



July 2012 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC members

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

DATE: August 14, 2012

SUBJECT: Summer 2012 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

Please find attached the summer 2012 PMC Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions July 10-11, 2012 in Geneva, NY.

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.

July 2012 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its summer 2012 meeting on July 10-11, in Geneva, NY.

- Northeast Region – field trials are down and it is a struggle to keep them funded as such. They are ready to throw out the remaining samples in the NYR lab freezer and would like a letter from HQ stating approval to discard remaining samples.
- Southern Region – running smoothly, lab backlog is decreasing, lab also received visitors from Turkey. QA is moving along with help from HQ and Kathleen is back.
- Western Region – monthly training webinars are well received and well attended. B. Sisco expects to continue them throughout 2012 and in some way in 2013.
- North Central Region – lost most of its stone fruit trials due to weather (late frost/drought. B Kon has retired and was replaced by internal promotion)
- The Ag Experiment Station Directors position on consolidation is they are in favor of the consolidation however they want IR-4 funded at the current level **PLUS** the cost of ICR
- ARS - released permanent funds for its locations and temporary funds for QA and ornamentals. ARS SOPs were approved by the PMC
- NIFA - is looking for more and greater details in grant submissions. They are using “virtual panels” rather than face-to-face meetings for the smaller grants like PMAP and IR-4
- Food Use Program – This should be a banner year for submissions. FDBs are coming in as expected. There are still delays with ASRs, which is delaying submissions. Crop Grouping is becoming a common process and is moving along quicker. There will be a new proposal upgrade process for priority upgrades after the FUW. The absolute minimum funding scenario was approved (\$5,500 per trial), and 46 “A” priorities to be assigned at the workshop
- Quality Assurance Unit - Staffing is an issue; at the moment are using Ken Kanagalingam to help with reports in the SOR
- Ornamental Horticulture –the program has garnered over \$900K in FY 2012 from APHIS for work on invasive species
- Public Health Pesticides – has hired a temporary assistant, L. Schermerhorn through DOD dollars;
- Communications – The “Friends of IR-4” have been very effective in communicating with other stakeholders regarding their consolidation concerns. This has led to a large constituency contacting Congress. This effort has had the secondary effect of many people learning more about IR-4.
- The ACAC committee – Lab backlog is trending down, but it is unlikely they will get down to no studies that are backlogged
- Biopesticide and Organic Support – The RFP will be posted to the web soon for 2013 proposals
- International activities – the GMUS-2 report is essentially finished; working through some issues with FAO on wording
- Canada PMC –Due to budget cuts, this group has reorganized and will close 3 research centres
- Future Outlook of IR-4 – The IR-4 “Ask” is 1) distinct program 2) dedicated funding 3) functional equivalency;
- IR-4 will propose a “Summit” the Regional IPM Centers to explore how we can work better together
- Region 2 - still having trouble maintaining centers with overcapacity in that region; perhaps the region could be used in a specialized way in the NE
- Approved motion: “As a pilot for 2013 research, IR-4 could include Canadian priorities in the new upgrade priority process”

Motions and Action Items

MOTION: To Approve minutes from March 2012 PMC meeting. Approved

MOTION: The PMC should approve the ARS SOPs. Approved

MOTION: As a pilot for 2013 research, IR-4 can include Canadian priorities in the new upgrade priority process, as appropriate. Approved

MOTION: To accept the proposed funding scenario based on the absolute minimum for 2013 field trials (\$5,500 per trial). Approved

MOTION: \$250,000 should be allocated to the 2013 field research program to answer efficacy/crop safety data needs. Approved

ACTION ITEM: T. Barkalow to send M. Sethi copy of survey of the electronic QA system

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to organize meeting with himself and D. Soderlund with S. Ramaswamy.

ACTION ITEM: M. Braverman should gather success stories, summarizing them into one paragraph and post them to the website, making them searchable by using key words.

