



IR-4 PMC & CLC MEETINGS MINUTES

Spring Meeting, 2021

Zoom Virtual Meeting

MOTIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Motions/Consent Items:

1. A motion for approval of the renewal of CLC members Arney, Cranney, Frantz, Gandhi, Roberts, Scholz, and Schreiber. **Approved.**
2. A motion for approval to accept Lee Van to the CLC committee. **Approved.**
3. A motion for approval of the 2020 Fall PMC and Special Funding Meetings of December 23, 2020 and January 12, 2021 minutes. **Approved.**
4. A motion to accept the agenda. **Approved.**
5. A motion to proceed with the Benzovindiflupyr/Cranberry study in 2021 in spite of the inherit risk. **Approved.**
6. A motion to accept Daniel Kunkel as a recipient of the IR-4 Hall of Fame Award. **Approved.**
7. Consensus was provided regarding moving forward with the communications items as presented (regional/state logos, powerpoint template, visual standards, etc.). **Consent Provided.**

Action Items:

1. Send nominations for CLC open slot previously held by US Apple to Michael Bledsoe.
2. Alert Jerry Baron if interested in attending the CLC Government Affairs Sub-Committee the 3rd Wednesday of every even numbered Month via zoom.
3. Jerry Barron to look into developing a template for regions to submit to be more concise for the next full 5 year submission (2025).
4. Jerry Baron will bring forth the subaward modifications to the awards management people and have a discussion (i.e. move study from one region to another prior to awarding subs).
5. Regional Directors communicate with regions to get the FDB's in to wrap up the outstanding studies.
6. Venkat Pedibhotla to reach out to groups after the FUW with expectations (characterized test substances for field and reference substances for the analytical lab).
7. Regional Directors to encourage folks in their regions to complete and submit reports in a timely manner.
8. Add an agenda items to the Summer Agenda for the PMC to revisit the Backlog Policy.

Members

Jerry Baron; IR-4 Executive Director
Tom Bewick; USDA/NIFA
Michael Bledsoe; CLC/Chair
Doug Buhler; Administrative Advisor-NCR
Jennifer Clarke, CLC
John Davis; Administrative Adviser – SOR
Alan DeYoung; CLC
William Frantz; CLC

Ann George; CLC
Liwei Gu; Regional Director-SOR
Matt Hengel; Regional Director-Western Region
Bob Jones; CLC
Moses Kairo; Administrative Adviser – NER
Steve Lommel; NC State
Armando Monterroso; CLC
Keith Pitts, CLC

Rachel Roberts; CLC
Steve Salisbury; CLC
Todd Scholz; CLC/Vice Chair
Alan Schreiber, CLC
Bob Simerly; CLC
Alvin Simmons; USDA-ARS

Dave Trinko; CLC
Amy Upton; CLC
Herman Wagnespach; CLC
Lee VanWychen; CLC
John Wise; Regional Director-NCR/Chair PMC
Simon Zebelo; Regional Director – NER

Guests

Roger Batts
David Beaudreau
Michael Braverman
Debbie Carpenter
Carrie Castille
Krystal Chojnacki
David Crow
Amer Fayad
Kate Fink
Nancy Fitz
Laurie Flanagan
Katherine Ghantous
Thomas Harty

Thomas Haty
Robert Hedberg
Jenn Heiss
Cristina Marchesan Marconi
Johanna Mazlo
Ed Messina
Cristi Palmer
Venkat Pedibhotla
Dan Rosenblatt
Dan Rossi
Van Starner
Jay Vroom

Tuesday March 9, 2021 @ 11:00 am to 4:00 pm EST

John Wise called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and reviewed meeting protocols.

