



March 2014 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC members

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack, Van Starner

DATE: April 23, 2014

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

Please find attached the spring 2014 PMC Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions March 4-5, 2014

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.

March 2014 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2014 meeting on March 4-5, 2014, in conjunction with the annual IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee meeting, in Washington, DC.

North Central Region - Programs doing well; J. Wise will take over as Director July 1, 2014 as Bob Hollingworth retires.

Northeast Region - Cornell administration is questioning “No Indirect Costs” provision of IR-4 grant. Lost some stored residue samples when freezer power was lost at the NY field site.

Southern Region – Operations are running well with the exception of TX; there is no new FRD in place for this season in Weslaco. Additionally, there are language issues with the existing support staff.

Western Region - Reported field and lab and QA are running well.

ARS – Government shutdown in October caused the loss of 2 Efficacy/Crop Safety and 6 residue trials. Very concerned about budget and another shutdown. K. Simmons joined the group to hear the concerns about the Pacific West cuts to the ARS programs. She will get back to IR-4 on possible solutions.

NIFA –M. Johnson retired at end of December, and R. Hedberg has replaced him; RFA has been released

HQ - J. Baron reported the peer review will be postponed until late October or early November. IR-4 was re-authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill; KUDOS to CLC & MCFA for moving this along. J. Corley has resigned. R. Batts, FRD in NC, is now working 50% of his time as an off-site Study Director. C. Jolly relocated to Washington State and remains part of IR-4 as an off-site Study Director. HQ has sublet the annex office space.

CLC – R. Bonanno was elected to another term as chair. L. Phelps presented a seminar on visiting Capitol Hill. R. Lundy was presented with the IR-4 Hall of Fame Award.

Food Program - 1032 new uses in 2013. To-date only 25% have been added to marketing labels - will revisit this in July. 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 be a concern due to the need for submission documents from registrants.

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. The program is also being affected by ARS budget cuts to the Pacific West.

Public Health – Looks like there will be no DoD cuts to the 2014 budget.

Communication – Winter Newsletter includes New Product Corner section. Strategic Plan data is very comprehensive. 550 of the 2102 people who were emailed the survey responded.

ACAC – backlog of labs’ completion of ASRs is down to a “steady state.”

IR-4 Training and Education Committee – The draft IR-4 Advisory #2014-01 regarding IR-4 field and lab site freezer maintenance/back-up was provided for PMC review and comment before processing it through the 6-week review/approval process.

Motions and Action Items

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

MOTION: To accept budget distribution as proposed by J. Baron. Approved

MOTION: To adopt the new directed approach to prioritizing research in the Biopesticide and Organic Support Program. Approved

MOTION: To approve 2014 Biopesticide grant proposal recommendations for funding. Approved

ACTION ITEM: PMC to provide comments on Strategic Plan document by March 21.

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to incorporate comments and resubmit to PMC by March 31.

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack to draft a one-page project brief for ARS funding

ACTION ITEM: R. Hedberg to coordinate NRSP-4 review panel

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter to discuss 2014 Weslaco trials with M. Samuel-Foo

ACTION ITEM: Give V. Starner comments on draft IR-4 Freezer Advisory #2014-01 by end of week, March 14.

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter and D. Kunkel should put together a chronology of the steady decline of the ARS Wapato lab in a document that will be sent to K. Simmons.



March 2014 PMC - Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2014 meeting March 4-5 in Washington, DC.

Attendees:

- Michael Aerts** - Florida Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
- Tammy Barkalow—Assistant Director, QAU, IR-4 HQ
- Jerry Baron* — Executive Director IR-4 Project, IR-4 HQ
- Lori Berger** - Ag Business Resources
- Michael Bledsoe** - Village Farms
- 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
- Ann George** - Washington Hops Commission
- Rob Hedberg — NIFA National Program Leader,
- Bob Hollingworth* — North Central Region Director
- Dan Kunkel — Associate Director, Food & International Programs, IR-4 HQ
- Rocky Lundy** - Mint Industry Research Council
- Karl Malamud-Roam — Public Health Pesticides Program Manager, IR-4 HQ,
- Marty Marshall* — Southern Region Director (via conference call)
- Maximillian Merrill** - Western Growers Association
- Sherrilynn Novack — Public Relations & Communications Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Cristi Palmer — Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Ray Ratto** - Ratto Bros. Modesto, CA
- Dan Rossi — Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
- Todd Schultz** - Pea and Lentil Association
- Paul Schwartz* — ARS Regional Director,
- Kay Simmons — ARA Deputy Administrator (Wednesday Morning)
- Dave Soderlund* — Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
- Van Starner — Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach, IR-4 HQ
- Berry Tanner** - National Watermelon Association
- Ron Tjeerdema* — Western Region Director (via conference call)
- John Wise — North Central Region future Director

