



**July 2015 PMC/CLC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes**

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC members

FROM: Van Starner

DATE: September 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Summer 2015 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

Please find attached the summer 2015 PMC Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions July 14-15, 2015.

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

## July 2015 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its summer 2015 meeting on July 14-15, 2015, in Naples, FL.

On July 21, 2015, J. Baron sent an email broadly within IR-4 to share key outcomes in three areas from the PMC meeting the week before. The text of his email is repeated here, followed by other critical information/motions/action items from PMC discussions.

### 1. Retirements/New Responsibilities/New Members:

Time marches on; several long time PMC members have announced their retirements. Southern Region Director, **Dr. Marty Marshall** has formally retired from University of Florida, effective July 1, 2015. He is being replaced by **Dr. Liwei Gu**, (<http://fshn.ifas.ufl.edu/directory/faculty/gu/>), a University of Florida Food Science Department faculty member. To help in the transition, Marty has agreed to stay on for one additional year.

Also announcing retirement from University of Florida in September 2015 is Associate Dean **Mary Duryea**. Mary is currently serving as IR-4 Southern Region Administrative Advisor and Chair of the Administrative Advisors. **Dr. Jackie Burns**, IFAS Dean of Research will take on the IR-4 Southern Region Administrative Advisor responsibilities. Jackie is familiar with IR-4 from her prior activities with plant growth regulators registration on citrus.

**Dr. Dave Soderlund** has submitted a letter of resignation as the IR-4 Northeast Region Director and Chair of the PMC. This resignation is in association with the relocation for the Northeast Region administration from Cornell University to Rutgers University/University of Maryland. Dave has agreed to serve the remainder of the PMC Chair's term (thru October 2015) and then as an Ad Hoc member of the PMC until the remaining Cornell University/IR-4 Northeast Region operational grants are closed next August 2016.

Replacing Dave as Northeast Director is **Dr. Daniel Rossi**. Dan has been associated with IR-4 for over 30 years in various capacities, most recently as IR-4 Northeast Region Administrative Advisor and Executive Director of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. As Dan assumes the IR-4 Northeast Region Director responsibilities, **Dr. Brad Hillman** enters as IR-4 Northeast Region Administrative Advisor. Brad is Senior Associate Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station with a background in Plant Pathology/ Virology. As part of Rutgers administration, he is very familiar with IR-4.

The above changes are on top of two other relatively recent PMC membership changes. Last July, **Dr. Bob Hollingworth** retired as IR-4 North Central Regional Director and was replaced by **Dr. John Wise**. This past February, **Dr. Matt Hengel** took over as IR-4 Western Region Director when **Dr. Ron Tjeerdema** moved into University of California-Davis administration. Both John and Matt join the PMC with significant experience as IR-4 Field and Laboratory Research Directors, respectively.

2. The IR-4 Project Management Committee approved a resolution that USDA should explore changing the Minor Crop Pest Management grant funding authorization from a "Special Grant" to a four-year "Cooperative Agreement". This change will potentially allow IR-4's host institutions to charge up to 10% indirect costs on the Minor Crop Pest Management funds. Currently, these funds are legally exempt from indirect costs. Most institutions have documented indirect costs exceeding 30%.

The allowance of 10% indirect cost will have a painful impact on IR-4, including less research capacity in all program areas. This was done with the recognition that many of the host institutions could no longer sustain their full contributions to IR-4's research costs. Though it is agonizing to reduce research capacity, the IR-4 PMC believes it is the right thing to do and in the long term will help IR-4 remain a viable entity with all of its host institutions and other stakeholders. IR-4 hopes that this effective loss of research capacity with the indirect cost charge can be offset by new funds.

3. The PMC approved a budget roadmap for anticipated fiscal year 2016 funds associated with the Minor Crop Pest Management Grant and anticipated USDA-ARS contribution. This roadmap calls for field research to remain at 2015 levels (food crops - \$2.4 million, ornamentals - \$518,000, biopesticides - \$400,000). Within the food crops allocation, funds for efficacy/crop safety research will increase by \$250,000 to reflect the growing need for product performance/crop safety data to support residue projects and registrations. This additional efficacy/crop safety research allocation will be offset by the reduction of approximately five new residue studies in the 2016 research plan.

