



## **October 2012 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes**

**TO:** Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC members

**FROM:** Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

**DATE:** January 2, 2013

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

Please find attached the fall 2012 PMC Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions October 24-25, 2012 in Princeton, NJ.

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.

## October 2012 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its fall 2012 meeting on October 24-25, in Princeton, NJ.

- An All-Hands meeting was held prior to the PMC meeting where Mike Hoffman, representing ESCOP, gave a presentation on the vision of APLU to combine IPM programs and IR-4 into a consolidated program. Dr. Hoffmann listened to IR-4 staff and stakeholder concerns.
- Regional Field Coordinators presented a proposal to PMC for extra funding to be made available for trials within extraordinarily complicated studies
- Regional Lab Coordinators discussed their need for future equipment upgrades. USDA Foreign Agriculture Service will be supporting E. Lurvey as she works on capacity building in Latin America. The Region is working to hire a new QA by end of year in the northeast.
- Western region AA M. Delaney is now Acting Dean of the College of Agriculture. It is no longer feasible to keep the Hawaii lab open – when current studies are completed, it will be closed.
- In the North Central Region, many stone fruit trials were lost due to a severe spring cold snap. AA D. Buhler is no longer Acting Dean in the MSU College of Agr.
- NRSP-4 now needs a mid-term report on IR-4. Funding will now be approved for 5 years and automatically renewed unless there are unforeseen circumstances. Annual reports will be more like CRIS reports.
- At HQ, a few personnel changes are occurring. Two on HQ staff were nominated for awards.
- NIFA Administrators were impressed with IR-4's initiative on the IPM Center/IR-4 Summit. There will be NIFA training on awards management preferably before March PMC.
- CLC is very concerned about consolidation of IR-4 with IPM; would be less concerned if IR-4 were distinctly recognized in a consolidation; giving them a program they can lobby for on The Hill
- Quality Assurance Unit is still working on some challenges involved with introducing the new e-QA system. The EPA continues to streamline its monitoring schedule, which requires more up front work on QAU.
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- Funding for the Public Health Pesticides program was renewed for another 5 years.
- A new Biopesticide and Organic Support program brochure has been created. S. Novack will create an International brochure.
- Biopesticide and Organic Support RFP proposal deadline has been extended to Nov. 30. The Agrichemical industry is becoming more involved with biopesticides. EPA is still uncertain about RNAi as a biopesticide; perhaps biochemical is more accurate.
- M. Braverman has become more involved with capacity building, visiting Malaysia and Singapore, and funded by FAS.
- Future Outlook of IR-4 – If 2013 funding is cut 10%, that could be absorbed but will need to discuss again if the federal “fiscal cliff” occurs. PRIA 3 has passed.
- There is a new collaboration opportunity with NRSP-7 minor uses on minor animal species.

## **Motions and Action Items**

**MOTION:** The PMC should approve the RFC “Additional Funding for Complicated Trials” proposal for 2013 trials, allocating up to \$50,000. Approved

**MOTION:** To Approve minutes from July 2012 PMC meeting. Approved

**MOTION:** PMC endorses the Headquarters Meritorious Service Award winners, Bill Barney and Ken Samoil. Approved unanimously

**ACTION ITEM:** M. Johnson to check into a webinar for training to be held before March 2013.

**ACTION ITEM:** T. Barkalow to collect the actions needed by PMC for roll out of the e-QA system to be reviewed at March PMC meeting in order to take from hypothetical to reality. The PMC should know what is needed from them to implement.

**ACTION ITEM:** P. Schwartz requests that presentations be the same as those submitted in the PMC materials prior to the meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** S. Novack to create an International Brochure

**ACTION ITEM:** J. Baron to look at 2009 peer review and make a formal proposal for guidelines for next National Research Strategic Plan and peer review.