* Voting members

**Commodity Liaison Committee Member

Tuesday, Mar. 4th:

CLC met in the morning. D. Doohan gave the CLC an overview on the potential impact to specialty crops from increased use of 2, 4-D and dicamba on resistant corn and soybean crops. L. Phelps gave a training session on effective lobbying. J. Baron gave the CLC a project update, and an overview of the Strategic

Plan. S. Novack worked with the CLC on a one-page “leave behind” for Hill visits that asks for an increase of \$2 million in the IR-4 NIFA funding. P. Schwartz was concerned that ARS was not represented in the document. There was some discussion about revising the Mission Statement, including making it a complete sentence, such as: “The IR-4 Project facilitates regulatory approval of stakeholder prioritized pest management technology (or “solutions” or “tools” or ...) to maximize the development of specialty crops and minor uses on major crops, and to promote public wellbeing.”

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack to draft a one-page project brief for ARS funding. R. Bonanno was elected for another term as Chair of the Commodity Liaison Committee.

PMC met jointly with the CLC in the afternoon. J. Baron thanked the CLC for their efforts in working on language to include IR-4 in the 2014 Farm Bill. IR-4 Farm Bill authorization has not changed since 1991. Inclusion in the bill also impacts the PRIA III-Public Interest Finding requirement of EPA – IR-4 is now authorized to work on “specialty” crops vs “minor” crops as defined by EPA.

IR-4 Update

IR-4 achieved 187 permanent tolerances for 1032 potential new uses in 2013. There were delays on tolerance decisions due to the government shut down. At the start of 2014, only 25% of the potential new uses made it to marketing labels which is quite low. D. Kunkel will revisit this by July and hopefully the registration percentage should be more in line with percentages achieved in past years. The Ornamental Horticulture program garnered 5 registrations impacting hundreds of crops.

There were many 50th anniversary celebrations in 2013.

EPA is doing more in the international arena with helping establish MRLs. IR-4 has also been heavily involved but funding for IR-4 re-formatting of data for Int'l submissions will run out in 2015 and alternate sources will need to be identified. IR-4 has also been doing more work in capacity building in Asia, Latin America and Africa. E. Lurvey, J. DeFrancesco, E. Culbert and W. Jiang are also working with M. Braverman on these capacity building efforts to help other countries establish minor use programs.

The Strategic Plan is coming along. IR-4 had an excellent response to the survey with 550 people participating in the survey process and most providing detailed comments. J. Baron gave a summary of the responses. Most respondents commented that IR-4 should not take on new program areas, but keep doing what we are doing. The next step is for the PMC to provide comments on the Strategic Plan.

ACTION: PMC to provide comments on Strategic Plan document by March 21.

ACTION: J. Baron to incorporate comments and resubmit to PMC by March 31.

J. Baron reported the peer review that was originally scheduled for July will be postponed until late October or early November. R. Hedberg is to take the lead in coordinating the review (fall 2014, at HQ if possible, or in D.C.) and let D. Soderlund know if PMC should attend the review. D. Rossi will send the link to the NRSP-4 review guidelines to R. Hedberg. D. Rossi suggests a some overlap of panel members from the most recent review. The 5 year proposal will be sent to the NRSP Review Committee in January

of 2015, it will be considered by the regions at their spring meetings and a final vote by the Directors will occur in September of 2015.

ACTION ITEM: R. Hedberg to coordinate NRSP-4 review/re-authorization panel

Other Strategic Plan discussion from Wednesday March 5 concerned the CLC's viewpoint of what USDA should fund, which is agriculture not PHP. K. Malamud-Roam noted that PHP also helps with animal health and the Strategic Plan document should communicate this connection.

Budget Distribution

J. Baron presented a proposal on the budget distribution for 2014 and all recognized that the figures may change according to funding and regional and HQ needs. For 2015 the President's proposal includes IR-4 at \$11.916M. The CLC is proposing \$14 M more on their Hill visits. A separate 1-pager was suggested to reflect the ARS contributions to IR-4.

