



March 2012 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC/Meeting Attendees

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

DATE: April 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Spring 2011 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting Executive Summary & Minutes

Please find attached the spring 2012 PMC and joint CLC meetings Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions March 6-7, 2012 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 2012 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2012 meeting on March 6-7, in Washington, DC. There was also a joint CLC/PMC meeting held March 6. There was an information gathering session on March 6 with representatives from NIFA and USDA.

- The CLC elected a new chair, Rich Bonanno, and will make changes in its charter.
- The PMC/CLC met with guests from USDA to learn more about the proposed consolidation of IR-4 with five other NIFA IPM programs. NIFA will be holding listening sessions but will be more focused on answering written comment.
- The Ag Experiment Station Directors are in favor of the proposed consolidation in concept, but want to make sure IR-4 has funding equivalency.
- North Central Region – running smoothly and is having more and more foreign visitors to the lab
- Northeast Region – field trials are down and it is a struggle to keep them funded as such
- Southern Region – running smoothly and will be hiring a new Chemist
- Western Region – monthly training webinars are well received and attended
- Food Use Program – in 2011 IR-4 garnered 382 new uses on 15 chemicals; deadline for new PCRs and tentative plans for the 2012 Food Use Workshop were presented
- The ACAC committee – Lab backlog is trending down, and the committee is proving its worth as intended, with improved communication as the impetus for the success
- International activities – the Feb. 2012 GMUS-2 in Rome was a huge success, and the draft multi-year work plan constructed by participants was discussed
- Ornamental Horticulture – reviewed completed data summaries, and the value of IR-4's role with invasive species
- Public Health Pesticide – an *Inventory of Public Health Pesticides* is drafted and PMC input was sought; PMC approval for involvement in certain projects will be requested
- Communications – Constant Contact was successfully used as a tool to register participants and push communication to GMUS-2 attendees
- Biopesticides and Organic Support – several recent registrations were highlighted, and PMC approved providing regulatory assistance for some bacteriophage projects
- QA – The QA electronic reporting tool was discussed and agreed upon; training for the system will be added to NEC agenda in Feb. 2013

Motions and Action Items

MOTIONS: To Approve minutes from Oct. 2011 PMC meeting. Approved

MOTIONS: To approve of Michael Braverman dedicating his time to provide assistance on the bacteriophage projects. Approved

MOTION: For PMC to consider scenario one for purchase and full roll out of electronic QA reporting tool. Approved

MOTION: To agree to funding scenario one for the electronic QA reporting tool. Approved.

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to send a thank you note to NIFA guests and mention the US/Canadian Regulatory Cooperation Council and IR-4's involvement; also send Deborah Sheely and other NIFA guests personal invitations to join the EPA/IR-4/USDA June bus tour and the Sept. FUW

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to begin making visits with Ag. Exp. Station Directors

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter will discuss sending FDB through the mail with S. Archambault

ACTION ITEM: D. Soderlund will work with T. Barkalow on a lab closure letter for EPA

ACTION ITEM: M. Hengel will ask B. Sisco if guests can join webinars and communicate answer to PMC

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to ask K. Lindauer to prepare webinar presentation for summer PMC

ACTION ITEM: D. Rossi and M. Duryea will send R. Tjeerdema and M. Delaney emails encouraging their participation

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack send M. Duryea and D. Rossi 40 copies of YES document

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack send Laura Phelps 40 copies of Winter Newsletter

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack send P. Schwartz 10 copies of latest brochures

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack create the following marketing pieces:

- Tri-fold on the YES document to use as a leave-behind
- One-pager on International involvement
- Tri-fold on the Biopesticide and Organic Support Program (highlighting partnerships, impacts, leverages and accomplishments)

ACTION ITEM: To put training for electronic QA reporting tool on Agenda for NEC



March 2012 PMC /Joint CLC Meeting - Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2012 meeting on March 6-7, in Washington, DC

PMC Attendees:

- Tammy Barkalow - Assistant Director, Quality Assurance (phone-in)
 - Jerry Baron* - Executive Director
 - Michael Braverman – Biopesticide and Organic Support Program Manager (phone-in)
 - Debbie Carpenter - Assistant Director, Registrations
 - Mary Duryea - Southern Region Administrative Advisor
 - Matt Hengel – Western Region LRD (for Ron Tjeerdema* – Western Region Director)
 - Bob Hollingworth* - North Central Region Director
 - Monte Johnson - NIFA National Program Leader
 - Dan Kunkel - Associate Director, Food & International Programs
 - Karl Malamud-Roam - Public Health Pesticides Program Manager
 - Marty Marshall* - Southern Region Director
 - Sherrilynn Novack – Public Relations & Communications Manager
 - Cristi Palmer – Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager
 - Dan Rossi – Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
 - Paul Schwartz* - ARS Regional Director
 - Dave Soderlund* - Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
 - Van Starner - Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach
- *Voting members