1. USDA-NIFA Partner Update: Dr. Carrie Castile (11:00 am-11:30 am)
 - Jerry Baron provided an introduction of new NIFA Director Dr. Carrie Castile.
 - Dr. Castile provided an update including: work to align USDA priorities with President's priorities; reviewed highlights of NIFA supported climate change work from previous year and outlined next steps for climate change work including increase funding (without impacting other programs); and USDA's commitment to equity and inclusion pledge and weaving this into all aspects of their work.
 - Updated on progress to develop new NIFA programs, processes and staffing, staying on track with grant awards, and doing a full agency review of processes.
 - Dr. Castile addressed questions from the members regarding: her familiarity with IR-4, her thoughts on Integrated Solutions, challenges and opportunities, and tactical sciences.
2. Comments from the Chairs: M. Bledsoe and J. Wise
 - Michael Bledsoe:
 - Reported that CLC are active members in the decision making process at IR-4 and that CLC membership has been actively working both on the Hill in 2021 as well as in subcommittees that provide critical support to IR-4 in various capacities (lobbying, IR-4 HQ move, etc). Reported that the CLC recently enlisted a lobbying firm to support the CLC in their interactions with legislators, appointees, and public sector administrators.
 - Thanked Ann George for her work with the CLC (longest-term member).
 - Added and agenda item to approve/ renew CLC members.
 - Reviewed members needing renewal:
 - Mark Arney
 - James Cranney
 - William Frantz
 - Amy Gandhi

- Rachel Roberts
 - Todd Scholz
 - Alan Schreiber
 - **A motion for approval of the renewal of CLC members Arney, Cranney, Frantz, Gandhi, Roberts, Scholz, and Schreiber was made by Herman Waguespack, seconded by Keith Pitts; unanimously approved.**
 - A brief discussion was held regarding an open slot for CLC membership previously held by US Apple.
 - **Action Item:** Michael Bledsoe asked that members send him nominations.
- John Wise: Wanted to make sure that members of the CLC have heard the about what the field, lab, HQ, regions and ARS, have done/were able to do in 2020 in spite of all of the challenges.

3. DCLRS: K. Pitts, D. Crow, et al. (noon)

- Keith Pitts briefly introduced the efforts of the CLC to get the \$20 million per year in federal authorization as a major objective and to bring in professional support. Thanked folks who chipped into the friends of IR-4.
- David Beaudreau: Presented an overview of DCLRS including the team, work they perform (focused on agriculture and agribusiness), the goal of their work (IR-4 increased funding), and reviewed the appropriation process and committee membership and reviewed their advocacy strategy.
- A discussion was held regarding: the process for generating talking points; how the reemergence of the earmarks may/may not impact the process of securing new funding; how the move to a virtual environment is working for/against this kind of work; scheduling a lunch and learn on March 19 with members of Congress; updating the IR-4 economic assessment to update our impact for use for these purposes; and developing teams of CLC members to meet with members.

4. CLC Membership: M. Bledsoe

- Introduced a new Member Lee VanWychen – National and Regional Weed Science societies. The CLC conducted an email vote and had unanimous approval to move forward with the acceptance.
- **Motion to accept Lee VanWychen to the CLC committee was made Dave Trinka, seconded by Amy Upton; unanimously approved.**

-- 12:54 pm -- Break – The meeting reconvened at 1:10 pm --

5. CLC Government Affairs Sub-Committee (GASC): R. Simerly

- Provided an overview of the subcommittee; shared highlights including hiring lobbying firm DCLRS; and efforts to reach out to members of congress for increased appropriations. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every even numbered month via Zoom. **Action Item:** Let Jerry know if you want to attend.

6. IR-4 2020 Year End Summary: J. Baron (Handout)

- Reported on activities during COVID-19: field research completed with limited issues, quality assurance and lab work continued with some slow down, and headquarters had limitations on reporting to the office. Reviewed the successes for 2020:
 - Field research: 414 residue field trails; 88 product performance, and 14 Integrated Solutions
 - Submissions: 26 chemicals and 122 specific PCRSs
 - Successes 107 tolerances and 273 new uses
 - New Crop Groups: 25 “Herb Group” and 26 “Spice Group”

