



**MINUTES**  
**Project Management Committee**  
**Summer 2023 Meeting**  
**July 11-12, 2023**  
*Virtual Meeting*

**MOTIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**Motions/Consensus Items:**

1. A motion to approve the minutes of the Spring 2023 Joint CLC and PMC Meeting of March 6-9, 2023 was made by Alvin Simmons; seconded by Liwei Gu. **Unanimously approved.**
2. A motion was made to approve the nomination of Peter Nelson of the Michigan Cherry Institute, as a member of the Commodity Liaison Committee, was made by Jerry Baron; seconded by John Wise. **Unanimously approved.**
3. **Consensus** was given for the training committee to continue to manage and review updates on national SOPs.
4. **Consensus** was given for IR-4 to independently assess the risk of crop injury and the need for crop safety data prior to a residue study based on registrant recommendations, available crop safety data, and extrapolations from similar uses. For the most vulnerable uses (e.g. herbicides on annual crops) IR-4 Headquarters will establish a pilot project where IR-4 will solicit data from industry and the scientific community to better perform the assessment.
5. A motion for IR-4 to require cooperation from the requestors of a use, to assist in the development of a weight of evidence approach when necessary, prior to the National Research Planning Meeting if not the project will be put on hold was made by Jerry Baron; seconded by Alvin Simmons. **Unanimously approved.**
6. A motion to accept the performance expectations of the Regional Field Coordinator as written was made by Jerry Baron; seconded by Liwei Gu. **Unanimously approved.**
7. A motion was made to appoint Christina Dineen as the new chair of the IR-4 Project Education and Training Committee was made by Jerry Baron; seconded by Liwei Gu. **Unanimously approved.**
8. A motion was made to issue regional technical and meritorious service awards when IR-4 meets at a national education conference by Alvin Simmons; seconded by Jerry Baron. **Unanimously approved.**
9. A motion for approval of a special award for Ken Trammel was made by Jerry Baron; seconded by Simon Zebelo. **Unanimously approved.**
10. A motion to approve the 2024 Field Research Budget with the modification of reducing the Food Use Priorities from 49 to 47 and transferring those savings to the Product Performance program to address the backlog was made by Matt Hengel; seconded by Alvin Simmons. **Unanimously approved.**
11. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 pm by Matt Hengel; seconded by Alvin Simmons. **Unanimously approved.**

### **Motions/Consensus Votes Made Via Email In-Between Regular Meetings:**

1. The PMC voted via email for approval of the IR-4 Project Biopesticide Program to provide regulatory assistance to the Florida Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) for the EPA registration of a Citrus Tristazea Virus Vector System for expressing several Spinach defesin proteins (SoD). **Approved by written consent (1 abstention: Jerry Baron).**
2. The PMC voted via email for approval of the IR-4 Project Biopesticide Program to provide regulatory assistance to Village Farms for the product AC 203 for the treatment of Fusarium wilt. **Approved by written consent (1 abstention: Jerry Baron).**

### **Action Items:**

1. **Action Item:** Debbie Carpenter and Christina Dineen will pilot the Analytical Difficulty Calculator ahead of the Food Use Workshop (FUW) this year, on a few crop groups, and use it as an advisory to making determinations at the FUW to educate stakeholders.
2. **Action item:** Jaimin Patel will engage with the International Association of Black Entomologists to give a presentation at their November meeting.
3. **Action Item:** Johanna Mazlo will send out a doodle poll to determine GLP training times for Sponsors/Testing Facility Management and Regional Directors.
4. **Action Item:** Alice Axtell to make the IS request form more flexible and bolster outreach on the IS program.

### **Members:**

Jerry Baron; IR-4 Executive Director  
Doug Buhler; Administrative Advisor-NCR  
Liwei Gu; Regional Director-SOR  
Matt Hengel; PMC Chair; Regional Director-WR  
Marcel Holyoak; Administrative Adviser – WR  
Moses Kairo; Administrative Adviser – NER  
Steve Lommel; Administrative Adviser- HQ

Joe Munyaneza; Administrative Adviser - ARS  
Keith Pitts; CLC Vice- Chair  
Alvin Simmons; USDA-ARS  
John Wise; Regional Director-NCR  
Simon Zebelo; Regional Director - NER

### **Presenters:**

Alice Axtell, IR-4 HQ  
David Beaudreau; DCLRS  
Michael Braverman; IR-4 HQ  
Debbie Carpenter; IR-4 HQ  
Krystal Chojnacki; IR-4 HQ  
Christina Dineen; IR-4 HQ