**ACTION ITEM:** M. Hengel to check out possible dates before 2013 Halloween, and locations on campus to host the 2013 NRPM and PMC

**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



## October 2012 PMC - Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its fall 2012 meeting on October 24-25, in Princeton, NJ

### PMC Attendees:

- Tammy Barkalow - Assistant Director, Quality Assurance, IR-4 HQ
  - Jerry Baron\* - Executive Director, IR-4 Project
  - Rich Bonanno\* - CLC chair
  - Michael Braverman – Biopesticide & Organic Support Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
  - Debbie Carpenter - Assistant Director, Registrations, IR-4 HQ
  - Matt Hengel\* (for Ron Tjeerdema) – Western Region Laboratory Research Director
  - Bob Hollingworth\* - North Central Region Director
  - Monte Johnson - NIFA National Program Leader
  - Dan Kunkel - Associate Director, Food & International Programs, IR-4 HQ
  - Karl Malamud-Roam - Public Health Pesticides Program Manager, 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
  - Dan Rossi – Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
  - Paul Schwartz\* - ARS Regional Director
  - Dave Soderlund\* - Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
  - Van Starner - Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach, IR-4 HQ
  - Ron Tjeerdema\* - (phone-in) Western Region Director
- \*Voting members

### Updates

**Regional Field Coordinators (RFC):** Presented a [proposal](#) (for additional funding for “complicated” field trials. Complicating factors to be considered include: distance traveled by FRD from domicile to study location, number of plots required, number of applications required, number of samplings and samples required, type of crop and required production practices (especially those that require special growing systems).

**MOTION:** The PMC should approve the RFC “Additional Funding for Complicated Trials” proposal for 2013 trials, allocating up to \$50,000. B. Sisco explained how they arrived at the \$50K figure, and D. Kunkel suggested the funds, as needed, should come out of the E/CS funding pool.  
Approved

**Regional Laboratory Coordinators (RLC) and ACAC** – Backlog is coming down. The laboratories are collaborating well and are being very flexible. As requests come in some priorities need to be moved around and the group is working well to make adjustments as necessary. The labs believe there will always be some

“steady state” of at least a few backlogged analytical reports, but great progress has been made. The PMC and most labs want to continue the “analysis of workflow at each lab” documentation the labs compiled and continue to update.

The RLC wanted to give notice to the PMC of the need to stagger equipment purchase/lease contracts as all the sites have impending equipment upgrade needs that are coming at various intervals. Equipment should be considered on the front end of budget preparations and the PMC needs to consider this in regards to component and level of funding.

**MOTION:** To Approve minutes from July 2012 PMC meeting. Approved

**New Agenda Item** – Collaboration opportunity with NRSP-7 minor use on minor animal species

**North Central Region (NCR):** The laboratory is doing well, 150 trials. Weather was a big problem knocking out many tree fruit trials, which need to be redone in 2013. A new Dean was hired, freeing D. Buhler of his time serving as Acting Dean. The next NCR SLR meeting will be held August 19-20, 2013; this and all future SLR meetings will be held at MSU. NCR will also try using webinar technology.

**Northeast Region (NER):** The field trials in the region were down in 2012, but it looks better for 2013. Foreign Ag. Service (FAS) is supporting some of E. Lurvey’s time as she helps them with capacity building efforts in Latin America. The QAU is using B. Anderson for a limited period to do field audits. Cornell human resources (with the help of T. Barkalow) drafted a QA job description which they are hoping to fill by the end of the year.

**Southern Region (SOR):** Field trials are running well. They still have 2011 FDBs from a couple studies with issues. One study was on hold due to an expired chemical standard (for which there may need to be a GLP amendment. M. Hengel has a testing method for the standard that is or may have expired. The laboratory is reducing the backlog.

**Western Region (WSR):** The College of Agriculture went through reorganization and Mary Delaney is now Acting Dean. The field trials are running smoothly. The 2012 series of monthly training webinars has been a tremendous success and is a way to confront issues before they become problems. Webinars do, however, take a lot of preparation time; the region plans to schedule webinars every other month in 2013. The lab is running well and has determined that it is no longer feasible to keep the Hawaii lab open (will be shut down after completion of current study analyses/reports). M. McChesney retired and will not be replaced. M. Beran is now acting QA coordinator since J. McFarland retired in June.