- International: Canada 25 field trials for joint residue program; an international food use workshop was held with participation from 56 countries; and assisted with developing new initiatives in Asia and Africa on residue mitigation and bio pesticide regulatory harmonization
- Environmental Horticulture: 251 efficacy trials and 399 crop safety trials, 24 data summaries compiled, and 4 state registrations
- Biopesticide Regulatory Support: Successes: Pseudomonas fluorescens ACK55 and Sucrose octanoate esters, and Submissions: Oxalic acid dihydrate and pongamia oil.
- Updated on the move from Rutgers to NC State including: plan to move active files, new hires and active/future recruitment, the new office space, IT system and data file transitions, and Rutgers offices closeout.
- Reported that this is another year of flat funding and that with our funding mechanism change, indirect costs are allowed to be assessed by the host institutions (waived in 2021), and implications to priority setting.

7. Implications of flat funding: J. Baron

- a. 2014-2020
 - Provided an overview of trends for the number of trials each year in residue, product performance, and environmental horticulture in years 2014-2020.
- b. 2021 situation
 - Reported that priorities were set prior to the USDA RFA coming out, and host institutions helped by waiving indirect costs for the first year.
- c. Preparing for 2022
 - i. Increase
 - Reported that 2022 priority setting will be made in tiers: status quo, \$15 million and \$20 million.
 - ii. Flat funding
 - Reported that if funding stays flat, with the 10% indirect cost, trial numbers will decline.
 - A discussion was held regarding savings from reduced travel, the success of the virtual FUW, how to balance prioritizing residue and product performance trials and industry funding support.

8. Key dates associated with 2021 Food Program priority setting: V. Pedibhotla (Handout)

- Reviewed the Food Use and Integrated Solutions schedule and deadlines including company meetings (April – June), nomination deadlines, EPA stoplight analysis (July - August), New Technology Session (July 20), Food Use Workshop (September 13-16), and National Research Planning Meeting (October 25-29).
- A brief discussion was held regarding deadlines for the EPA stoplight analysis.

9. EPA Partner Update: Ed Messina & Nancy Fitz @ 2:30 pm

- J. Baron introduced Ed Messina and Nancy Fitz.
- Ed Messina provided update on the transition including the new EPA Administrator nominee Michael Regan and additional appointees; the new executive orders and their alignment with the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP); increased approvals of disinfectants due to COVID-19; the priorities set by the new administration and how it may impact work and approvals; and updated on hemp.
- A discussion was held regarding 24 C's for labels and the proposed EPA move (still planned but was delayed due to COVID-19).

--The meeting adjourned for the day at 2:59 pm--

Wednesday March 10, 2021 @ 11:00 am to 4:00 pm EST

-- John Wise called the meeting to order at 11:00 am --

10. Approval of minutes, new agenda items- J. Wise

- **A motion for approval of the 2020 Fall PMC and Special Funding Meetings of December 23, 2020 and January 12, 2021 minutes was made by Alvin Simmons and seconded by Michael Bledsoe; unanimously approved.**
- John Wise, noted that from the FALL PMC meeting there was an action item to consider the electronic notebooks again, but in light of the funding issues form this year, this item was tabled.
- **A motion to accept the agenda was made by Michael Bledsoe; second Alvin Simmons; unanimously approved.**

11. Updates from AAs, NIFA, ARS, CLC, NE, SO, WR, NC, HQ

AAs

- Doug Buhler: Noted we are in good shape on the NIFA funding application renewal and thanked the whole group of AA's for successfully navigating the indirect cost waivers; reported that there were changes to NRSP guidelines into the future for IR-4 that will be helpful moving into the future; and commended the achievements of IR-4 during this unprecedented year.
- Moses Kairo: Reported on the support from administration for UMES taking on the role of lead for the region; reported that they are coming off a busy first year with getting new subawards out but things have settled and will move smoothly into the future; and reported that the IR-4 working in conjunction with the IPM this will help increase visibility for the program at UMES.
- Steve Lommel: Reported that things are going well with the transition; noted on the work with Congress that they are championing IR-4 with the congressional delegation (David Price) and he would like folks to come and visit once we are fully established at NC State.
- Alvin Simmons (on behalf of Joe Muyaneza): Reported that ARS continues to support the work of IR-4 and with the change of the administration; noted that there are many changes in key roles including Simon Liu as the acting administrator of ARS.

