. Bledsoe reported the need to get resume of Amy Gandi (Kemin Industries) to CLC for recommending her; other names to consider: Mark Seeton (US apple) and Ron Williams (Coca Cola)
- 2. Awards**—SOAR Awardees: Brian Flood, Andy Senesac, David Monks. Should IR-4 think about giving Brian Flood the Hall of Fame Award?

#### **3. Program Updates**

- a) Food Use Program, D. Kunkel – report in meeting materials
  - Approvals/Submissions/FDBs progress: In 2016 so far, there are 685 uses with 13 chemicals; a large number of abamectin uses was a big surprise, as the supporting IR-4 data goes back a long way (some to the late '90's); so far in 2016 there have been 27 product submissions; in Crop Grouping, the Final Rule Posted on May 3, 2016 for two new Tropical Fruit Groups 23 and 24; new Stalk, Stem, and Leafy Petiole group 22;

revised Leafy Vegetables (including leafy Brassica) group 4; and revised Brassica Head/Stem Vegetable group 5

- Research Planning, V. Starner - based on the anticipated 2017 budget, we expect to allocate \$1.9M for NIFA-funded field residue trials + \$180k for residue trials from TASC grant to satisfy global residue needs; 2017 funding per field trial remains \$6,000 (same as 2016); target of 317 NIFA field trials, plus 30 from TASC \$s, ~70 ARS and ~40 Canadian trials – 457 total; ~\$450,000 to be dedicated for performance research & \$50k for difficult trial extra funds
  - QA/eQA, T. Barkalow – report in meeting materials: 1) EPA GLP Compliance 11 audits of IR-4 sites in 2016; 2) WSU lab is to be decommissioned after EPA inspection; 3) 994 audit packets have been created through eQA, and eDocs capabilities have been added to the system (eDoc team has been assembled at HQ, and the appropriate SOP is to be ready by end of 2016/early 2017
  - Laboratory issues/ACAC, D. Carpenter - report in meeting materials; regulatory/30-month timeline - 41 studies are awaiting submission, 57 additional studies have been classified as TBD, and to meet the 30-month timeline, 2014 studies (61) needed to be completed by Oct 2016; ASRs are now considered as “late” for 26 studies; laboratory backlog has been reduced from a high in October 2010 of 51, to as low as 24 in October 2013, to the current backlog of 32 in October 2016
- b) Biopesticide and Organic Support Program, M. Braverman - report in meeting materials
- More registrations for *Aspergillus flavus* submitted by the Texas Corn Producer Board
  - Waiting for feedback on Crown Gall Resistant Transgenic Paradox Walnut Rootstocks line
  - SUNY organized meetings with EPA and FWS for oxalate oxidase (OxO) from wheat for chestnut blight
  - Submitted additional data requested by EPA for *Aspergillus flavus* on dried figs to reduce aflatoxin
  - EPA requested residue data for benzyladenine on avocado
  - The second Biopesticide Workshop was held in September 2016; the decision process included break-out groups by discipline to identify the greatest need; the list of priorities was organized by crop category and participants voted on the top three priorities per discipline and category; results are in the materials
- c) Ornamental Horticulture Program, C. Palmer - report in meeting materials
- compiled and posted 7 summary reports based on the high priority projects conducted through 2015
  - During 2016, US EPA approved 1 new label based partially on the efficacy and crop safety IR-4 generated: Orkestra Intrinsic Fungicide (fluxapyroxad + pyroxasulfone)
  - The number of crops impacted during 2016 so far is 532
  - In order to streamline selection of trials, we have begun developing an online system for researchers to select trials for the following research year; we also created an efficacy module where researchers can select projects
  - Invasive Species
    - CWR - this project will be completed with the submission of a final report due October 31

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 - this has been a successful collaboration with several different research avenues; out of the APHIS downy mildew project, we submitted an SCRI planning grant proposal with a larger team encompassing social scientists and agriculture engineering researchers; this was selected for submission of a full planning grant proposal for scientific review

- Pollinator Protection

This NIFA SCRI grant officially started 9/1/2016, but the contract is somewhat delayed due to obtaining IRB approvals for the economic and eye-mapping research being conducted at University of Florida.

- Meta-analysis for Efficacy Data (OSU Lead Institution)

In the Orn Hort Database, we have collected numerous researcher reports with raw data. Some of the raw data is included in the posted pdf files, but not all.

- BioProducts (OSU Lead Institution)

In January 2016, C. Palmer attended a Bioproduct workshop hosted by Michelle Jones of Ohio State University. The intent of this workshop was to explore reasons for slow adoption of bioproducts within greenhouse ornamental horticulture and vegetable production.

d) Public Health Pesticide Program Update – K. Malamud-Roam - report in meeting materials

- The DoD/ARS grant raised from \$225K to \$250K through September 2017
- Hiring FTE research assistant – a joint position with Orn Hort program
- Zika has impacted Florida and Puerto Rico leading to request to expand toolbox
- Cancellation of proven tools --pyrethroids, OPs; testing area-wide adulticides
- New attract and kill tools being developed; new AIs & classes being tested and new application technologies, i.e. treated fabrics, spatial repellents, etc.
- Increasing interest in tick control; revisiting existing prevention of dissemination and barriers to adopting tools

e) Communication Activities & IR-4 Website Redesign, S. Novack – report in meeting materials

- Main topic is the redesign of website; decision to create a new website for the public and keep the old site for the “power users”; will work with Rutgers Cooperative Extension Communication group and purchase domain site

f) International Update - D. Kunkel

- Announced the Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS-3) to be held October 1-4, 2017 in Montreal
- Received new USDA-Foreign Ag Service (FAS) TASC grant to enhance data sets to satisfy International data requirements to established MRLs; there is a need for

minor uses globally - over 2500 pest problems have been identified, including emerging pests, invasive pests, resistance, bacterial diseases

- FAS has contributed \$500K toward Global Minor Use Foundation
- Provided update on JMPR and reported on studies being conducted in Africa, ASEAN, Latin America

## 12. Upcoming Meetings

- **2016 NRPM**  
October 31-Nov. 2, 2016  
Via Webinars
- **National Education Conference**  
February 28-March 1, 2017  
Orlando, FL  
  
QA planning meeting  
Following the NEC
- **2017 Spring IR-4 PMC/CLC Meeting**  
March 14-15, 2017  
Washington, DC  
CLC morning of 14<sup>th</sup>  
Joint meeting afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup>  
PMC all day the 15<sup>th</sup>
- **2017 Summer IR-4 PMC/CLC Meeting**  
July 18-21, 2017  
Michigan  
  
Not to conflict with the Michigan IPM Ag Tour
- **2017 Food Use Workshop**  
September 20-21  
Denver, CO
- **GMUS-3**  
October 1-4, 2017  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- **2017 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop**  
October 17 (tour)  
October 18-19 priority setting  
San Diego, CA