MOTION: To accept budget distribution as proposed by J. Baron. Approved

Wednesday, Mar. 5th:

K. Simmons, Deputy Administrator USDA-ARS joined the meeting to address concerns over funding of Pacific West. J. Baron stated that lab work at Wapato and field work at Salinas were critical to the entire IR-4 Project. The lab has had reduced capacity for the past 10 years with various problems and if it cannot be restored to functionality could the funds be diverted to the ARS Tifton lab. R. Bonanno reiterated how important ARS is to IR-4 and due to regional differences within ARS, IR-4 is not seen as a core program in the Pacific West. He asked how the CLC can approach Congress to discuss the importance of ARS to the IR-4 Project. Since ARS/IR-4 is not a line item, it is hard to identify where they can ask for an increase in the ARS budget. When asked how IR-4 could become a core project within ARS, K. Simmons commented that she will consult with her budget director and provide feedback regarding all of the issues raised in the conversation.

ARS will be replacing S. Schneider in the near future. The job advertisement will go out in the next 30-60 days.

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

Brief updates AAs, NIFA, PMC members and CLC.

NCR (Entire report is in the materials.)

B. Hollingworth reported 2013 was another record year for laboratory productivity with 118 trials completed and submitted to HQ. In quite a few cases these were high priority projects with critical deadlines that were all met. There is reason to be happy with both the quality and quantity of productivity of this unit. The number of field studies for registrations on food crops that were completed and submitted in 2013 was unusually low (39) because 12 projects had to be canceled due to crop loss in the spring freeze in 2012, and the initial number of projects assigned to NCR in 2012 was lower than usual. These cancelled trials were reassigned for 2013 to give a total of 91 for the region. In the ornamentals program, a total of 101 studies of pesticide efficacy and crop safety were submitted from the region. The two EPA compliance inspections conducted in 2012 were closed on February 8, 2013 without adverse findings.

This illustrates the continuing effectiveness of the regional Quality Assurance program. J. Wise will take over as director on July 1, 2014. B. Hollingworth is willing to remain involved for another year if needed.

Northeastern Region (Entire report is in the materials.)

Forty-nine field trials were initiated in 2013. An additional five residue trials were conducted using funds from industry. Five Northeastern region researchers received funds to conduct seven food use efficacy/crop safety studies.

The regional Quality Assurance effort was in transition during 2013 with the hiring of M. Humiston as the new regional Quality Assurance Coordinator. The two major emphases since May 1 were extensive training and her completion of the required field critical phase inspections (15) and facilities inspections (4) that were targeted in the Northeast Region for 2013. Eleven Field Data Books were audited in late 2013. An EPA inspection at the Rutgers Fruit Research and Extension Center, held in September, yielded no findings.

Ten Priority A and regionally important ornamental horticulture studies, involving approximately 114 chemical/crop combinations, were funded in the Northeast region.

The Northeast Region held a priority setting meeting in Albany, NY on August 20. The meeting was well attended; the 23 participants including State Liaisons, researchers and extension personnel.

E. Lurvey is spending significant time in Latin America and will continue through 2014 year end.

Southern Region

The Southern Region Field Program: worked on 99 GLP field trials and 72 ornamental trials in 2013. In addition, 13 food use performance trials were carried out by 21 scientists in 12 southern states to help generate data for 'Pesticide Clearance Requests. Southern Region Performance program (SRPP) conducted 13 trials.

Biopesticide studies conducted in the Southern region in 2013 were on the following projects: Investigating the Role of Entomopathogens in Whitefly IPM Programs (FL); Evaluation of biologically based alternatives for broadleaf weed control in turf and ornamentals (NC); Evaluation of commercial formulations of entomopathogenic fungi to manage the redbay ambrosia beetle, vector of laurel wilt, a lethal disease affecting avocados in Florida (FL). At this time, these projects are ongoing or being completed and data will be directly sent to IR-4 HQ.

The Southern Region Quality Assurance Program: conducted 5 facility inspections and 66 'In-Life Inspections' for the Southern Region including ARS sites within the region.

The laboratory was scheduled to perform 120 trials in 2013.

The Southern Region held a face-to-face annual meeting in Orlando.

Western Region (report in meeting materials)

Have had fewer trials; most of the FDB are in for 2011 and 2012, 2013 is on track. The wasabi trials have been difficult. The training webinars are continuing to be successful. Ornamental and biopesticide trials are moving along. The PHP trials for etofenprox are complete. Analytical work is also moving along with no backlog. No personnel changes.

The lab in Hawaii is now closed.

