Executive Summary

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/ Meeting Attendees

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

DATE: March 30, 2010

SUBJECT: Spring 2010 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting Minutes

Please find attached the March 2010 PMC meeting Executive Summary and minutes from discussions March 2-3 at The Quincy Hotel in Washington, DC

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact the appropriate PMC or Headquarters Staff member listed by the agenda item, or us, for clarification.
March 2010 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its Spring 2010 meeting on March 2-3, 2010 in Washington, DC. The meeting was held in conjunction with CLC annual meeting.

General Items

- Monte Johnson reported: NIFA is pleased with the budget moving the timing up; the 2011 RFA will be published 11/1/10 with a deadline 12/15/10.
- NIFA Awards Management Branch discussed the Required Budgetary Details, Financial Reporting and Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) procedure.
- CLC will ask NIFA funds be raised by $2 million. IR-4 will give ARS money from this to upgrade their equipment.
- There may be new challenges for Specialty Crop Growers as a result of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.

ARS/Regions/HQ Updates

- ARS will have a peer review Mar 16-17, 2010; Larry Chandler will chair the panel. ARS has critical lab productivity issues and equipment needs.
- Northeast Region – finishing up studies; no productivity issues; lab personnel are doing a tremendous job finishing trials under the circumstances. Edith Lurvey, Barbara Andersen, and Jane DeCann will move into the Barton Laboratory in April. Phone, email, address will stay the same.
- North Central Region – field doing well, hired new Lab Coordinator, Sue Earhart.
- Southern Region – Jau Yoh will be retiring, Charlie Meister will be leaving June 1. Reed Olszack is new FRD that makes him ineligible to serve on CLC. SOR hired an associate chemist/coordinator.
- Western Region – Concern was expressed over BASF taking back 48 trials. Colorado State University research center is closed for now hoping it will open in 2011. Field and lab doing well. Will hire an assistant for Becky and Stephen soon as well as a QA person.
- HQ –Year-in-Review, new HQ org. chart and HQ goals and objectives were distributed.

Other items

- CLC elected Rocky Lundy to serve as chair for next two years. Four CLC members were reinstated.
- A/As are all focusing on budget cuts and Universities will be looking at indirect costs.
- The QAU held a 2010 planning meeting results were discussed.
- Biopesticide grant committee selected 5 Early, 21 Advanced and 31 Demonstration projects to fund.

- D. Kunkel reported on the FAS funded work and plans for a Global Minor Use Foundation and on the next Summit, which may be held in Europe in 2011.

- M. Braverman reported on the Global Study, funded by FAS, that is moving along very well.

- A new logo design was selected however PMC wants to see it in different colors

- Proposed plans for the Food Use Workshop Nomination Deadlines, the FUW and NRPM were distributed.

- An Accountability study was distributed. To reduce redundancy, a MOTION was made and approved that HQ give the data to P. Schwartz and the regions verify the numbers.

- The labs have not improved since the “All Hands Meeting” the PMC will mandate the labs meet together at least once a month to facilitate cooperation. D. Carpenter will be the HQ organizer of the meetings. She will give the PMC a list of what is needed, when it is needed and why it is needed as soon as possible.

- When the NER lab closes, D. Soderlund will be the PMC rep on the Laboratory Scientific Review Committee. Until then Dave and Marion will overlap their participation.

- IR-4’s potential role in biotechnology was discussed. IR-4 will only get involved when a commodity is supportive. This is an issue that is not going away as more round-up-ready crops are being cultivated outside the U.S.

- An Ornamental update was presented that included task force activities, research status, data summaries, 2009 registrations to date.

- Upcoming meetings list was distributed.