CLC Members who met with PMC:

- A. Richard Bonanno* - Bonanno Farm Trust, elected chair
- Michael Aerts -Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
- Berry Tanner - alternate Nat'l Watermelon Promotion Board
- Lori Berger -California Specialty Crops Council
- Michael Bledsoe -Village Farms, L.P.
- Ann E. George - Washington Hop Commission
- Phil Korson - Cherry Marketing Institute
- Rocky Lundy - Mint Industry Research Council, past chair
- Eric Maurer - Engage Agro
- Laura Phelps - American Mushroom Institute
- Ray Ratto - Ratto Brothers
- Lin Schmale - Society of American Florists
- Todd Scholz -USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
- Alan Schreiber - Agriculture Development Group, Inc.
- Marc Teffeu - ANLA

Tuesday – March 6, 2012

CLC Meeting – a.m. of March 6, 2012

The CLC voted to elect Rich Bonanno as chair, as Rocky Lundy steps down after 8 years chairing the committee.

The CLC also approved changing the charter to include sub-committees, and will be selecting a vice-chair and alternates when members cannot attend.

Karl Malamud-Roam suggested the CLC include a representative from the American Mosquito Commission as they also have a stake in pesticides. The commission recommends the CLC consider Dave Brown as their representative.

Meeting with USDA Representatives, CLC and PMC – p.m. of March 6, 2012

USDA Guests' Meeting with PMC/CLC

- Mike Fitzner
- Rob Hedberg
- Deborah Sheely

The PMC and the CLC met with USDA guests to learn more about the proposed consolidation of IR-4 with five NIFA funded IPM programs. Deborah Sheely felt the proposal was a good idea and would provide for better leverage when seeking increased funding in the future. She and Mike Fitzner stated that after 50 years it is time to look at the IR-4 program for better efficiencies. Every one of the 15 CLC members in attendance emphatically expressed their concerns and were adamantly opposed to the proposal. They repeatedly discussed the uniqueness of IR-4 and its value to specialty crop growers nationwide and the public, and the dire consequences if consolidation proceeds as proposed. The USDA guests explained NIFA was under pressure from the President to consolidate programs. The guests were asked the following questions:

- Where did the idea of consolidation come from?
- What will the consolidation look like?
- Where does IR-4 fit?
- Will there be dedicated funding for IR-4?
- How can NIFA ensure consistent funding for IR-4?
- Will IR-4 be subject to paying indirect costs (4 of 6 programs proposed to be consolidated currently are exempt from indirect costs)?

They answered IR-4 will be subject to paying for indirect costs (IDC) under the consolidation, but suggested IR-4 should negotiate that cost with the university. They did not have answers for the other questions as they admittedly stated they don't know how the program will look and encouraged everyone to participate in listening sessions to be held in the coming months. The first one will be held at the International IPM Symposium on March 29 from 1-5pm and a federal register notice should follow.

They mentioned a number of times the importance of sending in written comments and provide ideas to the agency on how the consolidation should be structured. They indicated that if they receive comments in writing, they must be recognized and NIFA must be held accountable; every comment received must be considered.

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to send a thank you note to NIFA guests and mention the US/Canadian Regulatory Cooperation Council and IR-4's involvement; also send Deborah Sheely and other NIFA guests personal invitations to join the EPA/IR-4/USDA June bus tour and the Sept. FUW

Administrative Advisors: D. Rossi reported the State Agriculture Experiment Station directors are supportive of the consolidation in concept, but would like to see clear funding for IR-4 to be included in the proposal. A sub-committee put together a “white paper” that makes a case for consolidation, but stated the integrity of each program must be protected. Since there was no consulting with IR-4 and IPM directors prior to the proposed consolidation, the Ag Exp. Directors (AED) and Deans feel there needs to be a meeting with all parties (IPM, IR-4, Deans, Directors) at the table in order to develop a recommendation that protects all programs and defines what the program should look like. They feel if a common message can be agreed upon, Congress will respond with appropriate funding. The Deans and AEDs understand that IR-4 cannot lose up to 30% due to indirect costs.