ACTION ITEM: NCR Regional Field Coordinator should submit his SOPs for Regional Director approval

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter should send R. Fish approval to throw out samples being held in freezers at NER

ACTION ITEM: Invite IPM centers to Food Use Workshop – “Summit”

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to invite representatives from Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance to Spring 2013 PMC meeting to be on the agenda to discuss long term IR-4 funding

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack create a half-page marketing piece that showcases the successes over the past 20 years for the Spring 2013 PMC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: S. Novack to send out drafts of special 50th anniversary logo ideas for review/input



July 2012 PMC /Joint CLC Meeting - Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its summer 2012 meeting on July 10-11, in Geneva, NY

PMC Attendees:

- Shirley Archambault- National and International Relations Officer, Canada AAFC/PMC
- Tammy Barkalow - Assistant Director, Quality Assurance, IR-4 HQ
- Jerry Baron* - Executive Director, IR-4 Project
- Jennifer Ballantine- Canada AAFC/PMC
- Debbie Carpenter - Assistant Director, Registrations, IR-4 HQ
- Mary Delany – Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Mary Duryea - Southern Region Administrative Advisor
- Bob Hollingworth* - North Central Region Director
- Monte Johnson - NIFA National Program Leader
- Dan Kunkel - Associate Director, Food & International Programs, IR-4 HQ
- Rocky Lundy* - (on behalf of CLC chair, Rich Bonanno)
- Karl Malamud-Roam - Public Health Pesticides Program Manager (phone-in) , IR-4 HQ
- Marty Marshall* - Southern Region Director
- Sherrilynn Novack – Public Relations & Communications Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Cristi Palmer – Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Paul Schwartz* - ARS Regional Director
- Manjeet Sethi - Executive Director Canada AAFC/PMC
- Dave Soderlund* - Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
- Van Starnier - Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach, IR-4 HQ
- Ron Tjeerdema* - Western Region Director

*Voting members

Updates

Northeast Region (NER): D. Soderlund reported there has been some trouble with a mushroom trial, but everything else is on track. B. Anderson is doing limited QA duties on a part-time basis. E. Lurvey has agreed to do some IR-4 International “capacity building” work in Central and South America. As of this meeting the NER still has not received its grant funding.

D. Soderlund presented a freezer inventory of samples that are being stored in the NER. The list included many items where the final report had already been completed thus making these items ready to discard. D. Soderlund requested that D. Carpenter send R. Fish a letter of approval to discard samples.

ACTION ITEM: D. Carpenter should send R. Fish approval to throw out samples being held in freezers at NER.

Southern Region (SOR): M. Marshall reported the field trials are progressing. The lab backlog is shrinking. K. Knight has resumed QA work. K. Kanagalingam has been assigned a few of the SOR QA reports to back-up Kathleen. The lab has received two visitors from Turkey who will be staying for 3-6 months and will be reviewing lab procedures.

Western Region (WSR): R. Tjeerdema reported J. McFarland has retired but is working part time. There is a general nervousness waiting for the grant to come in. They have been contacted by NIFA requesting more detailed information and a tax form and letter of review. The monthly training webinars coordinated by the western region office are a huge success. Other regions/HQ routinely attend the seminars and find them very useful. B. Sisco is considering more topics to continue the seminars for 2013.

North Central Region (NCR): B. Hollingworth reported things are running smoothly in the region. B. Kon has retired and has not been replaced. They lost many stone fruit trials due to weather, so these will be rescheduled for next year. FRD B. Zandstra lost a key technician just before the season started, so he's doing double duty for now.

ACTION ITEM: NCR Regional Field Coordinator should submit his SOPs for Regional Director approval.

USDA-ARS: The National Program Staff has released funds for permanent increases at nearly all ARS locations and temporary funds to support Quality Assurance support from the regions and Headquarters (\$75k/yr) and for ornamentals at Cream Ridge (\$50K/yr). Instead of using NIFA to distribute the funds a new mechanism is being used to transfer the funds to IR-4 HQ thru the use of a cooperative agreement where Brian Scully (Tifton) will be the ADODR. The temporary funds are for 2 years instead of the normal 1 year as in the past.

P. Schwartz also submitted his Field Coordinator SOPs for approval. He does not think it appropriate for him to sign them and requested the PMC chair sign them and the PMC approve them.

MOTION: The PMC should approve the ARS SOPs. Approved

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): M. Johnson reported that NIFA is becoming more strict and is looking for more details and explanations in grant submissions. The NCR grant submission was very good and one that others might consider reviewing in order to have an idea of the detail that NIFA is requiring. NER and SOR grants were nearly returned for resubmission. For the smaller grants, NIFA is using "virtual" panels to review submissions. Since the cost for panels is applied to the grant, this "virtual" panel is much more cost effective. For example, the PMAP "virtual" panel costs are limited to honoraria compared to the high cost of travel for a 13-member panel meeting face-to-face.