- An update on the status, history, strategies and reasons for Public Health Pesticides was presented.
March 2010 PMC Meeting Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its Spring 2010 meeting on March 2-3, at The Quincy Hotel, Washington, DC

Joint Meeting March 2, 2010 - CLC Attendees

- Rocky Lundy - Commodity Liaison Committee Chair
- Mark Arney
- Mike Aerts
- Kirk Bauman
- Mike Bledsoe
- Tom Davenport
- Eric Mauer
- Laura Phelps
- Lin Schmale
- Todd Scholz
- Alan Schreiber
- Barry Tanner (not a CLC member)
- Marc Teffeau
- Dave Trinka

PMC Attendees:

- Jerry Baron - IR-4 Executive Director
- Tammy W. Barkalow - IR-4 Assistant Director, Quality Assurance
- Michael Braverman – Biopesticide and Organic Support Program Manager (Mar 3)
- Doug Buhler - North Central Region Administrative Advisor
- Debbie Carpenter IR-4 Assistant Director Registrations
- Mary Delany- Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Mary Duryea – Southern Region Administrative Advisor
- Bob Hollingworth - North Central Region Director
- Monte Johnson - NIFA National Program Leader
- Dan Kunkel - IR-4 Associate Director, Registrations
- Rocky Lundy - Commodity Liaison Committee Chair
- Marty Marshall - Southern Region Director and PMC Chair
- Karl Malamud-Roam- IR-4 Public Health Pesticides Program Manager
- Marion Miller - Western Region Director (via teleconference)
- Sherrilyn Novack – IR-4 Public Relations & Communications Manager
- Cristi Palmer (part-time) – IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager
- Paul Schwartz - ARS Regional Director
- Dave Soderlund - Northeast Region Director
- Van Starner - IR-4 Assistant Director, Outreach, Research Planning
Tuesday, March 2nd Joint PMC/CLC Meeting

Budget/CLC Ask
J. Baron handed out Year-In-Review and discussed the past year’s accomplishments, thanked Monte for pushing the proposals through earlier so that funds will be received earlier. Thanked the CLC for their efforts.

Most of the discussion with the CLC concerned budget. IR-4 is in good shape for 2010 and 2011, but Jerry handed out a table that showed the R&D deflator factor (based on real status within Agriculture) and IR-4’s budget. The deflator factor shows IR-4 has lost ~ $1 million in buying power since 2001 and would like the CLC to consider this when taking the message to the Hill. Jerry would like to see IR-4’s total budget from all inputs (RRF, ARS, NIFA, Industry, USDA/FAS, Other grants) be closer to $20 million with an increase in NIFA funding from $12.1 to $15 or $16 million. J. Baron also discussed the vulnerability of in-kind support from the experiment stations.

R. Lundy on behalf of CLC members felt they could not justify asking for such a sizable increase, given the state of the economy and the past 3 years of increases.

M. Duryea – IR-4 is considered fortunate to be receiving the funding it has and it is not time to be asking for more.

D. Buhler-Another program funded at $50K (NRSP-3) was bumped out of the President’s budget and they had to fight to re-establish this funding.

Others echoed this sentiment and suggested IR-4 look for other funding opportunities.

P. Schwartz indicated that his budget has been flat for 8 years and if he does not get an increase, he would need to close a lab. R. Lundy felt this was more of a justification for an increase.

J. Baron recommended the CLC then lobby to increase ARS funding, since there was clear justification presented.

R. Lundy stated with the new elections this Fall there will be a number of new members of Congress who will need to be educated about IR-4. He sought clarification from S. Schneider as to how ARS funds are distributed. S. Schneider responded Congress must approve the moving of funds within ARS.

J. Baron explained that HQ has started looking for other funding and did not intend for the entire increase to come from NIFA.

New Challenges for Specialty Crop Growers
K. Malamud-Roam discussed challenges growers will be facing due to regulatory issues surrounding the Endangered Species (ESA) and Clean Water Acts. He anticipates growers will start being sued this spring for spraying pesticides in or near water without a permit. They will be responsible for any residue found in water. The problem is, currently, permits have not been written to address this issue and with the media coverage condemning pesticide use, it is not a popular topic. The EPA is working with KMR to get a generic permit for Mosquito use that could be used for commodities too. The EPA is willing to work with commodity groups too. Some groups are on board and others are trying to fight this. S. Schneider indicated the EPA is saying they are drafting a generic permit that states can pick up and use/modify for state needs.
Regarding the ESA, Dan commented that EPA will need to submit IR-4 petitions to Fish and Wildlife (F&W) for an ESA assessment where F&W will provide EPA a submission plan for each Active Ingredient. This will take several years though, because F&W will assess all possible uses once.