M. Marshall remarked the need to strategize how to confront the proposed consolidation. He said the first fight is to restore the IR-4 dollars for FY 2013, which is a no cost request, and the second is to get together with the IPM programs to form a plan of how the programs will function if the proposed consolidation takes effect.

There was concern the AEDs were not familiar with IR-4 and its unique partnerships. D. Rossi responded that there was a good deal of AED turn over the past few years and it was time for J. Baron to “make the rounds” and visit AED meetings to explain the program.

M. Duryea commented on the importance of keeping biopesticides as tools in IPM, and IR-4 should remain attentive to what these pest control tools bring to IR-4. She asked “are we advertising enough the breadth of what IR-4 does?” We should maybe consider creating a report card “What IR-4 does for Organic Growers.”

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron begin making visits with Ag. Exp. Station Directors

Because these directors are spread throughout the country, and are concerned with funding their stations, M. Marshall suggested IR-4 consider spreading out the Efficacy/Crop Safety trials nationally to give scientists and more states involved.

Recap of New IR-4 Food Use Priority Setting Process: V. Starnier reported the new process did not focus on a quota of “A” priorities per discipline, but that “A” priorities were selected based on the most critical crop needs. Pre-workshop planning makes this process efficient, but each region has been determining its own pre-workshop nomination and priority supporting process. There was a recommendation that IR-4 consider organizing a summer webinar of product presentations by Crop Protection companies in order for researchers to have a “heads up” about new chemistries, which would help in generation of new project requests and nomination of priorities. Another very helpful addition to the FUW was having an information session with EPA. This should be repeated but announced earlier, much further in advance of the workshop.

Recap of Global Minor Use Summit II: Dan and Sherri summarized highlights from the very successful 2nd GMUS in Rome late Feb. 2012. See gmup.org for additional information and main themes from the meeting.

Wednesday March 7, 2012

Approval of Minutes/new agenda items: Minutes of the October 26-27, 2011, PMC meeting in Princeton, NJ, were discussed briefly and approved. New agenda item - J. Baron’s evaluation process, was added. An Executive Session was requested.

MOTION: to approve Oct. 2011 PMC minutes, as written - approved

NIFA: M. Johnson reported that proposals are in process. B. Hollingworth asked if he could be notified as soon as formal proposals are approved as he must make a rental commitment to MSU by May 31, 2012. M.

Johnson indicated he had no expected date of RFA approval by the review panel, but he took note of this request; he always reiterates with the panel that the West and South need their approvals most urgently. He reported three National Program Leaders have retired, Jim Parachetti, Dennis Kopp and Rich Mire.

ARS: P. Schwartz reported that ARS will not renew cooperative agreement with R. Frank and E. Beste at University of Maryland. He doesn't plan to organize an ARS liaison meeting this Oct. due to low response for Oct. 2011. He is concerned with raw data in Field Data Books being sent to Canada and feels this process needs to be harmonized better.

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter will discuss sending FDB through the mail with S. Archambault

North Central Region (NCR): B. Hollingworth reported things are running very smooth in the NCR and noted their trial numbers are down from last year. He commented they are receiving more and more foreign (Saudi Arabia, India, Malaysia etc.) visitors who want to see their laboratory. The NCR lab picked up some Canadian lab projects.

KMR noted that Saudi Arabia is opening a vector control lab and thought there could be a collaboration opportunity.

Northeast Region (NER): D. Soderlund NER is also conducting fewer trials and it has been a struggle to keep field research centers funded at a level to maintain personnel. He did not receive an answer from Cornell regarding lending the NE IR-4 lab equipment to other regions. D. Soderlund is considering two models for a QA position, dependent on funding: 1) QA auditor housed at Geneva with regional responsibilities and to provide national assistance, or 2) maybe bring back B. Anderson part time for regional field QA work. He is leaning towards the regional/national scenario.

ACTION ITEM: D. Soderlund will work with T. Barkalow on a NE lab closer letter for EPA

Southern Region (SOR): M. Marshall reported things are running well; they, too, had a decrease in field trials last year but will be doing ~20 more in 2012. There is an open Chemist II position in the SOR lab, and they are working to resolve how to move forward in the face of budget issue. The SOR and NCR held a joint training workshop in Gainesville on February 22-23, 2012 followed by a tour of the Citra Research Experiment Station.