NIFA – T. Bewick

- Added to the report from NIFA Dr. Carrie Castile: they are hiring and are at about 200 people and still looking to fill approx. 150 positions; working to improve morale within the USDA (telework policy, and a disbursed workforce) as well as to help with recruitment and retention; reported on successes on managing workload in a virtual environment; and that the grant processes should be streamlined to get the funding out more quickly.
- Reported on the success of Matt Hegel for getting block grant funding and suggested we explore other funding mechanisms from USDA to make sure projects happen including capacity and equipment funds for 1890 institutions. Encouraged IR-4 to explore further engagement other 1890 and minority serving institutions (each Southern Region State has one), especially with new administration that have set diversity as a priority.
- Amer Fayd: new investigator webinar series has opportunities of training for new investigators on the website.
- A discussion was held regarding funding opportunities for infrastructure capacity building and the opportunity to share application experiences and lessons learned.

USDA-ARS – A. Simmons (Handout)

- Reported that: ARS is in maximum telework posture but high priority research has continued and that safety is the highest priority; correction on written report (there is one two year blueberry trial that will be completed later this summer so that Field Data Notebook has not yet been set to QA); funding continues to be flat; introduced a new hires and acting appointments at various ARS locations (Thomas Harty – ARS Assistant Regional Field Coordinator, Salinas the research leader has an acting appointment and in TIFTON hiring a chemist), and despite all this staffing is not up to 100%.
- Reported that the greenhouse in Wooster has an upgraded watering system for the 2021 IR-4 Food trails.
- A discussion was held regarding staff assigned to field trail oversight and for environmental horticulture, laboratory staffing updates, and GLP training required.

Northeast Region – S. Zebelo (Handout)

- Reported on: The COVID-19 testing and vaccination protocols at UMES; 28 Food Use MOR trials completed; QA in 2020 Jane had 13 in –life inspections and 12 final report audits, and 58 final reports; Food Use performance trials are all completed and reports submitted; Integrated Solutions trials are all completed and reports submitted; Environmental Horticulture had five efficacy protocols submitted and six projects placed (one cancelled) with two reports being submitted, and 37 crop safety trials were conducted.

Southern Region – L. Gu (Handout)

- Field: All but 1 field data notebooks from 2019 has been received; Less than half of 2020 received, for 2021 trials have been assigned. COVID-19 update, all regions are operating as normal (with masks, etc).
- Analytical Laboratory: This lab was shut down about four months due to COVID-19; submitted 9 analytical summary reports; now 13 projects in different stages of lab work; three projects and backlogged/late but this will clear up this year and next and shared updates on analytical lab equipment, and new personnel.
- QA unit: finished everything assigned to them in 2020 and have received assignments for 2021, of which 20% has already been completed.
- Regional Field Coordinator will be on and extended leave and Roger Batts will provide coverage for the food program area.

Western Region - Matt Hengel (Handout)

- Field program: Not much delay with COVID-19 in the field program, most assignments were completed; and received CDFA block grant funds.
- Webpage has been updated.
- Analytical Laboratory: Impacted by COVID-19 but worked around the restrictions to completed 135 trails from 17 projects which is in-line with the average output; there completed their move to a new location all under a single roof; and reported on upgraded instruments.
- Quality Assurance: The team has navigated their work well using contract work as needed, 2020 assignments were covered, and they are working on 2021 work now.
- A brief discussion was held regarding filling a staffing vacancy.

North Central Region – J. Wise (Handout)

- Field: Did well regarding COVID-19 restrictions and have been consolidating regional locations and FRDs in the NC region due to retirements.
- Analytical Laboratory: Had more difficulties with restrictions but eventually re-opened after a loss of time as well as backlogged projects; a strategy to overcome backlogged projects has been developed and projects diverted to the UC Davis Lab; and a new analyst has been hired to get back on track.
- Quality Assurance: Challenges with field audits and travel restrictions; and back-filling QA staff due to a retirement and using a contract QA audits.