**AA** - there is opportunity to reach out to the FL citrus industry to cooperate in the citrus greening crisis; IR-4 needs to stay engaged with the Citrus Research Board's greening program; there is a Citrus Product Board exploring potential products to move forward, and it could be valuable for IR-4 to be on that board

**NRSP Renewal** - is moving forward to a vote in Sept. for the \$481,000 in HATCH funds from the Exp. Station Directors to IR-4;

**ARS** - National Program staff released ARS IR-4 funds to help sites impacted in the PNW; ARS funds were also released to cover ARS QA and Cream Ridge orn hort research; Permanent AA for ARS is still being determined

**NIFA** - hopes to release the 2016 RFA sooner next year with the assumption of flat funding. Will be able to make adjustments later on if they are needed

**North Central Region** – the region is interested in becoming involved with International capacity building, as many researchers are involved with efforts in harmonizing MRLs

**Southern Region** - the field/QA training held March 11-12 in Gainesville went well; just received award letter for 2015 NIFA grant

**Western Region** – in June a decommission letter was submitted to IR-4 HQ to confirm that the closure of the HI lab was complete and all pertinent data had been shipped to HQ for archival

**Northeast Region** – there is no commitment from Cornell beyond 2015 for the Cornell field sites doing IR-4 work without indirect costs being charged; IR-4 to find new site for required EPA Region 1 trial work (Addendum-Cornell University committed to allow IR-4 to utilize Cornell field sites in 2016 under existing restrictions of no-indirect costs)

**HQ** – J. Forder, HQ QA, is taking over QA duties for Northeast Region, operating from HQ; for the Int'l Workshop in Chicago Sept. 20-22, >150 have registered, representing >25 countries

**Food use program** – so far in 2015 IR-4 rec'd 436 new uses, with 5 AIs, exceeding the 309 in 2014

**Orn Hort program** – so far in 2015 there has been 1 registration approved that was supported by IR-4 data – Empress 250 SC in CA; 7 summary reports have been compiled/posted

**Biopesticide program** – *A. flavus* AF6 Prevail new formulation registration issued for cotton/corn/pistachio; will enable expansion to fig/almond; *A. flavus* AF6 Sec. 18 was approved on fig

**Public Health program** – DoD/ARS grant of \$225K/yr is set through Sept. 2017; HQ is hoping to hire a 50% FTE Research Assistant to work on Public Health databases

**QA** - 6 EPA audits in 2015 so far, with no adverse findings in any audit; plans are being made for a PMC GLP training event spring 2016, focusing on Testing Facility Management responsibilities

**Int'l Activities** - For the 2015 Global Workshop in Chicago, >150 have registered, representing >25 different countries; ~3000 crop/pest needs were submitted for inclusion in the Int'l database of needs; planned outcomes: select pilot projects in 3 crop areas: tropical crops, temperate crops, "protected" crops; and select countries to serve as project leads

**Review of IR-4 Program** – plan is to convene a panel of experts outside IR-4 to examine all aspects of IR-4 operations and provide an assessment; idea for this review is spelled out in the Strategic Plan 2020 on page 8 of the summary “Improve Effectiveness”

## Motions and Action Items

**MOTION:** to accept minutes from the March 2015 PMC meeting. **APPROVED**

**MOTION:** for R. Hedberg to provide direction to NIFA to proceed with conversion of IR-4 special grant to a cooperative agreement which includes 10% cost recovery (indirect costs) to host institutions. This will impact the 2017 budget. **APPROVED**

**MOTION:** that for the 2016 budget, 1) the Southern Region, Northcentral Region and HQ each cut \$30K, and the WSU lab be closed (\$50K); and 2) keep funding flat (at 2015 levels) for Food Use/Orn Hort/Biopesticide programs (effectively SOR, NCR, HQ at \$30K each plus \$50K from WSU lab; this equals \$140K of cuts to be given to the Western Region to resolve their ~\$150K shortfall. **APPROVED**

**MOTION:** to continue exploring “App Track”/Valent system for trial application calculations /notifications, and electronic protocol generation. **APPROVED**

