



MINUTES PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Fall Meeting, October 30-31, 2018
IR-4 Project Headquarters
Princeton, NJ*

Executive Summary

MOTION: To approve minutes of summer 2018 PMC meeting. APPROVED.

MOTION: For a multiple registrant SOP. APPROVED

MOTION: For IR-4 to receive sufficient use-pattern information from the requestor/stakeholder for developing GLP protocols by Feb 1 of each year. If adequate information is not received, then IR-4 HQ can re-allocate resources to another project, while the original project maintains its priority status. APPROVED.

MOTION: For Herman Waquespack Jr. sugar cane league nominated by CLC. APPROVED.

ACTION ITEM - Matt, Liwei and John will draft a letter and process for handling future backlogs for the March 2019 PMC meeting.

Tuesday, October 30th (8:00 am to 5:00 pm)

In attendance – John Wise, Liwei, Gu, Dan Rossi, Mike Bledsoe, Dan Kunkel, Van Starner, Doug Buhler, Cristi Palmer, Tammy Barkalow, Matt Hengel, Debbie Carpenter, Sherri Novack, Alvin Simmons, Brad Hillman, Jerry Baron

1. Approval of summer 2018 PMC meeting minutes, motion to approve, seconded – accepted
New agenda items: follow-up items; IPM Roadmap; succession planning

2. Brief updates:

AAs (Buhler, Hillman)

- a. Midterm review was good; discussed the NRSP 5-year renewal document and there was agreement that the 5-year approach was not feasible if IR-4 is trying to change to a competitive program within NIFA; it was suggested a 2-3 year renewal might work better;
- b. It was recommended that Jerry participate in the Regional Ag. Exp. Station Director's meetings, which begin in March 2019.
- c. At Rutgers the new Responsibility Center Management (RCM) accounting system is impacting IR-4 - the AES is seeking a contribution from IR-4 of \$1.4 million; Dean Goodman to discuss RCM with the PMC in Executive Session

ARS (Simmons) –

- a. ARS is in a hiring restriction, but they have been allowed to hire a half time person to fill a lab vacancy; government is still on continuing resolution until Dec 7, and that limits financial commitments that can be made; the general sentiment is that ARS feels optimistic about the continued level of funding for IR-4 research sites, but can't do any permanent hires for the budget impacted research projects, including all of IR-4 ARS; there's lots of great support from the Tifton Location Coordinator and ARS SE Area Director and the labor need for the lab has been discussed; there is a process for a temp hire for 1 year;

- b. ARS labs are struggling to recover from the backlog; there will be an effort to convene IR-4/ARS discussions for future support;
- c. The CLC Chair was invited to participate in the ARS 5-yr planning;
- d. ARS FRD John Harvey in Wapato will help complete 2018 trials, but has taken a new station job there; they're looking to hire help as a temp

NER (Rossi)

- a. no significant changes, typical things with research trials;
- b. in the spinosad mushroom study, two trials had to be rescheduled; there was a lack of powdery mildew disease pressure for some performance trials;
- c. had to cancel varroa mite work, and redirected funds to Penn State for spotted lantern fly research;
- d. Jerry had an opportunity to visit Cornell, trying to reestablish trials; money issues are still the constraint, with research centers seeking 18% indirect; the only time that is waived is with new faculty start-up packages

NCR (Wise)

- a. had no significant 2018 trial issues;
- b. an EPA inspection in ND went well, and there is one scheduled for OH; with a new RFC, and some younger FRDs in the region, more emphasis is needed on training in the future;
- c. the lab is close to eliminating the backlog, likely by December, despite a number of unexpected challenges (one retirement and a younger person left for a better job)

SOR (Gu, report in the PMC materials)

- a) Roger Batts will continue as interim RFC for 6 months, to allow new RFC hire Janine Spies to return to the office;
- b) Jackie Burns is retiring in 3 months, so the university is searching for a new dean (hope is to get an Assoc. Dean as the new AA for IR-4);
- c) field trials are moving along, even with a flood in TX, and two hurricanes in NC and GA;
- d) regional priority-setting workshop was held in NC in the summer, and it went very well;
- e) by the end of the year the lab expects to have only two backlogged ASRs;
- f) QA has finished 80% of the assigned 2018 activity;
- g) Dr. Mahnken, interim LRD, is interested in becoming the LRD