Headquarters – J. Baron

- Rutgers & NC State:
 - Reported on: George Markle's passing, reviewed all of his contributions to IR-4, and noted that there is a scholarship fund available to accept donations in his memory; and noted that Van Starner is working with the IR-4 HQ at NC State in various capacities including creating a virtual tour series for the EPA.
 - A discussion was held regarding using virtual field days as template/model for the virtual EPA tours and the advantages of a virtual tour in showing diversity of production methods across regions.

-- 12:33 pm -- Break – The meeting reconvened at 12:51 pm.

Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) Chair – M. Bledsoe

- Reported that the CLC has been very active and have been working diligently to support the work of IR-4 and that the report provided yesterday covered this agenda item.

12. Update on the HQ relocation – J. Baron (Handout)

- a. Status of hiring
 - 14 positions have been hired or completed/pending offer letters or are waiver positions for existing Rutgers IR-4 employees; interviews conducted for the Associate Director position (this item was added to the Executive Session agenda); currently four active postings and four upcoming searches; and three positions have been successfully transferred to the Plant Biology Department at Rutgers.
- b. IT Transition
 - Jerry reviewed the overall progress of the transition to NC State related to general, personnel, funds, data and files, and IT systems.
 - Reported that four servers have been purchased, testing is being completed for the eQA system transfer, and passwords are being issued.
- c. Relocation of files (GLP/Non-GLP)
 - SOPs are being reviewed to identify those that need updating in preparation for, during, and after the move. The first files moved will be the active files being managed by the NC Study director with the rest of the files transferring at a later date.
 - A discussion was held regarding where to send data packages (Rutgers until otherwise notified).
- d. New HQ, including Virtual Tour
 - The certificate of occupancy was issued late last week, furniture is being installed this week, and a virtual tour will be emailed out at a later date.
- e. Rutgers shutdown – Debbie Carpenter (Handout)

- Reported that: the goal is to keep operations functioning as long as possible and consistent with the MOU; employees may be using leave banks in the summer; considering using contractors to clean out the archives when permissible by Rutgers; working to close out grants; preparing layoff notices to issue employees; and constraints on moving files/data due to GLP.
- A discussion was held regarding checking items in and out into archive, labor needs, and potential support from archivists in the regions.

13. Update on the NE Region relocation UMES – S. Zebelo

- Reported that: UMES has been with IR-4 for a full year to date and has experienced some challenges with COVID-19 but in spite of this the transition went well; and thanked the regional staff, HQ and other for support in the transition.
- Reported that: the IR-4 Project at UMES is housed under the new IPM Center; UMES has worked through the sub awards for the region as well as the new NIFA proposal submission; and a GLP training was conducted for stakeholders in the region.

14. 2021 Grant Application – J. Baron

a. Lessons learned

- This year was a total re-write of the full grant and interpretations of what standard items (SOW) were needed varied among the sub awards but overall the grant was packaged and submitted prior to the deadline.
- Opportunity to reduce the submission items needed from the regions moving forward as specified in the RFA.
- A discussion was held regarding sub award institutions procedures for processing invoices.
- **Action Item:** Jerry Baron to look into developing a template for regions to submit to be more concise for the next full 5 year submission (2025).

b. Next steps

- Carefully review the feedback from the reviewers and incorporate comments into the next application.
- The potential to modify sub award numbers to reflect where we are at now versus during the proposal without deviating from the scope of work was discussed (such as salaries and field study funds among regions) and if there is wiggle room on how we move funding from one detail to another (appeared fine with the funder).
- **Action Item:** Jerry Baron will bring forth the subaward modifications to the awards management people and have a discussion (i.e. move study from one region to another prior to awarding subs).