**MOTION:** to adopt Scenario 2 for the 2016 food use field program budget (\$2.4M total - \$1.9M for residue trials, \$450K for performance trials and \$50K in “extra” funds for difficult trials [target of 40 FUW priority “A” projects and 12 upgrades]). **APPROVED**

**MOTION:** to change the FRD response time to audits in eQA from 45 to 30 days. **Approved**

**MOTION:** that M. Hengel become the official PMC member on ACAC, replacing D. Soderlund.  
**Approved**

**ACTION:** recommendation for Orn Hort was to propose eliminating the “Orn Hort Project Clearance Request” link/form from the website homepage at the Oct. 2015 workshop in Chicago, and confirm with stakeholders if they agree

**ACTION:** recommitment from PMC to the cost of website-redesign was requested and accepted – web-redesign team should regroup and seek required bids

**ACTION** – Education and Training Committee to examine the funding concern along with expected costs to conduct a 1.5-2 day National Education Conference in early 2017, and put together a proposal for PMC to consider (target Oct. PMC meeting if possible)

**ACTION:** ACAC was charged to do what can be done to address delays in the labs

**ACTION:** PMC agreed that the IR-4 response to EPA’s pollinator decision should be submitted by the PMC; following this meeting the draft response is to be sent to voting PMC members for closer review, then the final response submitted to EPA in the name of the IR-4 Project Management Committee



## July 2015 Project Management Committee (PMC) meeting - Minutes

The IR-4 PMC held its summer 2015 meeting on July 14-15, 2015 in Naples, FL

### Attendees:

- Tammy Barkalow - Assistant Director, QAU, IR-4 HQ (phone)
- Jerry Baron\* - Executive Director IR-4 Project, IR-4 HQ
- Michael Braverman - IR-4 Biopesticide & Organic Support Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Jackie Burns - IFAS Dean of Research (to be Southern Region Administrative Advisor)
- Mary Delany - Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Mary Duryea - Southern Region Administrative Advisor and AA Chair
- Rob Hedberg - NIFA National Program Leader (phone)
- Matt Hengel\* - Western Region Director
- Brad Hillman - Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
- Dan Kunkel - Associate Director, Food & International Programs, IR-4 HQ
- Karl Malamud-Roam - Public Health Pesticides Program Manager, IR-4 HQ (phone)
- Marty Marshall\* - Southern Region Director
- Sherrilynn Novack - Public Relations & Communications Manager, IR-4 HQ (phone)
- Cristi Palmer - Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Dan Rossi - Northeast Region Director
- Paul Schwartz\* - ARS Regional Director (phone)
- Dave Soderlund\* - Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
- Van Starner - Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach, IR-4 HQ
- John Wise\* - North Central Region Director

\* Voting members

Agenda changes: J. Baron added EPA Pollinator Protection Plan item

**MOTION:** It was moved to accept minutes from the March 2015 PMC meeting. **APPROVED**

### Administrative Advisors update – M. Duryea

- NRSP renewal is moving forward; expect the vote (in Sept.) for the \$481,000 in HATCH funds from the Exp. Station Directors to IR-4; funds will go to HQ vs being distributed to the regions;
- Permanent AA for ARS is still being determined
- Associate Dean Mary Duryea announced her retirement from University of Florida, effective September 2015 is. Dr. Jackie Burns, IFAS Dean of Research will take on the IR-4 Southern Region Administrative Advisor responsibilities. Jackie is familiar with IR-4 from her prior activities with plant growth regulators registration on citrus.

- With Dr. Daniel Rossi replacing Dave Soderlund as Northeast Director, Dr. Brad Hillman is new IR-4 Northeast Region Administrative Advisor. Brad is Senior Associate Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station with a background in Plant Pathology/Virology. As part of Rutgers administration, he is very familiar with IR-4.
- J. Burns indicated there is an opportunity to reach out to the FL citrus industry to cooperate in the citrus greening crisis; IR-4 needs to stay engaged with the Citrus Research Board's greening program; there is a Citrus Product Board exploring potential products to move forward, and it could be valuable for IR-4 to be on that board (J. Burns to explore this)