WSR (Hengel)

- a) field trials are going as expected, though a handful of trials were lost – for those, through good communication some were restarted, and the impact was minimized;
- b) they are still working through financial issues at the Kearney Ag Center where ~25% of what WSR trials are conducted;
- c) at OR state, Michael Horak is working with Mike Bondi from OSU to open up for a new position; for now, we are being creative in how we cover the needs there;
- d) were successful securing a CDFA grant, which can help fund a couple additional CA priority projects;
- e) QA work is going well, including helping the ARS Wapato lab to clear backlog;
- f) the WSR lab move to Sprocker bldg. is done, sample analyses are running again, and the backlog should be completed before end of 2018

HQ (Baron)

- a) since the summer PMC meeting, there were a few personnel changes; M. Arsenovic retiring Nov. 1; other retirements are likely in the near future; HQ hired one new SD C. Bonetti, a chemist, who just started and hit the ground running;
- b) the food use program has had a lot of successes, kudos to the study director team;
- c) the government shut down affected the EPA and IR-4, but now there is a good Minor Use team at EPA - Nancy Fitz, Minor Use Coordinator, and Branch chief, Bo Davis; they are

getting things through, and we are getting rapid responses; they visited us for a day at HQ to see IR-4 in action and build our joint team;

- d) with all the unknowns at Rutgers with RCM we are taking proactive steps in case we need to move our office; our 55 years of archives are being packed up and moved into a private facility, with GLP compliance maintained

CLC (Bledsoe)

- a) inviting PMC into CLC meetings has been successful; Jerry and Mike talk every week;
- b) Mike is always talking about IR-4 at any meetings he attends; he is often surprised how many people attending are not aware of IR-4;
- c) there is a desire to have another lunch and learn session on The Hill, and Laura Phelps will take the lead;
- d) there is now no real negative feedback on the 10% indirect costs to host universities

3. NRSP-4 Renewal Update (see previous AA report)

4. Reports/Updates

a. Food Program Successes/Submissions/On-going research

- i. By end of Oct., 750 new uses for 2018; 40 studies are awaiting submission, and 62 more study submission plans are TBD; the new Minor Use team now in place at EPA is making great strides to make up for time lost on IR-4 petitions
- ii. Lab update, backlog status/ACAC – 26 ASRs are still considered as backlog (from 2014, 2015, 2016 studies), with the most at the Tifton lab; C. Jolly (HQ SD) trying to help with ASRs at Tifton, as much as is allowed by ARS, and will help write reports; as needed, contract labs will be used to help clear analyses; in 2019 if a lab still has a backlog, the LRD will need to write a letter to the PMC with an explanation for the backlog
- iii. QA Unit - still need Arkansas site to be decommissioned; the 3rd EPA audit of 2018 just came in (ID processing lab), and an OH ARS field site audit is expected; Dec. 3-4 QA planning mtg will be by webinar; kudos to the WSR and SOR QA for helping HQ catch up on FDB audits
- iv. International Activities – In crop grouping Codex completed all 5 plant types; JMPR review of IR-4 data resulted in Codex MRLs established for flonicamid on legumes and eliminated a significant trade barrier with MRLs for potassium phosphide on tree nuts; significant progress has been made with IR-4 efforts in capacity building; the TASC grant was to be a 5-yr grant, but after 2 years, no more funds appear to be coming from that source; plans are to expect 2019 funds for additional trials for Int'l needs; the Global Minor Use Foundation has been founded and recognized in NJ, and the tax exemption request is moving forward for it to be a 501 3c not for profit; industry donations will go into this foundation; the Australian government is waiting to make a contribution

- b. Biopesticide and Organic Support Program Update – a 24C label issued in PA for stylet oil to control phorid flies was supported by IR-4 efficacy studies; the EPA label for anthraquinone on corn to protect seedlings against bird predation (particularly sandhill cranes) was expanded to all 50 states – this use is fully supported by the Int'l Crane Foundation; EPA registration of *Metschnikowia fructicola* was completed in 2018 with IR-4's help; PMV-1 for protection against Pepino mosaic virus was EPA-registered in 2018; the 2019 research program priorities will focus on SWD attract and kill technology on fruit, downy mildew control

on organic basil, weed control screening, viruses/viroids on tomato, and bacterial diseases on fruiting veggies