J. Baron asked if there was a way that the panel costs could be paid for with other dollars, rather than having to wait 6-8 weeks for grants to be released, mostly because the panel costs are not figured into the grant until after the panel has met and costs are submitted for reimbursement.

D. Soderlund requested time be set aside during the Spring 2013 PMC meeting in D.C. for the NIFA grants management team to have a Q&A session with the PMC; also for the team to offer guidance to the PMC on the type of detail they require be provided in grant submissions. Monte will convey the invitation. The new NIFA Director Dr. Ramaswamy, most recently from Oregon State Entomology, is well-liked. Monte is working on a USDA venue for an IR-4 50th recognition next March.

Administrative Advisors: M. Duryea commented that the big topic is the proposed consolidation. The APLU's position is in favor of ICR if IR-4 is funded at the current level **PLUS** the cost of the ICR. M. Delaney

feels that ICR is a reality and UC Davis is now using a “taxing” scenario of 7% on monies received by the experiment stations. This is also occurring at the University of Florida.

HQ: J. Baron reported the proposed consolidation is unlikely for 2013. IR-4 was included in amended language in the House version of the Farm Bill. This inclusion was a pleasant surprise considering the short time frame stakeholders had to voice their amendment and have it considered in the Bill. IR-4 thanks the efforts of L. Phelps, L. Schmale, J. Bischoff, C. Regelbrugge and M. Teffeau.

Other HQ updates:

- HQ has been charged with a 2.6% increase in fringe benefits retroactive to July 2011 plus a 2% salary increase.
- KMR has hired a temporary assistant L. Schermerhorn with DOD dollars.
- QA is facing some potential personnel changes. The Ornamental Horticulture program has lost its assistant
- Some of M. Braverman’s time is being diverted to International Capacity Building
- EPA published an economic definition of minor uses and is asking for uses on more than 300,000 acres to be supported with economic data to show cost of data development that exceeds the return on investment. The Farm Bill language may resolve this issue.
- Completed another successful 1-day ag tour for EPA in VA vegetables
- In the home stretch of company meetings for 2012.
- IR-4’s 50th anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2013.
- Acknowledged the Crisis Communication team’s efforts.

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to organize meeting with himself and D. Soderlund with S. Ramaswamy.

Food Use Program: D. Kunkel reported on new uses in 2012, submissions to-date, field data notebook review status, and progression on the timeline. Expectations are for a banner year for new uses, as well as for submissions. There have been 162 new uses with 5 chemicals approved so far this year with 16 additional chemicals expected for approval by the end of the year. To date 19 products have been submitted. The total field trials for 2012 will be 522 which is trending down. FDBs are coming in as expected. There are still delays with ASRs, which is delaying submissions. Crop Grouping is becoming a common process and is moving along more quickly. Final rules are expected soon for the Stone Fruit group and Tree Nut group. [V. Starner](#) presented strategies for 2013 field research and has sent a list of potentially researchable projects to EPA for their “red, yellow, green light” evaluation. There is also a new upgrade process to address stakeholder concerns which will allow for new PCRs received at HQ August 16-Oct. 3, 2012 to be considered for “A” priority upgrades in the 2013 research plan. These proposals should be well documented and will be evaluated with all other regional upgrades and discussed with regional coordinators during a conference call on October 8, 2012. IR-4 should pay close attention to Canadian priorities to see where collaborations can occur.

MOTION: As a pilot for 2013 research, IR-4 could include Canadian priorities in the new upgrade priority process, as appropriate. Approved.

Three funding scenarios were presented for the 2013 field research program. The total proposed (and discussed) was \$2.4M, with scenarios 1, 2 and 3 differing in per trial cost/number of NIFA-funded trials, and each scenario totaling \$2.15M of the total for residue, setting aside the remaining \$250K for E/CS. Scenario 1) was based on the absolute minimum of \$5,500 per trial, Scenario 2) was based on the preferred \$6000 per trial and Scenario 3) was based on the optimum of \$6,500 per trial

MOTION: To accept the first funding scenario based on the absolute minimum for 2013 field trials (\$5,500 per trial), including 46 “A” priorities to be assigned at the Food Use Workshop in St. Louis. Approved.

The need to fund [Efficacy and Crop Safety](#) (E/CS) trials was also discussed. Registrants and California Department of Pesticide Regulation are requiring more E/CS data to support registrations. Many stakeholders are asking for E/CS data before beginning a residue study. A chart of confirmed E/CS trials with cost breakdown was submitted to the PMC. To complete E/CS research for “committed” projects, an estimated \$50K will be needed in 2013; the rest of E/CS funding can support research on “H” (high) priority E/CS needs.