#### **ARS update – P. Schwartz**

- National Program staff released ARS IR-4 funds (won't carry into 2016) to help sites that were impacted in the PNW area. The funds are sufficient for these sites to meet their 2015 commitments to IR-4
- ARS funds were also released to cover ARS QA expenses and Cream Ridge ornamentals research.
- No word has come out on the selection for the new position for specialty crops to cover the IR-4 program in the office of National Programs.
- Tifton still does not have a Research Leader to replace Brian Scully – there are 3 candidates with selection expected within a few months. (need to double check with Paul on this, we were given a name a while ago)

#### **CLC update – no report**

#### **NIFA update – R. Hedberg**

- There was a long discussion about pursuing a resolution that USDA should explore changing the Minor Crop Pest Management grant funding authorization from a "Special Grant" to a four-year "Cooperative Agreement". This change would potentially allow IR-4's host institutions to charge up to 10% indirect costs on the Minor Crop Pest Management funds. Currently, these funds are legally exempt from indirect costs. Most institutions have documented indirect costs exceeding 30%. The allowance of 10% indirect cost would have a painful impact on IR-4, including less research capacity in all program areas. This would be done with the recognition that many host institutions can no longer sustain their full contributions to IR-4's research costs. Generally PMC believed it is the right thing to do and in the long term will help IR-4 remain a viable entity with all of its host institutions and other stakeholders. The hope is that the loss of research capacity with the indirect cost charge can be offset by new funds

**MOTION:** It was moved for R. Hedberg to provide direction to NIFA to proceed with conversion of IR-4 special grant to a cooperative agreement which includes 10% cost recovery (indirect costs) to host institutions. This will impact the 2017 budget. **APPROVED**

- Suggestion was made that 2017 budget modeling include both a 10% and 30% reduction, as well as increases. J. Baron will first attempt this in the next few months.
- 2016 RFA? – R. Hedberg hopes to release the 2016 RFA sooner next year, with the assumption of flat funding, and making adjustments if needed

#### **North Central Region Update – J. Wise**

- The lab is at capacity; LRD is concerned about analytical difficulties with many studies, but they are working to get back on track; the region has been subjected to 4 EPA inspections this year, all with no findings
- The region is interested in becoming involved with International capacity building. Many researchers are involved with efforts in harmonizing MRLs.

### **Southern Region update – M. Marshall**

- All in the lab and field is status quo; new hires are working well
- Southern Region Director, **Dr. Marty Marshall** has formally retired from University of Florida, effective July 1, 2015. He is being replaced by **Dr. Liwei Gu**, (<http://fshn.ifas.ufl.edu/directory/faculty/gu/>), a University of Florida Food Science Department faculty member – he plans to attend the Food Use Workshop, then the NRPM in Late Oct. To help in the transition, Marty has agreed to stay on for one additional year
- A training program was held March 11-12 in Gainesville, which went well
- Just received their award letter for the 2015 grant from NIFA

### **Western Region update – M. Hengel**

- Field, lab and QA programs are all doing well
- There are two new FRDs in the region – Cary Hamilton in Las Cruces, NM and Nathan Leach in Riverside, CA
- In June a decommission letter was submitted to IR-4 HQ to confirm that the closure of the HI lab was complete and all pertinent data had been shipped to HQ for archival
- The Univ. of ID field site was EPA-inspected in June, with no observed significant adverse findings

### **Northeast Region update – D. Soderlund**

- D. Soderlund has submitted a letter of resignation as the IR-4 Northeast Region Director and Chair of the PMC; this is in association with the relocation for the Northeast Region administration from Cornell University to Rutgers University/University of Maryland. He has agreed to serve the remainder of the PMC Chair's term (thru October 2015) and then as an Ad Hoc member of the PMC until the remaining Cornell University/IR-4 Northeast Region operational grants are closed next August 2016
- Field trials are still being managed from Cornell, while personnel are in transition; M. Hummiston's last day in QA was before the end of July, as she moved into another Cornell position; an EPA inspection was scheduled for the Cornell field site (R. Bellinder)
- The region held a regional meeting in Albany NY in June; lots of discussions about biopesticides
- The transition plan from Cornell to Rutgers/Univ. of MD progress update:
  - The 2014 grant award was the last one received at Cornell; 2015 funds are going through Rutgers, with D. Rossi and J. Baron as co-PIs
  - Search Comm. was still working through process of completing interviews for the Regional Field Coordinator position (RFC)
  - E. Lurvey retires end of 2015 as RFC; D. Soderlund in Jan. 2017
  - S. Nagahiro at HQ was recognized as being critical to organizing all the grant material
  - There was no commitment from Cornell beyond 2015 for the Cornell field site doing IR-4 work without indirect costs being charged; recommendation was for IR-4 to find a replacement site for required trial work in EPA region 1