ARS (report in meeting materials)

P. Schwartz reported that the residue work at the ARS sites was down to 70 trials from capacity of ~100. The ornamental work is down significantly – normally have 250. S. Benson would normally do about 30 trials and she has about 15-16, and it doesn't look like that will change according to K. Simmons. ARS is still under travel restrictions. Quality assurance is working well. No personnel changes.

Commodity Liaison Committee

L. Phelps presented a training on visiting your Congressman at the CLC meeting (Notes included in materials). This was very helpful and well received. The CLC worked on the one page document S. Novack created prior to the meeting and made changes. The “specialty crop” language in the Farm Bill has given them some leverage when seeking aide for IR-4. Most Hill visits this time are introductory and later will be more directive as far as asking for funding.

R. Lundy was presented with the IR-4 Hall of Fame Award.

NIFA

M. Johnson has retired and R. Hedberg has replaced him. The RFA has been issued. Rob hopes to move things along to bringing it back to an October release timeframe. NIFA has also been hit with budget cuts at about \$5 million. Travel has been curtailed. The Farm Bill may help but it will take some time for this to be implemented. D. Rossi expressed the importance of having NIFA personnel attend face-to-face meetings so that they can see the needs first hand and asked R. Hedberg to share this information with those at NIFA making travel priorities.

R. Otto retired on January 1, 2014. M. Broussard will be in charge of programs and they plan on hiring a replacement for R. Otto and D. Sheely.

HQ

J. Baron reported a company that does report writing for pharmaceutical companies has sublet the annex. Some personnel changes: J. Corley resigned, R. Batts will become a part-time study director charging 50% of his time to HQ, C. Jolly has moved and remains in her Study Director role from her new home in Washington state, hired K. Coleman to work with Biopesticide and Organic support program.

Food Program (Entire report is in the materials.)

D. Kunkel reported the Food Use program obtained 1032 tolerances on 31 chemicals in 2013; of this only 25% have made it to marketing labels to-date. Many uses were granted late in 2013 due to government shutdown and furloughs. D. Kunkel has contacted registrants to encourage them to add the uses in time for the 2014 season. He will update this in July. Crop grouping revisions – down to just a few groups to complete.

Currently 89 studies are awaiting submission. The main hold-up is needing documentation from registrants, Also contribution to the delay are manpower issues within HQ, and awaiting EPA Public Interest Finding response. There was significant Study Director concerns about the situation in Weslaco - there are difficulties in communication with the need for a translator, and concern about whether the skills are adequate – for instance, grapefruit samples from a study on oranges were received at the lab.

IR-4 Advisory for freezer emergency back-up systems

V. Starner reported on the Training Committee's task with creating an advisory on emergency back-up freezer maintenance and testing. The draft Advisory was distributed for PMC review and comment before it is moved to the next step in the approval process.

ACTION ITEM: Give V. Starner comments on Freezer Advisory by end of week.

FUW/NRPM (Entire report is in the materials.)

V. Starner provided draft deadlines/timelines for activities leading up to the 2014 FUW, and for further activities between the FUW and the NRPM. Some key dates are:

Aug. 8 – EPA red/yellow/green light project assessment complete

Aug. 13 – last day for receipt of new PCRs, for consideration at FUW

Aug. 15-27 – project nominations on the IR-4 website (organized by discipline)

Sept. 2 – project reports/spreadsheets for workshop available on IR-4 website

Reviewed "A" priority criteria; D. Buhler suggested adding impact on pollinators to the prioritization criteria – this has been done.

International Activities (Entire report is in the materials.)

D. Kunkel reported that IR-4 has been successful in convincing the manufacturers to submit our data with theirs on International requests and just dovetailing into the existing JMPR workplan. There is an article in the winter IR-4 Newsletter that provides information on International Activities.

QA (Entire report is in the materials.)

T. Barkalow reported IR-4 was subjected to 10 EPA Inspections in 2013, 1 so far in 2014, and notified of 10 others in 2014. Six of the 10 inspections in 2013 have closed. M. Humiston is doing FDB audits for HQ and will do the same for Western Region in the near future. The QAU is very concerned about the Weslaco site and proposed the work be contracted until a new FRD is hired. M. Samuel-Foo has identified possible contractors to do the work.

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter to discuss 2014 Weslaco trials with M. Samuel-Foo

The eQA roll out has been successfully implemented and in full use

Dr. M. Bari may cease to conduct GLP trials for IR-4 on Artichoke. The site may be closing its GLP trial operations, and IR-4 may request an EPA inspection before closure. The Spring QA meeting was held in Atlanta in February where 2014 field targets were identified. The Canadian sites were not identified.