15. Program update/discussions

a. Food Program – D. Carpenter (Handout)

- Provided an update on action item from the Fall 2020 PMC Meeting in moving eDOCs to the eQA system; sent a note to pertinent stakeholders and received a low response. People were open to move to electronic but eDOCs was not viewed as the solution.

i. Residue research

1. Field

- D. Carpenter reviewed the new tolerances (21), submissions (27), crop grouping updates (Herb and Spice), and residue and performance research program outputs for 2020. Reviewed a ten-year span of the field research program by region, the outstanding field data notebooks, and a project timeline submission report for the food program.
- A discussion was held regarding contract lab delays.

2. Analytical Laboratories including laboratory backlog & ACAC discussions

a. Progress in eliminating backlog – M. Hengel

- Reported on: the late and backlogged projects within IR-4 laboratories; and project swapping from Michigan lab should lead to improvement in backlog in the Michigan lab by the Fall.
- A discussion was held regarding methods for analysis.
- b. Maintaining progress in COVID-19 environment
 - Reviewed delays in the lab work/analysis due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- c. Implications of not meeting timelines
 - Noted that the Rutgers HQ group is trying to tie up all studies, but without all the FDB's, or delays with registrants this may not be possible and the studies would need to be turned over to the NC State HQ group for completion which is not ideal.
 - **Action Item:** Regional Directors communicate with regions to get the FDB's in to wrap up the outstanding studies
- ii. Quality Assurance- J. Mazlo (Handout)
 - Reported on EPA GLP Compliance Monitoring program with one audit in 2020 and one in 2021 and the decommissioning of an IR-4 site.
 - Reported on the Spring Quality Assurance meeting and provided an update on eQA/eDOCs.
 - A discussion was held regarding the causes of the trend for QA work to cross regional lines.

-- 3:09 pm -- Break – The meeting reconvened at 3:17 pm --

- iii. Product Performance and Integrated Solutions – V. Pedibhotla (Handout)
 - Reported on: new team hires; Food Use company meetings and deadlines; and reported the Food Use Workshop (FUW) will be held virtually this year.
 - A discussion was held regarding the use of a facilitator for the FUW, PCR requests submissions posting online happening more swiftly, working to improve on getting reference substances, if company meetings will be held in person or virtually, and asking companies to ease up the requirement of efficacy studies.
 - **Action Item:** Venkat Pedibhotla to reach out to groups after the FUW with expectations (characterized test substances for field and reference substances for the analytical lab).
- iv. International – M. Braverman (Handout)
 - Reported on the Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop; externally funded projects on residue mitigation; virtual training workshops conducted; USDA/USAID supported projects in Taiwan, Korea, and Japan; biopesticide work in Pakistan; and holding regular meetings with the Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science in Agriculture (CERSA).
 - A discussion was held regarding the CERSA program at NC State, the curriculum they have developed and offer, and their international work.

--The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:21 pm--

Thursday March 11, 2021 @ 11:00 am to 4:00 pm EST

-- John Wise called the meeting to order at 11:03 am—

John Wise requested that the Agenda item for the Benzovindiflupyr/Cranberry be moved up.

16. Benzovindiflupyr/Cranberry-Do we do the study?

- J. Baron: Reported that a request was received for Benzovindiflupyr on Cranberry and it went through the priority setting process. During the protocol development, new information was gleaned from the registrant regarding an aquatic dissipation study; EPA will not be able to give us an assessment as to if this aquatic dissipation study would be waived. Posed the question as to if IR-4 should proceed with the study knowing there is a risk that it won't make it through the EPA.
- William Frantz: Reported that root rot control in cranberries is a critical issue that is growing due to climate changes; discussed with EPA their concerns on aquatic dissipation studies and concentration on those impact the whole industry; think that they can work around this with labelling; and thanks IR-4 with their support for this.
- A brief discussion was held regarding the opportunity to address the issue through labeling
- **A motion to proceed with the Benzovindiflupyr/Cranberry study in 2021 in spite of the inherit risk was made by Jerry Baron, seconded by Alvin Simmons; unanimously approved.**

The group returned to agenda item # 15 b.