Western Region (WSR): M. Hengel reported for R. Tjeerdema, that Michael McChesney will be retiring in the summer and there are currently no plans to replace him, but they have hired Fabiola Zuno, who was Marion Miller's post-doc. Also, Jim McFarland is retiring, but he may come back part-time for a while. They too have had many foreign visitors to their lab and the Canadian AAFC laboratory personnel have visited. The monthly training webinars are being well received. The region is discussing the future of the HI lab, as state-funded lab personnel have retired, and may not be replaced.

ACTION ITEM: M. Hengel to ask B. Sisco if guests can join webinars and communicate answer to PMC

D. Soderlund suggested IR-4 investigate national webinars. J. Baron explained that K. Lindauer (HQ) is investigating a number of webinar tools and will ask him to provide a webinar at the summer PMC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to ask K. Lindauer to prepare webinar presentation for summer PMC

D. Soderlund expressed his concern that WSR Director and AA have missed the past few PMC meetings and asked M. Hengel to let them know they are missed.

ACTION ITEM: D. Rossi and M. Duryea will contact R. Tjeerdema and M. Delaney and encourage their participation in PMC

ACAC: M. Hengel noted that for the most part the Lab backlog is trending down. D. Soderlund commented that the ACAC has been a significant focusing mechanism to keep all labs on track, based on IR-4 submission priorities; communication has been the key. PMC recommends ACAC formal meetings continue at least bi-monthly and let PMC know how this is working. D. Soderlund will remain as the PMC rep, and ACAC needs to propose a replacement for J. McFarland for MC approval.

HQ: J. Baron reported on meetings with Under Secretary Woteki who oversees NIFA, ARS, ESA; there were positive comments from CLC and their support of IR-4, but when discussions moved to IDC there was no level of sympathy and prevention of consolidation was not mentioned. Then he met with Dr. Nipling, Kay Simmons, John Lowden, Michael Lowden at ARS. They gave a contact at OMB for Jerry to contact regarding consolidation. ARS received a 1% increase in the budget and are shutting down 7 centers but not IR-4 centers. Jerry thanked ARS for their support and did bring up concerns about there being no succession plans for P. Schwartz. At EPA, Jim Jones is now Assoc. Administrator, and there are lots of pending retirements that can impact IR-4 connections with the agency. Registrants/Crop Life America continue to be very supportive of IR-4, as have been our commodity stakeholders Minor Crop Farmers' Alliance, etc.

Food Program: D. Kunkel reported IR-4 garnered 382 new uses in 2011 on 15 chemicals and submitted petitions for 29 products and there were 4 submissions to JMPR for CODEX MRLs. FDBs are in line, with no issues in the field. Paul asked that Dan's "New Uses" slides include how many studies were completed/submitted to achieve new uses for each AI; he would also like to see Dan's "Field Research" slides somehow reflect E/CS trials. It was noted that there was another slide indicating the E/CS information and that would be presented later in the session. On another topic, Dan noted that there is growing concerns by US data submitters that there have been a number of situations where the EU rejected data due to U.S. labs not being inspected for GLPs by EPA and have therefound them to be inadequate. SQA and CLA have formed a task force to work with EPA to resolve this issue.

2012 FUW/post FUW plans/NRPM: V. Starner reviewed the plans/deadlines/project nomination process leading up to the 2012 FUW in St. Louis; discussed the current draft agenda and dates when results from the FUW would be on-line; and reviewed current plans following the FUW, through the Oct. HQ/RFC conf. call to determine upgraded projects leading to the NRPM, which will be held the week of October 22, 2012. PMC agreed the fall PMC meeting should be held the same week in connection with the NRPM at HQ.

IR-4 Training Committee: V. Starner indicated that plans are back on track for the National Education Conference to be held February 27-28, 2013 in San Antonio, TX (Drury hotel on the River Walk where it was held in 2009), and the committee is working again to finalize the 2-day agenda. PMC concluded there will not be an effort to connect a PMC meeting with the NEC as has been done with the last two NEC events. There was discussion about dovetailing the IR-4 NEC with the NAICC annual meeting, but that maybe a consideration for the next NEC but it was too late for the 2013 meeting. Recognition of 2013 being the 50th anniversary of IR-4 should be included in the agenda.

International Activities: D. Kunkel discussed the GMUS-2 and presented the draft work plan as formulated by participants. S. Novack noted it was clear that participants were much more active in sharing their needs, ideas, and possible solutions, and attributed this to the action items that were accomplished from the first GMUS (see gmup.org for more information).