E. Maurer stated EPA must submit to F&W but F&W are not required by law to provide a biological opinion.

Other challenges include requirement for immunotox/endocrine disruption needs to be submitted or a plan to produce those data, inerts (registrants are working on this), spirotetramat-cancellation of registration, adjuvant issues, and PRIA battles about fee exemption for IR-4.

**CLC Topics**

Several members need reappointment however Reed Olszack cannot be reappointed because he now works for IR-4.

R. Lundy was elected to his third and final term as CLC chair.

R. Lundy reiterated the CLC’s feelings about not asking Congress for an increase this year but for same funding as last. D. Trinka feels the ARS budget portion is defensible and an easy story to tell and it might be easier to get an increase for them. He also asked about the Laboratory Committee that was formed to assess equipment needs. M. Marshall responded there are equipment needs in all the labs. M. Miller said her lab was in pretty good shape as they recently purchased a new piece of equipment; they have personnel needs. With the closing of the NER Lab, the other labs will be required to pick up those studies. D. Trinka felt equipment needs could be a topic to bring to Capitol Hill.

A Schreiber feels it’s putting him in a bad situation to ask for a 33% increase in funding and asked for clarification as to where the funding needs to be increased. He asked for “talking points”. R. Lundy felt the ARS equipment and personnel needs was the justification. A. Schreiber also didn’t think the CLC was interested in Biopesticides and Invasive but D. Trinka explained that Biopesticides is one of the core IR-4 programs.

**ARS Review**

S. Schneider discussed the ARS review of March 17-18, 2010. This review is held every 5 years and the chair was Larry Chandler. The goal is for the committee to assess each aspect of the ARS/IR-4 program and provide recommendations for improvement. Funding will be discussed. D. Soderlund commented that it is hard to strategically point to the ARS budget for specifics, he suggested the CLC efforts could focus on the needs to upgrade ARS part of IR-4. R. Lundy suggested ARS provide a single-page “white paper” which explains in detail what ARS does for IR-4 successes, what ARS does for US agriculture for both food and ornamental crops. M. Tefteau commented that the CLC should communicate to Congress the need to maintain the program rather than asking for more money. He is afraid of losing everything. He also, commented that our biggest fear is that the Universities will say we cannot sustain these programs without IR-4 paying overhead. Sally confirmed that what money ARS has is solid; there is no movement ongoing to remove money or move money to somewhere else.

**Wednesday, March 3, 2010 PMC**

**Approval of Minutes/new agenda items:** Minutes of Fall PMC meeting held October 27-28, 2009 at IR-4 HQ in Princeton, NJ, were approved with correction on the spelling of Paul Kuzmicky’s name.

There was a question about having PMC meetings via webinar but most thought that was not a good idea. M. Miller (on the phone) stated how difficult it was for her to phone in and that the webinar would not be any better.
Sue Bowman, Janet Schmidt and Tawana Deshazo from The NIFA’s Awards Management Branch came to the PMC to discuss the award process. They distributed handouts (Required Budgetary Details, Financial Reporting slides, and ASAP Enrollment instructions and Award Letter) and discussed the new payment system, which admittedly will be a chore the first year because of the need to input data. They provided the group with their email and phone numbers for direct contact.

The funds are estimated to be released in April 2010.

For the Biopesticide money, NIFA wants the company name, a copy of the RFA, how the RFA was paneled a list with amount and title cross referenced.

This year the regions did not receive an automated message stating the grant was received. They received a message that the grant was accepted for review and will receive a message of acceptance.

Financial reporting form has changed from SF269 to SF425. Forty-five days prior to the expiration of an award, an email message notifies the PD and AOR that the award is about to expire. A no cost extension must be received by the AWARDS MANAGEMENT BRANCH not NPL more than 30 days prior to the expiration of the grant. No cost extensions will be given after the award expires. S. Bowman strongly recommended the grantee look at where they are with spending 90 days prior to the expiration and request the no cost extension as soon as it is understood an extension is needed. See slides for more details.