- b. Environmental Horticulture – C. Palmer (Handout)
 - Reported on: the EH program goals and team members; 2020 research support research network including data summaries and registrations; the planned trials by region and that the cost per trials have doubled over time; the 2021 EH virtual workshop will be held virtually (September 28-30); new funding received from APHIS & USDA SCRI;
 - A discussion was held regarding causes for delays in report submissions, finding creative solutions for completing projects with fewer resources; and working with Venkat on coordinating resources for the priority setting workshops.
 - **Action Item:** Regional Directors to encourage folks in their regions to complete and submit reports in a timely manner.
- c. Biopesticides Regulatory Support – M. Braverman (Handout)
 - Reported on: submissions to EPA; and regulatory assistance provided to stakeholder and partners to navigate the registration process for biopesticides.
 - Addressed questions from the PMC/CLC on active ingredients.
- d. Communications – J. Heiss (Handout)
 - Reported on: audience survey results; communications planning; digital avenues for communications including social media; newly developed visual strategy; shared new regional logos and master PowerPoint template; improvements to the IR-4 website; and reviewed the status of projects completed and underway.
 - A discussion was held regarding protecting logos from mis-use; if the logo is copyrighted or trade marked; plans to update the databases (years that the various priorities are set via a search); assisting regions with communications and ensuring regional directors are being copied when necessary; unified web presence plan for the decentralized regions; and having a cohesive strategy moving forward.
 - This item was added to the executive session for further discussion.

-- 1:04 pm -- Break – The meeting reconvened at 1:20 pm --

- e. Training Committee – C. Marconi
 - Reported on: whether photos were acceptable measuring device for GLP studies (determination: no); whether photos are commonly used in IR-4 GLP studies (no); should this be addressed with an advisory (no advisory needed)
 - Western Region held two webinars (December and February) and topic discussed was the appropriate measuring devices in the field and lab.
 - Northeast Region held an online GLP training for new IR-4 FRD's that included an eQA website training.

17. Better ties with IPM, Sustainable Ag and Organic Programs

- J. Baron: noted that we have very good ties with IPM in the regions and on the national level; not sure that IR-4 has had much work with the sustainable agriculture and organic growers.
- A lengthy discussion was held and the overall consensus that this was a needed area to develop relationships and that perhaps Jenn could help; USDA funding opportunities with sustainable ag and SARE; the need to market better to the consumer the value of IR-4 to them and use appropriate terminology; and using alternative communication strategies with different audiences.

18. Upcoming meetings – Jerry Baron

- a. Summer PMC meeting
 - b. Workshops/Associated Meetings
 - c. Fall PMC meeting/NRPM
 - d. 2022 Food Program Workshop (Vote on Dates):
 - i. Industry Technology Session: July 20, 2021
 - ii. Food Use Workshop: Sept. 13 - 16, 2021
 - iii. Environmental Horticulture Program Workshop: Sept. 28 - 30, 2021
- Reported that we should hold the summer PMC meeting virtually over 3 days (July 14-16); recommended we hold the Food Use Workshops virtually in 2021; would like to hold open an in-person or hybrid NRPM/ PMC meeting in October 25
 - A discussion was held regarding starting the PMC meetings at 10/10:30am EST; planning for hybrid meetings for later in the year (virtual/in-person).

19. Awards – Jerry Baron (Handout)

- Reported that he has submitted a nomination for consideration of Daniel Kunkel to receive the IR-4 Hall of Fame Award.
- **A motion to accept Daniel Kunkel as a recipient of the IR-4 Hall of Fame Award was made by Jerry Baron seconded by Matt Hengel; unanimously approved.**
- Shared a nomination of Karl Lindauer for a technical service award from Headquarters and opening up the submission period for the SOAR award.

-- 2:08pm – Break --

20. Executive Session

The meeting reconvened at 2:13 pm into Executive Session --

Executive Session Action Items:

- Add an agenda items to the Summer Agenda for the PMC to revisit the Backlog Policy.
- Consensus was provided regarding moving forward with the communications items as presented (regional/state logos, PowerPoint template, visual standards, etc.).

-- The meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.