Ornamental Horticulture: C. Palmer discussed completed data summaries, the 2011 registrations, crops impacted by registrations and website hits, and also discussed the IR-4 role in working with invasive species. Currently, IR-4 is taking a lead role of bringing universities together on specific invasive species as requested by ANLA and SAF. However, in order for IR-4 to research invasive species, there needs to be an efficacy component in the project even though other aspects are included such as basic biology, PCR or serological detection tools, and environmental parameters conducive for development. C. Palmer

coordinated the submission of 4 project suggestions to USDA-APHIS for approximately \$1.2 million. C. Palmer continues to be part of the SAF Pest & Production Management Conference Planning Committee and was invited to speak at SAF on **Establishing Boundaries: Management Tools for Edible Crops and Why** which discussed how food use labels are developed and why to use them with food bedding plants for consumers because another general theme was the movement of pests and diseases between food and ornamental horticulture crops for those grower who produce both. The document can be found here.

(http://ir4.rutgers.edu/ir4_pdf/default.aspx?pdf=http://ir4.rutgers.edu/Ornamental/SummaryReports/SAF_LabelPresentation.pdf)

Public Health Pesticides: K. Malamud-Roam discussed an *Inventory of Public Health Pesticides* he has compiled and hopes to publish by July 2012. He will send a copy of this document to anyone who wants to examine it, and appreciates any inputs. He also presented the action plan for military pesticide registration priorities, global disease collaborations and gave a general update of his program. For certain PHP projects K. Malamud-Roam will seek PMC approval for his involvement via a process similar to what M. Braverman follows for Biopesticide Program regulatory assistance requests.

Communication Update: S. Novack reported the use of Constant Contact's Event Marketing feature that she used for registering and pushing communications to GMUS-2 participants. She was given many action items.

ACTION ITEM: send M. Duryea and D. Rossi 40 copies of YES document

ACTION ITEM: send Laura Phelps 40 copies of Winter Newsletter

ACTION ITEM: send P. Schwartz 10 copies of latest brochures

ACTION ITEM: Create the following marketing pieces:

- 1) Tri-fold on the YES document to use as a leave-behind
- 2) One-pager on IR-4 International activities
- 3) Tri-fold on the Biopesticide and Organic Support Program (highlighting partnerships, impacts, leverages and accomplishments)

Biopesticide and Organic Support Program: M. Braverman commented on the good year IR-4 had in the Biopesticide program with registration of *Aspergillus flavus* AF36 on pistachio; an approved oriental beetle pheromone; obtained a Section 18 in identified states on anthraquinone on corn, rice and sunflower and in other identified states a Section 3 was obtain on anthraquinone on corn and rice. The program has also been approached to provide regulatory assistance for some bacteriophage projects.

MOTION: M. Braverman to dedicate time to provide requested assistance on the bacteriophage projects.
Approved

M. Braverman also requested that the CLC consider including a member to their committee who comes from the Biopesticide industry.

QAU: T. Barkalow provided the results of her research on an electronic tool for QA reporting and recommended two scenarios (1. Purchase of software and full rollout; 2. A phased approach) for obtaining the system and provide training to selected people who in turn would train others. There was discussion and one person was concerned about the system being web based but T. Barkalow answered this concern.

MOTION: For the PMC to consider scenario one. Approved

MOTION: To agree to funding scenario one. Approved

ACTION ITEM: To put training and roll out of QA reporting tool on Agenda for NEC

PMC assessment of IR-4 Executive Director: M. Marshall and B. Hollingworth will develop a set of questions (to be approved by PMC) to be asked of CLC, PMC, IR-4 staff, land grant universities, etc.

Upcoming Meetings:

Western Region Training

Being held via monthly webinars the second Friday of each month from January 13 through December 14, 2012. The webinars are from 11AM-12:15 PM Pacific Time.

2012 Summer PMC meeting

July 10-11, Geneva, NY

2012 Food Use Workshop (FUW)

Sept. 11-12, St. Louis, MO

2012 National Research Planning Meeting (NRPM)

Oct. 23-24, IR-4 HQ, Princeton, NJ

2012 Fall PMC meeting

Oct. 24-25, IR-4 HQ, Princeton, NJ (following completion of NRPM, like in 2011)

2013 National Education Conference

February 27-28, San Antonio, TX

Potentially the week of March 11, 2013 (must consult CLC before setting a date)

50th Anniversary of IR-4 celebration in D.C.