



Minutes
PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Summer Meeting, July 12 & 13, 2017
Philadelphia PA

Attendees: M. Hengel, L. Gu, M. Bledsoe, J. Wise, J. Baron, A. Simmons, R. Hedberg, B. Hillman, D. Buhler, R. Tjeerdema, D. Kunkel. Absent J Burns & D. Rossi

1. Approval of minutes, new agenda items—Motion to approve. Accepted

2. Brief updates from AAs, NIFA, PMC members

- a. Brad Hillman – Rutgers has new chancellor, RCM (Responsibility Center Management) process for budgeting being implemented with implications for IR-4
- b. Doug Buhler – NRSP-4 mid-term review is 2018, so need to prepare next meeting. Michigan State University remains supportive of IR-4; no space issues currently
- c. Ron Tjeerdema - UC Davis also has new chancellor, so some uncertainty, all new hires on 9 mo apt., space limitations
- d. Rob Hedberg – NIFA – FY 2017 funding delayed because of late appropriations. Anticipate a likely September arrival of funds. Second Tactical Science Panel being prepped for near future meeting. Based on comments received in association with the competitive review of the grants applications IR-4 may want to publish a newsletter article on successes with minor crops/uses and how NIFA funds are leveraged and amortized with cooperation with Canada.
- e. Alvin Simmons -ARS – moving trials forward in timely basis. President's budget is for 15% less for ARS. ARS has listed 17 units. Congress can specify which ARS programs should be funded, or allow ARS to choose themselves. Also important to fund QA services funding to IR-4. Cooperative agreement for this expires in Sept 2017. Alvin will confirm if Wooster freezer has an alarm system
- f. Mike Bledsoe – CLC – CLC has been active on farm bill and Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance activities.
- g. Jerry Baron -NE Region Jerry Baron will fill in and serve as Regional Director with responsibilities on the grant on interim basis until October 2017. Field season going well; no hic-ups.
- h. Liwei Gu - Southern Region. Most trials progressing well, but few need solutions. Completed catch-up on QC FDBs. Lab doing better this year. Hope to reduce backlog to five studies by end of year.
- i. Matt Hengel - Western Region-Search for Regional field coordinator is progressing. Michael Horak (Monsanto) is top candidate. Field trials going well. Lab has move underway and will be done by end of year. Kudos for April Region Meeting that had a strong Biopesticide registration focus.
- j. John Wise -NC Region Field trials, ornamental and biopesticide trials underway. Lab and QA running smoothly. NC Region hired a new tech last year in anticipation of some retirements.
- k. Jerry Baron - HQ Ray Leonard retired, expect several more retirements in the next couple of years. Rutgers fiscal system difficult for IR-4 (Responsibility Center Management). EPA performed a GLP audit at IR-4 HQ. This is the first time HQ has experienced such audit. There were no findings. USDA-Foreign Agriculture Service performed a fiscal audit with one of the TASC grants. Extremely tough audit

3. Food Program discussions

- a. Successes/Submissions/On-going research
 - i. Acequinocyl (93)
 - ii. Cyantraniliprole (18)
 - iii. Flonicamid – Tolerance adjustment
 - iv. Pydiflumetofen (14)
 - v. Pyroxasulfone (14)
 - vi. Spirotetramat (37)
 - vii. 2016 – 1000 new uses
 - viii. Ten active ingredients were submitted to EPA
 - ix. 475 field trials were initiated for the 2017 research

4. Ongoing Efficiency Exercises

- a. Field
 - i. Field exercise focus on maintaining quality through improved efficiency
 - 1. Further review of the FDB and Protocols to consider removing duplications. Further activity of the Field data review team.
 - ii. May want to update and insert Lab Guidance doc into Operational handbook
 - iii. Action item to be completed by mid-2018, update Handbook?
- b. Laboratory
 - i. Reducing Laboratory Backlog-Progress
 - 1. With goal to eliminate backlog by the end of calendar year 2018,
 - a. MI and CA are almost there now
 - b. Wapato-adjusted work hours for staff to optimize use of equipment, 2018 target seems do-able
 - c. FL and Tifton have aggressive plans
 - ii. D. Carpenter assessment comments
 - iii. We will continue to track progress of labs.
- c. Ornamental Hort/Biopesticide/Food Program efficacy
 - i. Good discussion and beginning to prepare a document, listing categories for a matrix to describe programs, processes, agenda elements, target audiences. There are many similar elements, and some agreements on efficiencies. Overlaps are being ID'ed. Develop a common activity program. Develop a timeline for future efficiency discussion. Need to engage RFCs. Develop a conference call with RFCs, and survey for FRDs, registrants, researchers and study directors. Also maybe brainstorming session? Already beginning to integrate the OrnHort and Biopesticide prioritization this year's meeting.
 - ii. **Motion: provide further guidance to OrnHort/BioPest/Food (performance) programs to undergo an efficiency exercise with emphasis on simplification, integration and reduction of financial and time burdens to all involved. PASSED**
- d. Future Efficiency Exercises
 - i. HQ operations
 - 1. QA efficiencies have already improved greatly with eQA and eDOCS. Considering moving to eAUDIT systems, but extensive training would be needed.
 - ii. Grants/fiscal process
 - iii. Other? Company survey Emphasize expectations of registrant to accomplish trials, like standards and analytical methods. Incorporate analytical constraints up front in FUW.
 - iv. Barcoding and e-FDBs?
- e. Product Performance Update

5. Proposed field research programs for 2018

- a. Potential Scenarios for 2018 Program
 - i. Scenario 1 - 42 "A"s, 10 PUPs,
 - ii. Scenario 2 - 42 "A"s and 0 PUPs. The reasoning behind the "suspension" of the 2018 PUPs in this Scenario is to account for the potential loss of the 10 ARS programs that were proposed for elimination in the Presidents FY 2018 Executive Budget.

Motion for Scenario 3 – 38 "A"s at Workshop and 4 PUPs. This Scenario was discussed and eventually WITHDRAWN.

Motion for Scenario 2 - IR-4 will continue encourage submission of PUPs (up to October 10). Submitted PUPS will be reviewed and consideration of their funding will be based on the outcome of the final 2018 Appropriations. Motion PASSED

- b. Aug 22 is last day for new project requests to be considered for discussion at FUW

6. Public Health

- a. Department of Defense's Deployed Warfighter Protection Warrior Program and ARS will not be renewing the 5-year cooperative agreement to fund IR-4 Public Health Pesticide Program. American

Mosquito Control Commission has inserted language into the House Agriculture Appropriations bill directing DoD to fund IR-4 work. Similar language did not make it into the Senate version of the 2018 funding bill. Unless new funding comes in, IR-4 activities will be suspended as of September 14, 2017.

7. Additional funding opportunities

- a. TASC grants
- b. Multistate Specialty Crop Block Grants (could these fund new equipment?)

Motion is to prepare one multi-state SCBG for IR-4 trials requiring efficacy / crop safety data, with HQ being lead in order to submit to NJ state dept of ag. In Sept 2017, which will assist in delivering solutions linked to field residue program. Passed.

8. Set aside funds to reduce laboratory analysis

Following up with the proposal by the IR-4 Laboratory Chemists, IR-4 HQ will obtain bids for glufosinate analysis of 2017 field trials utilizing funds set aside for reducing laboratory backlog.

9. Upcoming meetings

- **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
- **Fall PMC/NRPM**
Oct 31-Nov1 (PMC); Nov 1 (All Hands); Nov 2-3 (NRPM)
IR-4 Headquarters, Princeton, NJ