MOTION: \$250,000 should be allocated to the 2013 field research program to answer efficacy/crop safety data needs. Approved

Quality Assurance: T. Barkalow reported on the EPA/GLP compliance monitoring program, the electronic QA reporting system, the QA auditing update and QA staffing and future needs. The QA group is facing personnel challenges at HQ, SOR, NER, WSR and ARS with retirements, part-time employment and other concerns.

ACTION ITEM: T. Barkalow to send M. Sethi copy of Survey of the Electronic QA system

Webinar: The new webinar technology was demonstrated through the presentations of the Ornamental Horticulture Program and the Public Health Pesticide Program. There are still some audio problems connected with using the system a solution needs to be explored for solving this problem..

Ornamental Horticulture Program: C. Palmer reported on the registration and research summary stats, 2011 & 2012 research programs, thoughts about a 2013 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop, invasive species, and outreach. She has garnered over \$900K for FY 2012 work on invasive species (gladiolus rust [\$105K], chrysanthemum white rust [\$151K], European pepper moth [\$165K] and boxwood blight [\$500K]); some of the funding is being funneled through interagency agreements to ARS researchers. It is important to note what IR-4 derives from all this work with APHIS funding: 1) provides more contact with ANLA, which was instrumental in IR-4 being included in the Farm Bill; 2) every project has some pesticide component that can benefit growers; 3) it is a service to commodity folks; 4) these grants include “indirect costs” going to research institutions; and 5) adds scientific credibility to IR-4.

Public Health Pesticide Program: K. Malamud-Roam reported on the program budget (expecting a 5-yr renewal of ARS/DoD funding), staffing, the PHP inventory publication and website database (publishing in July with 500+ AIs for mosquito, tick, and other pest control; has received lots of help from DOC, CDC, USAID, WHO and UNEP), plans to develop a white paper on strategic needs in the management of mosquitoes, military PHP priorities and needs assessment (vector control gaps such as sand flies, container-breeding mosquitoes, pyrethroid resistant malaria mosquitos, and registration priorities [permethrin retreatment of military uniforms, which are lasting longer than the permethrin, indoor spatial repellents, etc.]) and the status of ongoing projects and new collaborations (etofenprox all-crops tolerance – working to move this through EPA; FL interested in continuing pyriproxyfen EUP for mosquito research; working w/EPA to organize rereg of mosquitocides slated for cancellation; how registrations might proceed with RNAi and genetically-modified mosquitoes; and how nanoparticles might be registered and the botanical Nootkatone)).

Biopesticide and Organic Support Program: The RFA for 2013 grants will soon go out, with deadlines earlier than other years; Regional Field Coordinators will be involved in demo proposal reviews this year, as requested. M. Braverman anticipates funding at approximately \$400,000; deadline for proposals is October 19, 2012.

ACTION ITEM: Work with S. Novack to produce success stories of the projects supported from this funding and post to the web making it searchable using key words.

Communication: S. Novack reported on the success of the “Friends of IR-4” which resulted in a viral explosion of IR-4’s issue with consolidation being reported. She also reported on strategies relating to those

recommended through the book, “Our Iceberg is Melting”, which focuses on strategies for change management in companies during crisis.

ACAC Committee: The backlog is dropping slowly now, and seems to be leveling off a bit above 30 ASRs (for the 2009 and 2010 studies); there are currently no “homeless” samples for analysis. While eliminating the backlog can be achieved, realistically, there will always likely be a bit of a backlog. Status of NER residue samples still held in storage at Geneva – everything on the handout presented by D. Carpenter can be discarded, except for V-10208/lettuce samples, which were to be shipped to Landis Int’l. D. Carpenter will send official confirmation of this to NER and Study Directors.

Training Committee: V. Starner distributed and discussed the current draft of the proposed National Education Conference agenda. The PMC agrees to make funds (\$3,000) available for Monica Cahilly to present her “Electronic Validation of Instruments” training at the NEC in February 2013, but no honoraria for other “outside” speakers (can pay for travel expenses though).

International Activities: D. Kunkel reported on the follow-up from the GMUS-2 Summit. He has been trying to finalize the GMUS-2 Summit report but there has been some push-back from FAO on some of the report information. M. Duryea suggested adding a section titled: *Post Summit Addition* and include FAO’s comments in that section.