Cristina Marchesan Marconi; IR-4 HQ  
Johanna Mazlo; IR-4 HQ  
Philip Moore; IR-4 HQ  
Jesse Ostrander; USDA NIFA  
Cristi Palmer; IR-4 HQ  
Veronica Picado; MUF

### **Tuesday July 11, 2023 10:30 am to 4:30 pm ET**

Matt Hengel called the meeting to order at 10:30 am–

1. Welcome and comments: (Hengel)
  - Introductions
    - M. Hengel welcome the group and initiated introductions on zoom.
2. Approval of minutes, new agenda items

- **A motion to approve the minutes of the Spring 2023 Joint CLC and PMC Meeting of March 6-9, 2023 was made by Alvin Simmons, seconded by Liwei Gu; unanimously approved.**
- J. Baron requested the addition of an agenda item: Discussion of the Integrated Solutions program.

### 3. Unit updates

- AAs Report
  - M. Holyoak reported: that the Western lab is running smoothly but have an upcoming temporary move out of the existing building for seismic renovations; and there have financial discussions surrounding indirect costs associated with the NIFA grant and subawards, as well as subcontracts versus fee for service work.
  - A. Simmons (on behalf of Joe Munyaneza) reported: that Joon Park was permanently appointed as the Associate Administrator for Research and Management; there are vacancies in several labs; they are processing the amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with NC State for Quality Assurance and Environmental Horticulture work in the Northeast Region; ARS continues to have a flat budget but the work continued in spite of weather difficulties; and the Salinas laboratory is having a grand opening in November.
  - M. Kairo reported: that all is going well and that they are working on renovating a facility to facilitate the Environmental Horticulture work for the ARS Cooperative Agreement; and they will be breaking ground on a new facility with adequate space for future greenhouse research.
- NRSP-4 Midterm Outcome & Next steps (Lommel)
  - S. Lommel reported: that he met with the award panel and conducted a mid-term review of NRSP-4; there was universal consensus of the importance of the NRSP contributing to IR-4, however due to the funding increase from USDA NIFA via the grant, the review committee is considering recommending that the funding be cut.
  - A discussion was held regarding: the potential upcoming federal budget cuts to grants and the potential impact of this additional cut; the annual amount we currently receive; the potential need to do outreach to the NRSP Board membership; the funding ties to Hatch allocations to research stations; and how NRSP determines which projects receive funding.
- NIFA Update (Ostrander)
  - 2023 grant status, work detail
    - J. Ostrander gave an introduction and provided an update: the continuation award has been forwarded to the Award Management Division and anticipate those funds will be available on time as of August 1, 2023; NIFA has a new agency director Dr. Manjit K. Misra, Dr. Samuel – Foo is on a temporary detail in the office of the Director as a Chief of Staff, and we can reach out to Dr. Rubella Goswami or Jesse Ostrander if assistance is needed.
- Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) & Friends of IR-4 Update (Pitts & Beaudreau)
  - D. Beaudreau provided a report on: spending cuts proposed through the appropriations process (30% cut to agriculture); the House and Senate have allocated \$15 million for the IR-4 Project in their allocations; provided updates on the progress of the Farm Bill; and that the Friends of IR-4 continue to advocate for a funding increase authorization for IR-4 to \$50 million discretionary funding up from \$25 million.
  - A discussion was held regarding: implications of a continuing resolution for the 2024

