



**MINUTES**  
**Project Management Committee**  
**Special Meeting**  
**November 7, 2025**  
***Virtual***

**MOTIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

1. A motion was made to nominate Matt Hengel to a second and final three year term by unanimous consent by Todd Scholz, seconded by Liwei Gu; **approved by majority. (1 absent - A. Simmons and 1 abstention - M. Hengel).**

**CONSENSUS ITEMS**

1. **Consensus:** To present the National Recognition of Excellence Awards to Megan James Hickman, Leona Horst, and Susan Bierbrunner.

**Members:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jerry Baron; IR-4 Executive Director  
Liwei Gu; Regional Director - SOR  
Mary Hausbeck; REgional Director- NCR  
Matt Hengel; Regional Director-WR/PMC Chair  
Todd Scholz; CLC Chair  
Simon Zebelo; Regional Director – NER

**Staff:** \_\_\_\_\_

Deborah Carpenter; IR-4 HQ  
Krystal Chojnacki; IR-4 HQ

**Friday, November 7, 2025 2:00 pm EST**

-- Dr. Matt Hengel called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm --

1. PMC Chair
  - M. Hengel stated that the PMC chair position was up for determining the PMC Chair for the next three year period.
  - **A motion was made to nominate Matt Hengel to a second and final three year term by unanimous consent by Todd Scholz, seconded by Liwei Gu; approved by majority. (1 absent - A. Simmons and 1 abstention - M. Hengel).**
2. National Recognition of Excellence Award Recipient Selection
  - M. Hengel introduced the item noting that each of the nominated parties were very deserving of the recognition, each nominated party was reviewed and discussed, and the need for a team award.
  - **Consensus:** To present the National Recognition of Excellence Awards to Megan James Hickman, Leona Horst, and Susan Bierbrunner.
3. TASC Grant
  - J. Baron reported that the North America Blueberry Association submitted and received a Technical Assistance for Specialty Crop (TASC) grant for a product to get the export to Japan and the trials are on the 2026 research plan.

4. IR-4 Project Executive Director
  - A discussion was held regarding each of the candidates merits and thoughts were shared with members of the PMC who serve on the search committee to relay on.
5. Federal shutdown implications
  - A discussion was held regarding NC State University not processing subaward invoices effective November 3rd due to the government shutdown.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.**