Canada PMC: M. Sethi presented information regarding the reorganization of the Pest Management Centre including the establishment of a new GLP-certified lab in Vineland and the closure of three research centres as of March 31, 2013, including Delhi (ON), Bouctouche (NB) and Frelishburg (QC). The impact of the closures will be addressed by exploring potential collaboration with Universities and Provinces for the conduct of field trials. As of July 3, the PMC is part of a new branch of AAFC called “Science and Technology” which groups research and agro-environmental services; PMC is still a stand-alone program, and gets better access to researchers in nine centers throughout Canada.

J. Ballantine gave a presentation about the US- Canadian Regulatory Cooperation Council. She gave a history of the formation of the committee, and the expected outcome of the council. She also reviewed the four Action items, tasks and ongoing activities of the council.

Future Outlook of IR-4: J. Baron gave a presentation that included a timeline identifying the NIFA proposed consolidation strategy. The presentation also identified the key participants in the consolidation as well as those in Congress who have made comments on behalf of IR-4. The presentation also reiterated the IR-4 “ASK” as a distinct program with dedicated funding at a level that would account for any loss of funds due to allowable indirect costs.

Conclusion and topics for consideration

- 2013 no consolidation
- 2014 Strawman document, does not address IR-4 concerns
- EPA cannot weigh in on IR-4 and the proposed consolidation
- Including IR-4 in Farm Bill as mandatory funding could add permanency to the program, potential long term solution. This should be discussed with CLC in Spring

ACTION ITEM: J. Baron to invite representatives from Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance to Spring 2013 PMC meeting to be on the agenda to discuss long term IR-4 funding

One example of 5-year funding (like Farm Bill) is the Canadian Pest Management Centre, which is modeled after IR-4 except the Government understood the funding issues and have funded them for 5 years.

- J. Baron introduced the idea of holding a Summit with regional IPM centers in October. In the past, IR-4 gave the IPM centers priorities at the Food Use Workshop. It was discovered that many of the priorities requested by the centers were already supported with tolerances, were labeled or were being worked on by IR-4. It was suggested that IR-4 revisit including the centers in the workshop as a way to collaborate with them.

ACTION ITEM: Baron to reach out to the Regional IPM centers to propose a “Summit” where both groups can explore ideas to work better together.

Region 2: This region, which stretches from NJ to Florida is not being supported by enough trials. The NE was once conducting as many as 80 trials, but is down to 48 this year. Can the PMC define a specialized role the NE region can do to support the IR-4 program in this region?

There is concern that there are not as many new chemistries “coming down the pike”. Additionally with some of the newer chemistries, registrants are covering most crop groups leaving fewer specialty crops for IR-4 to target. Another concern is many of the new AIs are significantly more complicated to analyze than in the past. In addition, when IR-4 partners with registrants earlier in development they are requesting significantly more complex residue studies. The suggestion was made that IR-4 should seek supplemental funding from companies, or consider holding some funds back for “difficult-to-conduct” studies, similar to the monies held for “difficult to analyze” studies.

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, and have been a huge success!

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

All hands meeting afternoon of Oct.23, 2012; all are welcome and encouraged to attend

Oct. 9-11 timeframe – IPM meeting in D.C.

2012 Fall PMC meeting

Oct. 24-25, IR-4 HQ, Princeton, NJ (following completion of NRPM, like in 2011, starting about 3:00 pm Oct. 24; organize Wyndham for overnight guests, but also explore options with the Marriott)

2013 National Education Conference

February 27-28, 2013

San Antonio, TX

50th Anniversary of IR-4 celebration in 2013:

- 1) At NEC in San Antonio – Feb. 27-28
- 2) Main event - week of March 11 in D.C.:
 - Tues., March 12 - CLC meeting in a.m.; CLC/PMC joint meeting in p.m.; late day reception on the Hill 5-6 p.m. (perhaps work thru Doc Hasting’s office)
 - Wed., March 13 – PMC meeting in a.m.; 50th year event at USDA in the p.m.
 - Thur., Mar. 14 – complete PMC meeting in the a.m.; possible luncheon on the Hill
- 3) At Professional Society Annual meetings in 2013 (WSSA – Feb. 4-7, Baltimore, MD; APS – Aug. 10-14, Austin, TX; ESA – Nov. 17-20, Austin, TX)

4) At IR-4 Food Use Workshop, Sept. 17-18, Albuquerque, NM