### **HQ update – J. Baron**

- Concerns
  - Have not been able to formulate a succession plan, with retirements looming in the next few years.
  - Grants for 2015 funds may not arrive till August.
- Trends
  - 1990's – many companies, most were US-centric; many new AIs in development; companies focused on major crops; much performance data generated by Univ. researchers and Extension



- Today – registrations are plentiful, but options are limited (due to global MRL issues, resistance, use restrictions (buffer zones, endangered species, water concerns, etc.); companies are covering many specialty crop group registrations; need for performance data is increasing by companies (phase-out of Univ. applied researchers – no tenure impact), and for EPA’s Public Interest Finding
- Residue data - needs are increasing; companies asking IR-4 to develop additional data to address expected EPA issues (new metabolites, water sampling, pollen/nectar, etc.); need 0-day analyses for storage stability to meet PMRA requirements; conduct more trials per study to meet JMPR/Codex needs for setting Codex MRLs; need more decline trials; stricter separation of field trials (making them clearly distinct)
- Product pipeline – few companies in chemical discovery anymore; pesticide chemical R&D budgets are competing with biotech; major markets have much reduced value; bar for regulatory success is getting higher and higher; many “me-too” new products
- Increasing interest in residues for ornamental crops - foliar dislodgeable residues, related to pollinator protection, edible flowers, etc.
- New focus on biopesticides – many new registrations; better than previous generations of products in performance; currently no MRL issues; big companies are investing heavily in these, and they are committed to it
- Public rejection of technology!
- IR-4 challenges – access to innovation; ever-changing regulations; IR-4 assets in people and facilities (has always been residue-centric); maintaining timelines and funding
- How IR-4 must change – 1) consider new way to prioritize needs, based on crop/pest needs vs a chemical/pest focus; 2) consider adjustments in infrastructure of labs/field centers/personnel
- Other
  - J. Forder, HQ QA, is taking over QA duties for the northeast region, operating from HQ.
  - For the Int’l Workshop in Chicago Sept. 20-22, so far >150 have registered, representing >25 countries, and about 3000 crop/pest need requests have come in.

### **New budgeting models for funding distribution**

- Funding spreadsheets for the 4 regions and HQ were displayed and discussed; actual cost to run the core program in each region and HQ is ~\$500K above the funding requested in 2015 grants; given that no budget increase can be expected, suggestion was made that all Directors must start making cuts, or find ways to secure more funds from other sources; there was lots of discussion about program efficiencies; of particular concern was the significant funding shortfall (~\$150K) in the western region
- A number of potential areas across the program where cuts might be considered were suggested; and there also was a suggestion that each region and HQ take a \$30K reduction, and let each area decide how to accomplish such a cut

**MOTION:** J. Baron moved that 1) the Southern, Northcentral and HQ each cut \$30K, and the WSU lab be closed (\$50K); and 2) keep funding flat (at 2015 levels) for Food Use/ Orn Hort/Biopesticide programs (effectively SOR, NCR, HQ at \$30K each plus \$50K from WSU lab [last samples to be analyzed are from 2015 trial assignments]; this equals \$140K of cuts to be given to the Western Region to resolve their ~\$150K shortfall. **APPROVED**

### **Field trial Ad Hoc Comm. – S. Flanagan update/proposal (“App Track” & electronic protocol prep)**

- Via “Ready talk” S. Flanagan/M. Hengel described how this application check tool would be used by FRD right before and after applications, and automatic reports would go out to the Study Director,

RFC, etc.; if we capture 7 more pieces of researcher data in the database (which captures only a minimal amount of study specific information), we could generate calculations pre- and post-application, and more timely track errors and save trials from being terminated; questions that need to be answered were presented and what would be required if this were moved forward