Ornamental Horticulture Program (Entire report is in the materials.)

C. Palmer reported there were fewer trials in 2013 and the program was impacted by the ARS decision to not fund the Pacific West. The Ornamental Horticulture program also increased the amount paid per trial and that, too, affected the number of conducted trials. Seven registrations were approved which were supported partially by IR-4 data. While the number of registrations declined, the number of crops impacted was steady in comparison to 2012.

C. Palmer is still receiving APHIS grants for conducting research on invasive species. Gladiolus Rust is winding down, C Chrysanthemum White Rust is quite active, Arthropods is active, Boxwood Blight has been a successful collaboration with several different research avenues and Impatiens Downy Mildew has a very active collaboration. Outreach efforts for the program included a presentations at: Northeastern Weed Science Society, two presentations at NJ Nursery and Landscape Association conference and a presentation at Society of American Florists.

Biopesticide and Organic Support (Entire report is in the materials.)

M. Braverman reported on the vision to restructure the Biopesticide & Organic Support program to be a more directed priority setting process similar to the other IR-4 programs, thus eliminating the RFP process.

MOTION: To adopt the new directive approach to prioritizing research in the Biopesticide and Organic Support Program. Approved

MOTION: To approve 2014 Biopesticide grant proposal recommendations for funding. Approved

Public Health (Entire report is in the materials.)

K. Malamud Roam reported that J. Wain will be retained until July. He is looking for potential external sources of money from Innovative Vector Control Consortium that is part of the Gates Foundation. He will not be receiving budget cuts from the DoD/ARS grant. The all-crops tolerance for the mosquitocide etofenprox was published. PHP is involved in testing a bee repellent. This could be huge in the Ag market. He is also working on a hand-held device that can be used on military uniforms and bed nets without destroying them.

Communications

S. Novack reported the Strategic Planning survey had taken most of her time during this reporting period. The number of respondents was fantastic. She sent the survey to 2102 IR-4 stakeholders and 550 people responded. D. Yarborough, M. Qualls and C. Wei were the winners of the prizes that IR-4 used to encourage participation.

S. Novack distributed copies of the 2013 Year End Summary and gave an overview of articles in the Winter Newsletter, particularly focusing on the President's visit to MSU and D. Buhler's involvement with the visit. IR-4 was represented by the lab assistant, Chris LaMarch at the MSU IR-4 lab, who interned with Senator Debbie Stabenow in the summer of 2013. V. Starner discussed the "New Product Corner" section of the newsletter that was launched in this issue. When B. Hollingworth retires, June 30, the Newsletter Committee will need someone who represents the PMC to come on board.

Lab ACAC

Lab Guidance Document is signed and ready for posting to the website. There is real concern on the steady decline of the ARS lab in Wapato.

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter and D. Kunkel should put together a chronology of this decline in a document that will be sent to K. Simmons.

Upcoming Meetings

Western Region Webinars

¹ May 13 Timely Topics

¹ July 8 Timely Topics

³ September 9 Timely Topics - Lab

¹ November 12 Timely Topics - Webinar is on Wednesday due to the Veteran's Day holiday

FOOTNOTES:

¹All encouraged to attend (Lab, Field, QA)

²Primarily of interest to the Field (Lab welcomed)

³Primarily of interest to the Lab (Field welcomed)

2014 Western Region SLR/CLC Meeting
March 25-26
Richland, WA

Canadian Priority Setting Meeting
March 25-27, 2014
Gatineau, QC

Boxwood Blight Summit
ARS Building 3
May 13, 2014
Beltsville, MD
Contact: Cristi Palmer
palmer@aesop.rutgers.edu

~~American Boxwood Society Symposium
May 13-16, 2014
College Park, MD
Contact: Cristi Palmer cancelled~~

Summer PMC
Week of July 14, 2014
Location TBD

IR-4 Food Use and Biopesticide Workshops
September 9-10, 2014
Atlanta, GA

IUPAC August 10-14, 2014
San Francisco, CA

NRPM/Fall QA/All-Hands/Fall PMC meeting
Oct. 28-30, 2014
Princeton, NJ

USDA Peer Review of IR-4/PMC Meeting
November 2014
Location: TBD

8th International IPM Symposium
March 23-26, 2015
Salt Lake City, Utah

XXV International Congress of Entomology
September 25-30, 2016
Orlando, Florida