Brief updates:

Administrative Advisors – All are looking at budget cuts and reorganization. Some institutes are having conversation about indirect costs. M. Duryea stated the indirect at UF is 12% and they are beginning to look at what programs are draining them.

NIFA – M. Johnson distributed a NIFA Fact Sheet. For 2011 the modified dates are: RFA released Nov. 1, proposals due Dec 15. Also, it is ok to guesstimate the Ornamentals and Biopesticides and modify the budget if it is under a 10% difference. It looks as though the President’s proposed budget will keep IR-4 funding at $12.18 million. The new NIFA director is Roger Beachy. Monte suggest he, J. Baron and M. Fitzner plan on meeting with the new director and also with Hiram Larew, Director of International Programs.

Specialty Crop Biotechnology
D. Buhler brought up the Specialty Crop Biotechnology topic. There was a lot of discussion surrounding this topic the consensus was that if IR-4 is approached to partner or advise that is ok but right now IR-4 is not in the position to take the lead in this area. If a commodity comes to IR-4 will proceed, otherwise no. D. Buhler commented this will go on as a global impact no matter what we do.

ARS- P. Schwartz reported things are going well in field however the labs need equipment. A lot is waiting on the review.

HQ – J. Baron handed out the Year-in-Review and pointed out the accomplishments achieved in 2009. He also distributed, HQ goals, org chart and the Annual Report.

North Central Region – B. Hollingworth reported they have hired a new lab director hired Sue Earhart. NCR did 120-150 trials in 2009. Lab has a new LC/MS/MS. For now still in same location and will be there till end of 2010. There will be GLP Training for the Lab April 20-21. T. Barkalow felt the $650 charge was high. NCR is hiring a junior QA person to QA Lab and Field and end outside contracting.
Northeast Region – D. Soderlund should finish analytical projects by end of summer. W. Borejsza-Wysocki and Jane DeCann will be appointed until May 2011 to complete the functional closer of the lab. J. Baron applauded D. Soderlund and the NE Lab for their quality work in completing studies especially given the circumstances. They have had very small number of field trials this year but have supplemented with efficacy/crop safety and ornamental work. Questioned if this is a trend or just a blip this year; he is concerned with the sustainability of the regional structure.

Southern Region – M. Marshall reported Jau Yoh will be leaving an announcement for a replacement will come out in March. They have hired an associate chemist/coordinator with Jau and another chemist will leave at the end of the year. Reed Olszack is the FRD and was removed from the CLC. June 1 will be Charlie Meister’s last day.

Western Region – M. Miller reported some concern over BASF taking back 48 trials to do themselves. ARS also lost 27 trials for the same reason. The field program is in good shape. Colorado St. University field research is closed for now but will reopen in 2011. She is looking for a new assistant for Becky and will be interviewing someone March 19. They are dealing with some costly projects. The lab had a good year. The HI lab and field did not receive IR-4 money and progress is slow. They will also be hiring another QA person soon. UC Davis will review the IR-4 program in a couple weeks.

CLC- R. Lundy reported there are 4 members who need to be reappointed. Barry Tanner was invited to attend by the Watermelon board (he serves as technical advisor) and he wanted to become a CLC member however the PMC felt there should only be one representative of a commodity. He could serve as an alternate for Mark Arney if Mark cannot make it.

Regarding the budget, after discussions, the CLC will ask for an extra $2 million for NIFA funds with the understanding that $1 million go to ARS for equipment needs. J. Baron offered if any increase is granted, it will be split 50/50 with ARS or maybe all of it, depending on how much comes in.

PM C Meetings
There will be a tour of Montana State University in the afternoon of July 21st. Attendees of the PMC meeting in Bozeman will need to rent a car.

M. Marshall will look into Marcus Island and Key Largo for the Fall PMC meeting in October. Attendees may want to take out insurance on travel arrangements because this is still hurricane season.