- J. Baron commented on a system Valent uses in their residue program for this purpose, and the possibility of gaining access to this Excel program maybe at minimal cost
- Related to pursuing some form of “App Track,” the Ad hoc committee on field trial issues is looking at 30 lost trials identified by J. Baron; J. Wise placed these trials in 1 of 5 categories: 1) third party issue; 2) over- or under-applied by the FRD; 3) non-GLP equipment, etc., issue; 4) FRD not paying attention to trial requirements; or 5) random human error; the comm. will be coming up with some recommendations, but J. Wise feels it is not as bad as it first appeared to be

**MOTION:** To continue exploring “App Track”/Valent system for trial application calculations/notifications, and electronic protocol generation. **APPROVED**

#### **Food Use Program update – D. Kunkel/D. Carpenter/V. Starner**

- So far in 2015 have received from EPA 436 new uses, with 5 AIs – this already exceeds the total of 309 new uses in 2014; expecting new uses this year to return to the average of somewhere in the 750-1000 range
- So far 4 submissions have been made in 2015, with more in the queue
- In crop grouping activities, we expect a final rule late this year in the Federal Register establishing new tropical fruit crop groups 23 and 24, revised crop groups 4 and 5, and a new crop group 22 (stem/leaf/petiole vegetables)
- Field databook delays at FRD/RFC offices were summarized
- 57 studies are pending submission, some dating back to 2006; submission timeline for 60 studies is TBD for various reasons (internal IR-4 delays, need registrant submission package, regulatory challenges at EPA, change in registrant support, etc.); 44 studies are in final report processing phase and 40 others have ASRs pending
- For 2013 studies to meet the 30-month timeline, submissions should generally be made by Oct. 2015, but data is currently outstanding for 33 of 76 studies being tracked, and these 33 will not make the 30-month timeline
- A summary of plans for the 2015 Food Use Workshop in Chicago Sept. 22-23 was presented, including on-line project nominations Aug. 17-Sept. 3 and new project requests (PCRs) accepted thru Sept. 1 for possible discussion at the workshop; meetings/deadlines, etc., following the workshop leading up to the National Research Planning meeting Oct. 27-29 were outlined

#### **2016 Food Use Field Trial budget scenarios – V. Starner/D. Kunkel**

- 2 funding scenarios were presented for the 2016 field program, both with flat funding from 2015 level: 1) Scenario 1 was identical to the plan in place in 2015 (\$2.4M, with \$2.15M for residue trials, \$200K for performance trials and \$50K in “extra” funds for difficult trials), with a FUW target of 43 “A” priorities and 14 upgrades; 2) Scenario 2 proposed \$2.4M total - \$1.9M for residue trials, \$450K for performance trials and \$50K in “extra” funds for difficult trials (target of 40 FUW priority “A” projects and 12 upgrades).

**MOTION:** It was moved to adopt Scenario 2 for the 2016 food use field program (\$2.4M total - \$1.9M for residue trials, \$450K for performance trials and \$50K in “extra” funds for difficult trials [target of 40 FUW priority “A” projects and 12 upgrades]). **APPROVED**

#### **Ornamental Horticulture Program update – C. Palmer**

- A historical perspective of # of trials/costs since 2004 was presented, along with the last 5-year average funding, etc.; to more effectively address high priority projects, additional funding is needed, and the recommendation is for 2016 funding was \$768 (Scenario B) or \$878K (Scenario A)
- So far in 2015 there has been 1 registration approved that was supported by IR-4 data – Empress 250 SC in CA
- 7 summary reports have been compiled and posted so far in 2015
- Proposal was to eliminate the “Orn Hort Project Clearance Request” form from the website homepage, as only 2-3 requests per year are received this way; **ACTION:** recommendation was to propose this at the Oct. 2015 workshop in Chicago and confirm with stakeholders if they agree
- The status of the invasive species project was updated, and a brief summary of the \$7.7M SCRI pollinator grant proposal (5 years, 19 researchers at 10 universities) was given (a response was expected from NIFA in August)
- Orn Hort priority setting workshop is in Chicago Oct. 6-8, with the optional tour on the 6<sup>th</sup>; at this workshop M. Braverman will give an update of the 2015 ornamentals research supported by Biopesticide funding