- budget; and the excellent work DCLRS has done for the Friends of IR-4 and the CLC.
  - K. Pitts reported: we may be looking at cuts to agriculture (hopefully smaller than 30%); that the Friends of IR-4 will continue to advocate for IR-4; work with FFAR to look at climate ecosystem services and pest management and identify gaps in research in this area; and that the CLC recommends Peter Nelson as the new representative of the Michigan Cherry Institute and is seeking PMC Approval.
  - A discussion was held regarding Peter Nelson's work resume and support for his position; and biostimulant definition and label regulations.
  - **A motion was made to approve the nomination of Peter Nelson of the Michigan Cherry Institute as a member of the Commodity Liaison Committee was made by Jerry Baron, seconded by John Wise; unanimously approved.**
- Regions (NER, NCR, SOR, WSR, ARS & HQ)
  - NER: S. Zebelo reported: UMES is in the process from receiving ARS funding for Environmental Horticulture trials and Dr. Kairo has approved funding to make improvements to an existing hoop house for use on this project; the decommissioning of Cream Ridge is officially complete; conducted a successful EPA/USDA tour in the NER region and acknowledged Marylee and Megan's preparation work; and held a great meeting with State Liaison Representatives (SLR).
  - NCR: J. Wise reported: lab and quality Assurance unit shutdown activities are officially complete; Nicole Soldan's transition into the Department as the Regional Field Coordinator (RFC) was smooth and have allocated some additional staff time to provide support activities; Field Research Directors (FRDs) are happy with trail assignments; and that a review was conducted with MSU sponsored programs regarding the appropriate vehicle for subawards/contracts.
  - SOR: L. Gu reported: the field program progresses well and they have completed the decommissioning of the Weslaco field site; the lab has a new instrument getting installed and are on target to finish projects; the QA unit is performing well; and that the SOR is being audited by USDA NIFA.
  - WSR: M. Hengel reported: QA is working on some critical in-life inspections; an EPA inspection was conducted at the University of Idaho site and there were no major findings; Kari is getting settled into her role in the WR and is doing a good job; new FRD in New Mexico completed his first trial this Spring and is doing well; Kearney field site is asking for more funds to conduct trials at the field site and they have been able to offset that with CDFA funds but that funding is not long-term; lab work slowed a little with staff on leave but has picked back up and will finish the first hemp project soon; the lab has had a new instrument installed; the lab will need to temporarily relocate for a six month period; and discussions with sponsored programs to initiate subawards.
    - An in-depth discussion was held regarding issues with indirect cost distribution to subawards at the regional host institutions.
  - HQ: J. Baron reported: that last fall we completed hiring to fill the HQ org chart but now have vacancies due to staff transitions including Venkat Pedbhotla and Allison Ballantyne; HQ is working to hire the new position - Program Operations Coordinator - and refill the Assistant Director position; concerns about the future of chemical pesticides with the endangered species act and endocrine disruptors; the European Union is reducing MRLs in commodity exports; issues with raw data retrieval and delivery to audit sites from contract storage location; reported on the great partnerships with EPA, registrants, and Canadian partners; and award issuance issue from year 2 NIFA grant.

Break at 12:45 pm and reconvene at 1:15 pm.

#### 4. Program Reports

- Food Program
  - Residue Research Program
    - Field Residue Studies/submissions (Presentation)
      - D. Carpenter reported: that crop grouping has been completed through JMPR and thanked Bill Barney; on outstanding field data notebooks from 2020 and 2021; that there are fifty studies in final report processing; and 130 studies are TBD for submission and most are signed and ready to submit however companies are asking us to hold off until the impact of the endangered species act is more clear.
    - Quality Assurance Unit (Presentation)
      - J. Mazlo reported: on EPA compliance monitoring; staffing updates, and introducing new HQ Auditor Joshua Peterson; training activities that have been completed and are underway including participation in the Borlaug Fellows program and with the electronic field data book; reviewed QA activities by region; shared 2023 Audit and Inspection information; and provided an eQA/eDocs update.
    - Product Performance Research & Integrated Solutions Research (Presentation)
      - A. Axtell reported: on the number of 2023 Projects in Product Performance (PP) (65) and Integrated Solutions (IS) (34); provided an update on the 2023 Industry Technology Session including number of presenters, number of attendees registered, and that the draft agenda is posted on the website; and provided an overview of the draft agenda for the Food Use Workshop.
    - International Update/Minor Use Foundation
      - V. Picado reported: that there are several projects underway in South America and Asia; invited members to consider attending the Global Minor Use Summit in Madrid, Spain February 5-9, 2024; and that a new training center of excellence in National University of Colombia has been established.
  - Environmental Horticulture (Presentation)
    - C. Palmer reported: on data summaries completed in 2023; shared a graphic of the registration support research network for the EHC program; the EHC average per trial funding allocations; and shared plans for the 2023 Biennial Priority Setting Workshop and the 2022/2023 Grower Survey.
  - Biopesticide Regulatory Support (Presentation)
    - M. Braverman reported on the process for providing and approving regulatory support for biopesticide projects including: where new projects come from; determining whether it is a worthy project; initiating a project request; securing approval via email from the PMC; biotechnology approval – PIPs; regulatory assistance for EPA registration; and challenges to the process.
    - A discussion was held regarding the process and whether or not we can charge a fee for the service.