International discussion
NIFA Director of International Programs, Hiram Larew joined the PMC on day two to discuss his program opportunities. He distributed a flyer on the International Science and Education Competitive Grants Program and talked about the 15-20 awards his programs have supported. They include teaching, research and extension. These are for US experience not foreign assistance programs. NIFA led several RFA ag food research initiatives for global food security. The purpose is to improve the ability of American students, business people and community members to compete more effectively in the global world of agriculture. H. Larew feels that international may be elevated in importance by the head of NIFA, Roger Beachy. Contact person in his office is Patty Fulton, she can provide answers to questions.

D. Kunkel reported that FAS funded work to reformat data for foreign registration submissions. J. Sandhl is working on a Global Minor Use Foundation. The next GMU Summit is projected for March 2011 to be held somewhere in the EU (Brussels). IR-4 will sponsor a symposia with FAS in the IUPAC July meeting.

Global Study- M. Braverman reported 13 trials have been completed and the samples have been received in the US. Two trials were added Costa Rica and Poland. The results of this study will set a science model and will be published in a refereed journal. Have had fantastic compliance!
Accountability Study 2005-2009

P. Schwartz reported the trials are decreasing each year and there has been a gradual drop in completed trials. The SOR had the highest number of scheduled and completed trials. It was pointed out that this report overlaps D. Kunkel’s and a motion was made to integrate the two reports.

MOTION: HQ will generate the data for the Accountability Report and the regions will validate it. Approved

Lab Accountability

J. Baron reported that at the All Hands Meeting it was clear that IR-4 needs to recommit to the bottom line and people made promises to catch up with the timeline. This has not happened. While there have been significant changes in the labs and some have turned the corner, they still are looking at themselves as autonomous entities and not as a National program, therefore some labs are not getting any better. The new online database and EPA timeline tools are still not being utilized. There are some consistent trends in some labs being late. Whether due to equipment needs, difficult chemistries or taking on too many trials, the labs are not working together to resolve issues. D. Soderlund recommended IR-4 have a National Analytical Director to provide incentive for them to reorganize and work together.

PMC asked D. Carpenter for a written document, as soon as possible, of what she needs, why and when she needs it. The PMC will mandate monthly lab meetings with M. Miller as PMC representative and D. Carpenter as HQ organizer. D. Soderlund offered to take the PMC role on the Lab Scientific Review Committee once his lab is closed. He would not have a vested interest in any lab and feels he could bring the national perspective to labs. He and M. Miller will overlap on the committee until the NE lab is completely closed.

EPA Registrations, Work Plans, FDB/ASR Completion Status, Timeline Status, EPA Update – D. Kunkel

- 32 chemistries were reviewed in 2009
- resulting in 952 Uses, 219 Tolerances

QAU- T. Barkalow presented an overview of the QA projects, EPA Inspection Totals, 2010 QA planning meeting, Actual 2009 Workload Totals, 2010 Workload Estimate, and 2010 QA planning meeting results.

Biopesticide and Organic Support – M. Braverman reported that 5 of 9, 21 of 31 and 10 of 10 submitted proposals will be funded for Early, Advanced and Demonstration (respectively) stage grants.

Ornamental Program – C. Palmer discussed task force activities, research status, data summaries, 2009 registrations to date, crops impacted by registrations and hits to the website.

Communication Update – S. Novack presented an update and offered new the PMC agreed on new logo design but would like to see it in different colors before a final logo is agreed upon.

FUW & NRPM Review/2010 Research Plan- V. Starner presented proposed plans for 2010 Food Use Workshop (FUW) nomination plan/deadlines FUW Agenda and NRPM

Public Health – K. Malamud-Roam gave an update on the Public Health Pesticide Program that included the history, status, strategies and reasons supporting for the program. Challenges for the industry were also discussed.
Upcoming Meetings

PMC Meeting
July 20-21, 2010
Bozeman, MT

North Central Region SLR Meeting
Aug 9 – Aug 10, 2010 (final dates and times TBD)
Brookings, SD

2010 Food Use Workshop
September 14–15, 2010
Summerlin, NV

NRPM-HQ
October 26-27, 2010
Princeton, NJ