### **Biopesticide & Organic Support Program update – M. Braverman**

- Focus was placed on how 2015 funding was allocated, what the funding proposal is for 2016, regulatory assistance summary and plans for the 2015 workshop in Sept.
- \$404K core funding was targeted for 10 high priority needs (23 trials), across 6 research areas (fruit, vegetables, ornamentals, organic, public health and “other;” additional \$123K from Northeast region funds targeted 10 high priority needs (29 trials only in NER) in the same research areas; this “minimal” program would not have been possible without the extra NER funds; so, the funding proposal for 2016 was \$848K, which would allow for an adequate number of trials per study, and fund about 3 new high priority needs
- *Aspergillus flavus* AF36 Prevail new formulation registration issued for cotton, corn, pistachio; and will enable expansion to fig and almond; *Aspergillus flavus* AF36 Sec. 18 was approved on fig
- New regulatory assistance projects include 1) a weak strain of Pepino virus – cross protection, requested by M. Bledsoe; and 2) **Nudivirus** of *H. zea*, a viral-induced sterility, mass release, working with B. Webb, Univ. of KY
- The Biopesticides and Organic Support priority-setting workshop in Chicago Sept. 24 was previewed

### **QAU Update – T. Barkalow**

- 6 EPA audits in 2015 so far, with a 7th scheduled at Bellinder/NY; thus far there have been no adverse findings in any audit
- The IR-4 lab at Univ. of Hawaii is officially decommissioned as of 6/26/15
- Decommissioning of Dr. Bari’s artichoke field testing site in CA is in progress
- Plans are being developed for a PMC GLP training event in spring 2016, with a focus on Testing Facility Management (TFM) responsibilities and requirements – more follow-up to come at the fall 2015 PMC meeting
- Kudos to Michelle Hummiston, Cornell QA for the NER, for all her good QA work!
- HQ SOPs for QA are now on the IR-4 website under the QA tab
- There has been a national discussion about changing the eQA FRD response time to audits from 45 to 30 days; the pros and cons were highlighted

**MOTION:** It was moved to change the FRD response time to audits in eQA from 45 to 30 days.

**Approved**

### **Public Health Program update – K. Malamud-Roam**

- DoD/ARS grant of \$225K/yr is set through Sept. 2017
- Hoping to add a 50% FTE Research Assistant to replace J. Wain
- Primary responsibilities continue to be regulatory support for DWFP research and for other Med. Ent. and the PHP database
- New products being tested: 1) attractive toxic sugar baits – Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funding supporting eff. trials in Mali; 2) *Aedes* ovitraps - looking at attract and kill vs autodissemination; 3) Chromenes and Product SYN 131-1; 4) alternative fabric treatments; 5) *Wolbachia*-induced mating incompatibility – eff. tests vs *Aedes albopictus*, and EUP vs *A. aegypti* in CA
- Continuing work with existing products, related to ecorisks (ESA and pollinators); defining data and risk assessment needs w/EPA and users; and involvement with the RISE non-Ag Task Force
- , Suggestion was made that a second “Public Health CLC type advisory board” be organized separate from the current CLC and for a similar purpose, rather than adding public health members to the current CLC

#### **Communication update – S. Novack**

- Web redesign update: received input from Meister Media at a fraction of what JK Web Design offered; but JK then cut their proposal to \$70-80K; **ACTION:** recommitment from PMC to the cost of web-redesign was requested and accepted – web-redesign team should regroup and seek required bids

#### **IR-4 Education and Training Committee update – V. Starner**

- Committee has not met recently, but needs to soon to start discussing plans for a National Education Conference (NEC) in early 2017
- Question was raised regarding would there be sufficient funding to support an NEC in 2017, given the expected minimum 10% across the board cuts anticipated
- **ACTION** – E&TC to examine the funding concern along with expected costs to conduct such a 1.5-2 day conf., and put together a proposal for PMC to consider (target Oct. PMC meeting if possible)