**USDA-ARS:** The Beltsville Area was reorganized; the Plant Science and Animal and Natural Resources Institutes were abolished.. There has been no change in budget or personnel. ARS has a 30% travel reduction.

**National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA):** M. Johnson reported that the Administrators were very impressed with IR-4 taking the initiative to organize a Summit with the IPM Centers. H. Bolton is working on a summary of the meeting. The Awards Management division will provide training at the March 2013 PMC meeting. D. Soderlund requested a possible webinar be arranged before March.

**ACTION ITEM:** M. Johnson to check into a webinar for training to be held before March 2013.

**Administrative Advisors:** There are going to be changes in the NRSP-4 process. They are requesting a mid-term report on IR-4. The AAs will prepare the report. Funding will now be approved for 5 years; unless something happens it will auto renew. All NRSP-4 annual reports need to be formatted similar to CRIS reports. The format will include activities that revolve around 1) Communication/Marketing 2) Science and Technology 3) Budget/Legislative affairs. The NIFA communication/marketing group is looking for news stories/press

releases – IR-4 has a good story to be told. The budget consolidation idea is not being driven by Exp. Station Directors, who continue to totally support IR-4 and its funding.

**HQ:** There have been some personnel changes – D. Thompson given lay-off notice (effective Feb. 2013), study director T. Switek resigned, C. Jolly will return as a part-time study director in Dec. 2012. HQ is requesting the PMC support the nominations of B. Barney and K. Samoil for HQ Meritorious Service Award.

**MOTION:** PMC endorses the Headquarter Meritorious Service Award winners, Bill Barney and Ken Samoil. Approved unanimously

USDA-FAS has supported IR-4 in capacity building efforts by providing funding for a 2-week program in Africa and another in Latin America; other Int'l activities continue to expand. Funding for the Public Health Program begins a renewed 5-year period in June 2013.

**CLC** – Continues to monitor budget situation, and is very concerned that IR-4 maintain its identity if there is to be a consolidation so they can point to a specific program when lobbying on behalf of IR-4.

**Food Use Program:** This is a good year for new clearances. To date, there have been 780 new uses with 22 chemicals, and 28 product submissions. The minor use team can now publish the notices and final rules for Crop Groups. The Field Research Program numbers are down from last year due to the loss of tree fruit trials in the northern tier. The numbers will be up next year. There are still some 2006-2011 studies pending completion due to delays by manufacturer, regulatory and other TBD issues.

**2013 Research Plan:** \$2,150,000 will be allocated for 2013 research with each trial being funded at \$5,500. The target will be 390 “state” field trials with ~ 80 being conducted through ARS and ~40 being conducted through Canada. \$250,000 can be dedicated for E/CS research.

**2012 Food Use Workshop:** 222 projects were discussed. 46 “A” priorities were assigned (one was dropped as the project could be covered by an ongoing avocado study). “A”-nominated projects requiring only E/CS data were discussed and rated as high/medium/low priorities. 60 projects were dropped as not being nominated 3 years in a row. 2013 Workshop is September 17-18 in Albuquerque, NM

**Quality Assurance:** Implementation of the new e-QA system will begin soon after the spring PMC meeting. Really need the PMC to get behind their people to encourage use by all. QA requests that the PMC support the policy that user logon and passwords be kept confidential.

**ACTION ITEM:** T. Barkalow to collect the actions needed by PMC for roll out of the e-QA system to be reviewed at March PMC meeting in order to take from hypothetical to reality. The PMC should know what is needed from them to implement.

There have been no additional EU inquiries resulting in rejected US studies. IR-4 has participated in 5 EPA inspections using their new GLP compliance monitoring program. All five passed with no adverse findings.

There has been a lot of short turn around on reports and the QAU is at capacity.

**Ornamental Horticulture Program:** About ¾ of the summaries are completed for this year. There are 3 registrations impacting over 600 crop uses. 2011 data is beginning to come in. 2012 research priorities have been established and all protocols are finished. 2013 research program will have the same priorities with some funding changes and most of these protocols are on the website. The 2013 Ornamental Horticulture workshop will be scheduled for October 8-10 near Miami, FL. Website is averaging about 600 hits a month. There are regular outreach efforts using Constant Contact.