#### 5. Communications Update (Presentation)

- K. Chojnacki reported (on Hannah Ross' behalf): on the 60<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign activities underway and planned; new print outreach materials developed including the EHC one-pager, RFC contact Postcard, and the YES Document; new story content released and under development; shared Instagram and social media highlights; and introduced our Science Communications intern Raven Baez.

- Discussion was held regarding an opportunity to reach out to each commodity liaison and their perspective commodity group for newsletter (EPA tour – every specialty crop commodity might have interest in); how the increase of IR-4 in social media traffic has spurred greater interest; and the great job Hannah has been doing.

Break at 2:56 pm and reconvene at 3:06 pm.

6. Laboratory Update/Backlog (Presentation)

- D. Carpenter reported: on the current status of backlog projects at each lab; that the focus moving forward will be on method development time efficiencies; the use of contract labs to reduce backlog but planning for a reduction in that need moving forward; sorting through Michigan lab data in the absence of lab personnel; and streamlining national lab processes and procedures.
- Discussion was held regarding the new positive cooperative environment among the laboratories. Additional discussions to be held in Executive Session.

7. iAdvantage electronic Field Data Notebook Pilot Update (Presentation)

- P. Moore provided an update on the eFDB including: training, guidance, and regular communications updates for eFDB; author, review, and sign off on SOPs for the eFDB field use, administrator functions, and for eFDB validation; GLP validation protocol, validation testing, and final report with all raw data and audited by QA; errors that occurred with some forms/users and features; identify trails that are available, amend protocols and ensure GLP compliance; and next steps.
- A discussion was held regarding: what industry standards are regarding the errors with features; the reception of the eFDB by FRDs and willingness to participate; and the PMC expressed gratitude for the team's work on testing the programs. Additional discussions to be held in Executive Session.

8. Nuts & bolts of national SOPs

- C. Marconi reported on next steps for National SOPs: to consider forming a national SOP committee to review updates on SOPs instead of the training committee; the use of eQA to distribute the national SOPs; and requiring training on the national SOP prior to work with the eFDB.
- Discussion was held regarding: the past use of Advisories and an oversight committee; the training committee has a good mix of representation of job classifications to serve as an oversight body; and the potential for postponing SOP development during training committee prep for NEC.
- **Consensus was given for the training committee to continue to manage and review updates on national SOPs.**

9. Crop Safety/Efficacy data prior to residue studies

- J. Baron reported on: whether we should require efficacy and crop safety data before we agree to do a study to prevent the loss of projects and time; that current approach is to not require it but encourage it; and that some states require submission of this data at the time of review.
- A discussion was held regarding: the percentage of studies that this impacts is minimal (low percentage); it is a risk we must accept if the percent is small; it could delay many projects if we require this data; that crop safety is the great risk; whether or not this

occurred enough that the additional step of requiring written documentation would be required; and getting the data form the manufacturer prior to approval of the project.

- **Consensus was given for IR-4 to independently assess the risk of crop injury and the need for crop safety data prior to a residue study based on registrant recommendations, available crop safety data, and extrapolations from similar uses. For the most vulnerable uses (e.g. herbicides on annual crops) IR-4 Headquarters will establish a pilot project where IR-4 will solicit data from industry and the scientific community to better perform the assessment.**

The meeting recessed for the evening at 4:30 pm.

### **Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am to 4:30 pm**

Matt Hengel reconvened the meeting at 10:33 am --

#### 10. Proposed parameters of 2024 field research program (Presentation)

- A. Axtell provided a presentation on: the current Food Use program versus 2024; number of proposed "A" priority residue studies (49), PUPs/regional upgrades (8); performance project priority allocations including new residue (60) and proof of concept /H+ (10) and carryovers (45); and the number of IS priorities including carryovers (14).
- A discussion was held regarding: how to balance the 1.5% reduction in the core; increasing the EHC or Food allocation to offset increased research costs across regions; the trend of increased performance projects to move toward securing registration; if alternative funding sources will be able to offset costs (state grants, etc.); the potential to drop the number of IS/Residue/Performance/EHC priorities to free up funding; that ARS has capacity to increase the number of residue trials; and staying nimble to the shift to new technologies/biotechnologies in pest management in our budget, research and labs. Additional discussions to be held in Executive Session.