#### **ACAC update – M. Hengel**

- Backlog continues to be trending around 25 a year and seems to be stabilizing at that point
- Currently 23 ASRs remain in backlog, down from 46 when this tracking was started July 2011
- Question was raised about how does the U.C. Davis lab in the WSR keep closer to timelines than other IR-4 labs; response – primarily by # of samples analyzed in each set; **ACTION:** at ACAC’s next meeting, members will begin addressing this “# of samples per analytical set” issue again, with M. Marshall/J. Wise sitting in; the labs need to identify bottlenecks that can be improved to do a better job of meeting analytical timelines
- J. Baron re-emphasized submission delays well beyond 30 months (out to 42 months and more); about 47% of studies are meeting the 30-month timeline; but for 2012, looking at 50 studies, 40% were done in 30 months, 60% in 36 months, 80% in 42 months, and 10 studies (20%) will be longer than 42 months; **ACTION:** ACAC was charged to do what can be done to address delays in the labs

**MOTION:** It was moved that M. Hengel become the official PMC member on ACAC replacing D. Soderlund. **Approved**

#### **International Activities update – D. Kunkel**

- The IR-4 coordination of STDF capacity building efforts continues in ASEAN (Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore), Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal, Morocco, Egypt) and Latin America (Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil)

- In the ASEAN area, field and laboratory training has been done in multiple countries; studies include azoxystrobin + difenoconazole on dragon fruit, pyriproxyfen on papaya and mango, and spinetoram on mango and lychee; an end of 2015 target submission to JMPR will not be met, and will most likely be Dec. 2016
- Efforts in Africa are much further behind; studies there include sulfoxaflor on passion fruit and mango, and azoxystrobin + difenoconazole on guava
- In Latin America GLP field and laboratory training are done, and field trials and analytical work are in various stages of completion; trials are being conducted with pyriproxyfen on pineapple and banana, and spinetoram on avocado and banana
- For the 2015 Global Workshop Sept. 20-22 in Chicago, >150 have registered, representing >25 different countries; ~3000 crop/pest needs were submitted for inclusion in the Int'l database of needs
- Planned outcomes:
  - Select pilot projects in 3 crop areas: tropical crops, temperate crops, "protected" crops
  - Select countries to serve as project leads
  - Involve/reach agreement with regulatory agencies of lead countries
  - Secure agreement by registrant for products chosen for pilot studies

#### **Update on EPA Pollinator Activities – J. Baron**

- Recent decisions by EPA on pollinators were based on a hazard assessment instead of on a risk basis
- IR-4 drafted a response to submit during the comment period, and this was displayed for PMC review and comment
- Expectation is that EPA will need to re-address this pollinator decision as many comments will likely be submitted
- **ACTION:** PMC agreed that the IR-4 response to EPA's pollinator decision should be submitted by the PMC; following this meeting the draft response is to be sent to voting PMC members for closer review, then the final response submitted to EPA in the name of the IR-4 Project Management Committee

#### **Review of IR-4 Program – J. Baron**

- Overall, the plan is to convene a panel of experts outside IR-4 to examine all aspects of IR-4 operations and provide an assessment (this review will not suffice for the NRSP review of IR-4)
- In early August J. Baron/M. Marshall/R. Hedberg will meet and start the organizing process; all IR-4 programs will provide input to panel members
- Challenge from AA's – decide exactly what IR-4 wants to get out of this review and be careful of costs involved
- The idea for this review is spelled out in the Strategic Plan 2020 on page 8 of the summary "Improve Effectiveness" – "IR-4 will seek independent examination of its organizational structure to determine where efforts can be consolidated or enhanced"

**Executive session was held – no minutes**

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

##### **2015 Global/Food Use/ Biopesticide Workshops**

September 20-24, 2015

Chicago, IL

**Ornamental Horticulture Workshop**

October 6-8, 2015

Chicago, IL

**NRPM/Fall PMC**

October 27-29, 2015

Princeton, NJ

**Entomology 2015, the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA)**

Nov 14-18, 2015

Minneapolis, MN

[www.entsoc.org](http://www.entsoc.org)

**WSSA Annual Meeting**

Feb. 8-11, 2016

San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Spring IR-4 PMC/CLC Meeting**

**March 8-10, 2016 (tentative)**

**Washington, DC**

**XXV International Congress of Entomology**

September 25-30, 2016

Orlando, Florida