- c. Environmental Horticulture (EHC) Program Update - So far in 2018, a total of 17 summary reports have been compiled and posted; this year EPA approved 3 new product registrations based partially on performance data from IR-4; the new website provides new tools to examine usage, and new visitors to the EHC site are about 2/3 of all EHC website visitors; 2018 research reports are starting to come in, but 10% of 2016 and 24% of 2017 reports are still pending; the on-line Input Portal for researcher selection of trials has worked well, and now there is a companion portal for RFCs to provide regional inputs; a downy mildew SCRI grant proposal rec'd a High Priority rating, but only Outstanding ratings were funded – the grant will be resubmitted; the pollinator protection SCRI continuation proposal has been bogged down in the Rutgers system
 - d. Communications Update - New website is working well and we are receiving good comments; Rutgers and many other universities have been sued because their websites are not accessible, therefore they have notified all units to start working to make their websites accessible; the office of accessibility was asked to come and give IR-4 folks that work on the new website a seminar on how to make accessible websites; they did and they acknowledged that IR-4 is one of the first departments to ask for this training; SEBS responded that as long as we are making improvements, that is all that is required at this time
5. IPM roadmap – K. Dorschner reported that the IPM roadmap is a document that was last updated in 2013; a new one just came out and the biggest difference was the acknowledgement that measuring pesticide use in product per acre is not relevant to assessing the use of IPM; the amount of ai per acre is increasing and IPM implementation should be judged on the benefits for the environment and human health, and is a risk reduction tool (i.e., new pesticides to replace the organophosphates are less toxic to humans and safer to the environment); the IPM group understands some hard work is needed to quantify IPM benefits, but they've done a poor job selling themselves over the years; there is a lack of coordination and leadership among the centers; there was a proposal to fund a new 4-yr position a communication position, as they realize they have to communicate their successes, or the science will not progress; unfortunately, the centers seem to prefer their autonomy
 6. Managing studies with multiple registrants - on occasion, IR-4 works with products that have multiple registrants; there are plenty of examples where two companies had the same ai, and the two companies worked well together with IR-4; but some recent experience has resulted delayed submissions due to one company was using Section 18s as a mechanism to prevent their competitors from selling, and they delayed providing documents, while the other company was very responsive; thus, there is a need for us to put a process in place on how to work with multiple registrants; i.e., should IR-4 put together a contract that multiple registrants must agree to the terms before working with them; a draft HQ SOP to address this was discussed, then was further addressed in executive session
 7. Proposal to modify research plan if use pattern is delayed – there have been recent situations where a project request was reasonable, and the determination was made at the FUW that the need was high enough, and it was made a priority; but, when the protocol was drafted, there is a need for additional use pattern info or data before the protocol can move forward; the proposal is that if we do not have the information by Feb 1 or Mar 1 or whatever date we establish, that the resources are diverted for that year, so that the resources do not go to waste

8. Strategies for FY 2020 funding request – “19 in 19” came from the IR-4 strategic plan; CLC must have the information they need to take to Congress; such as the cost of living affect to IR-4; need to explain how IR-4 work opens international markets; the Reduced Risk pesticides on which IR-4 focuses prevent food waste; perhaps indicate there are over 200 crops struggling for 45 projects per year; S. Novack to put together a one page document with these bullet items
9. New CLC members nominated: Herman Waquespack, American Sugarcane League was voted on by the CLC unanimously; motion was made to accept this addition - Approved

10. Future meetings

Canadian AAFC/PMC Priority Setting Workshop

Gatineau, QC, Hilton Lac-Leamy

Mar. 19-21

WSR SLR Meeting

Mt. Vernon, WA

April 9-10

NER SLR Meeting

College Park, MD (Univ. of MD campus)

April 16

IR-4 2019 "Week of Workshops"

Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley,

Hunt Valley, MD