#### 11. Analytical Difficulty Calculator

- C. Dineen reported: the calculator was discussed previously at a PMC Meeting and has since been refined; that it is a tool to assess or predict the difficulty of the project as it relates to the lab by assessing variables such as chemistry, number of samples, difficulty of the analytical methodology; and posed questions to the PMC as to whether or not they want us to use this tool, how to use the tool (prior to FUW) and how can it be further refined.
- A discussion was held regarding: that the tool can be used to help supplement labs; that it is a good idea for pre-Food Use Workshop evaluations on nominations to determine resources; that it cannot be used for projects that we do not know the method or metabolites; the possibility of adding the additional performance and crop safety work into the calculator; how to handle projects with two active ingredients; and performing a pilot program at this year's FUW.
- **Action Item:** Debbie Carpenter and Christina Dineen will pilot the Analytical Difficulty Calculator ahead of the Food Use Workshop (FUW) this year, on a few crop groups, and use it as an advisory to making determinations at the FUW to educate stakeholders.

#### 12. Network Expansion Project

- J. Baron reported: that this initiative is to reach out to researchers at minority serving institutions; Jaimin Patel will be leading the initiative and has been meeting with NC HBCUs; the group has requested the development of training modules including “How to Submit a Request,” “ How to Nominate a Project,” “What to Expect at the Food Use Workshop,” and “How to submit a Priority Upgrade Proposal;” and introductory email was sent to 1890 Land Grant Institutions to encourage involvement; and the initiative has involved cooperative extension.
- A discussion was held regarding engaging with the International Association of Black Entomologists in November.
- **Action item:** Jaimin Patel will engage with the International Association of Black Entomologists to give a presentation at their November meeting.

Break at 12:05 pm and reconvene at 12:35 pm.

### 13. EPA Issues

- Endangered Species Act Protections implementation
  - J. Baron reported: that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has become an issue to securing registrations; that this has emerged as the result of recent lawsuits against the EPA; that companies are hesitant to proceed with submissions; that ESA is especially relevant in HI and Puerto Rico where there are a higher number of endangered species; and that it will become critical that we meet timelines into EPA to prevent missing the endangered species assessment period.
  - J. Wise reported on: a new mapping tool used to know the location of endangered species; that EPA is developing mitigation steps allow for cost-benefit analysis; and that when a farm is in the mitigation zone that options for mitigation measures will be offered.
  - A discussion was held regarding: ESA also impacting biopesticides; endangered species in natural, agricultural and all habitats and pesticide drifts; and researchers are not providing feedback to inquiries on proposed mitigation measures and it may be a gap in understanding.
- Endocrine Disruptor Screening and impact
  - J. Baron reported: EPA has to screen for endocrine disruptors when an active ingredient is registered; there is a current issue due to lawsuits; that this is a difficult assessment to conduct; and that EPA is currently holding discussions on how to screen, assess and mitigate.
  - A discussion was held as to if registrants do endocrine disruptor screenings as part of their phytotoxicology assessment.
- Public Interest Findings- Weight of the Evidence
  - J. Baron reported: that this process starts when EPA performs a stoplight analysis, the size of the crop is reviewed (is it a specialty crop), and at times IR-4 has to submit a Weight of Evidence argument to waive PRIA fees; there is a need to develop these arguments earlier in the process; proposed that when a weight of the evidence argument is needed, IR-4 would like to do this early in the process (after FUW but before NRPM) with cooperation from submitters, and if there is no cooperation we may pause on submitting the project that year.
  - A discussion was held regarding: support of getting the weight of Evidence information upfront and developing a 1-pager with what information is expected; people will tend to provide the information before a project is funded rather than after; there are only a handful of these a year; and sending the public interest finding



docket/list of criteria to cooperators to help identify what information is needed from them.

- **A motion for IR-4 to require cooperation from the requestors of a use, to assist in the development of a weight of evidence approach when necessary, prior to the National Research Planning Meeting if not the project will be put on hold was made by Jerry Baron; seconded by Alvin Simmons; unanimously approved.**

#### 14. Path Forward Implementation Performance Expectations

- Regional Field Coordinators & HQ Management
  - J. Baron reported: that progress has been made on some of the path forward recommendations; that performance expectations for job functions was a directive and two have been developed for the Regional Field Coordinators and Headquarters management; the difficulty in evaluating these positions due to institutional associations; and that this tool will be an informational tool for new and existing hires.
  - A discussion was held regarding: sharing this document with institutional positions who conduct annual reviews; that this would not replace a job description but could supplement the annual reviews; and that there was still need to complete a few other positions at IR-4 Headquarters.
  - **A motion to accept the performance expectations of the Regional Field Coordinator as written was made by Jerry Baron, seconded by Liwei Gu; unanimously approved.**

#### 15. GLP training for Sponsors/Testing Facility Management and Regional Directors

- J. Mazlo reported: IR-4 is required under EPA GLP that management and supervisors have GLP training and that it has been a while since this has been done by Regional Directors and management; and proposed a GLP training session to be held after the FUW and NRPM.
- A discussion was held regarding: considering combining some of the training with the Fall Board Meeting (in-person, Monday morning); and sending out a doodle poll to assess availability.
- **Action Item:** Johanna Mazlo will send out a doodle poll to determine GLP training times for Sponsors/Testing Facility Management and Regional Directors.

#### 16. National Education Conference/Training Committee

- NEC 2-years vs. 3- years
  - J. Baron reported: if the NEC should remain on three year cycle, or with all the new hires it should be a 2 year cycle.
  - A discussion was held regarding: every three years works fine, except with the new hires coming on board; using regional trainings to supplement the NEC; potentially combining regional trainings between NEC; targeted remote trainings from headquarters (eQA or eFDB); a new path forward orientation to IR-4; more virtual trainings between every NEC; training topics such as GLP or general topics; and hiring an internal training coordinator or outsourcing a trainer. Conversation will be continued outside of the PMC meeting.
- Training opportunities between NEC
  - C. Marconi reported: on activities of the Education and Training Committee since the last PMC meeting including the first National SOP for the eFDB.
- Training Committee Leadership

- C. Marconi reported: she would like to resign her role as the Chair of the Education and Training Committee; and nominated Christina Dineen as the new chair based on her qualifications.
- **A motion was made to appoint Christina Dineen as the new chair of the IR-4 Project Education and Training Committee was made by Jerry Baron, seconded by Liwei Gu; unanimously approved.**

#### 17. Awards Presentations

- Change in Meritorious/Technical Service awards to once every three years
  - J. Baron reported that the Regional Field Coordinators felt that giving the technical & meritorious awards was more impactful among their peers at the National Education Conference and that this was being brought forth to this body for consideration.
  - A discussion was held regarding: regarding asking the lab coordinators for feedback; and how to handle if someone leaves or retires.
  - **A motion was made to issue regional technical and meritorious service awards when IR-4 meets at a national education conference by Alvin Simmons, seconded by Jerry Baron; unanimously approved.**
- SOAR
  - K. Chojnacki announced that the SOAR Award Nomination period is open and accepting nominations.
- Special Award Nomination
  - J. Baron reported that Ken Trammel of ACDS is retiring and his name is being submitted to the PMC for a special award
  - A discussion was held of all of the positive merits of Ken Trammel.
  - **A motion for approval of a special award for Ken Trammel was made by Jerry Baron, seconded by Simon Zebelo; unanimously approved.**

#### 18. Discussion of the Integrated Solutions Program

- J. Baron introduced the item reporting: on the mission of the Integrated Solutions (IS) program and the change of IS to just focusing on new technologies which was a shift from the original intent of any solutions, not just new; and that discussion was held with the RFCs about this mission drift.
- A discussion was held regarding: expanding the project beyond expansion of product labels; mission drift prevention strategies; engagement in IS has decreased due to the focus solely on novel technologies; reviewed the research areas; using the crop-pest issue as the driver of the project; missed opportunities from limiting just to label expansion; revisiting IS to get the most out of it such as addressing vulnerabilities of IPM approaches to be more sustainable; ESA mitigation being a large issue moving forward; removing limitations; and letting the priority setting process regulate what we work on.
- **Action Item:** Alice Axtell to make the IS request form more flexible and bolster outreach on the IS program.

Break at 3:27 pm and the members convened to Executive Session at 3:40 pm.

#### 19. Executive Session

The members reconvened from Executive Session at 5:09 pm with the following motions or actions out of Executive Session:

- **A motion to approve the 2024 Field Research Budget with the modification of reducing the Food Use Priorities from 49 to 47 and transferring those savings to the Product Performance program to address the backlog was made by Matt Hengel, seconded by Alvin Simmons; unanimously approved.**

20. Adjourn

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 pm by Matt Hengel, seconded by Alvin Simmons; unanimously approved.**