**ACTION ITEM:** P. Schwartz requests that all presentations be the same as those submitted in the PMC materials prior to the meeting.

**Public Health Pesticide Program:** L. Schermerhorn has been hired for one year. The PHP inventory has been published and a second edition is planned for Spring 2013. There have been some improvements to the PHP database. The Military has need of Volatile Diptera toxicants and repellents and treated uniforms. K. Malamud-Roam provided an update on etofenprox and old PHPs. There are new collaborations with nanoparticles and etofenprox on treated fabrics.

**Biopesticide and Organic Support Program:** Extended the grants due-date to November 30, 2012. M. Braverman is getting more requests for regulatory assistance. Met with CDPR for a possible Section 18 on Oxalic acid for Varroa mite. Met with California Walnut Commission on RNAi crown gall for walnut. Received a Section 3 and Anthraquinone Bird Repellent for rice. There is a registration package in development for HopGuard on varroa mite. FAS is supporting M. Braverman in capacity building efforts in Malaysia, Singapore, Nigeria, Kenya, and Senegal.

**Communication:** A Biopesticide and Organic Support brochure has been created. The Newsletter Committee discussed some changes to the format/design. Now using Google Analytics to gather information about visitors to the IR-4 website. New design was just created for the Global Minor Use Portal.

**ACTION ITEM:** S. Novack to create an International Brochure

**Training and Education Committee:** No new changes since last reporting. Still deciding on presenters for the NEC in San Antonio Feb. 27-28, 2013, and working to finalize the 2-day agenda.

**International Activities:** GMUS2 report has been posted to the web, and was published in the Oct. "Outlooks on Pest Management" publication. Paper on global tomato residue study may be published soon. IR-4 and Brazil will sign a MOU on November 6<sup>th</sup>. FAS has funded capacity building efforts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to fill data gaps through a global data generation project.

**Future Outlook of IR-4:** Need to start planning on next strategic plan. Need to review the current plan and see how we've done. Need to examine [Peer Review](#) and Strategic Plan and follow-up with recommendations to the PMC. Should start talking about a Strategic Planning Conf. Need to look at each strategic objective, determine what the status is, and what will still be accomplished in the last two years of the plan along with what should be recommended. J. Baron committed to work on all of these details and have material ready for PMC in March 2013.

**ACTION ITEM:** J. Baron to look at 2009 peer review and make a formal proposal for guidelines for next National Research Strategic Plan and peer review.

**New Agenda Item:** There may be an opportunity to collaborate with NRSP-7 for uses on minor animal species. There is funding available for this through USDA-ARS. IR-4 will participate in a conference call to determine if there is a need. PMC agreed that J. Baron should proceed.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

There was a discussion on how many PMC meetings there should be. Spring meeting is vital for CLC lobbying efforts in D.C., Summer is a joint meeting with Canada (alternating location stateside and in CN), Fall is held in conjunction with NRPM. All three meetings were considered important. Three times a year was agreed upon however the location of the Fall meeting can be rotated to allow for greater PMC participation.

**ACTION ITEM:** M. Hengel to check out possible dates late Oct/early Nov, and locations on campus to host the 2013 NRPM and PMC.

#### 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!

#### 2013 National Education Conference

February 27-28, 2013

San Antonio, TX



### IR-4 celebration possibilities in 2013:

1. Great Lakes Fruit and Veg Expo, Dec 4-6, 2012, Grand Rapids, MI
2. Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show January 9 - 11, 2013, Baltimore, MD
3. Horticulture Industries Show January 11-12, 2013, Fort Smith, AR
4. Ohio State University Nursery Short Course, January 13-16, 2013, Columbus, OH
5. California Weed Society Annual Meeting, Jan.24 -25, 2013, Sacramento, CA
6. Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention-Jan 29-31, Hershey, PA
7. WSSA – Feb. 4-7, Baltimore, MD
8. SAF Pest & Production Management Conference February– 21-23, 2013, San Francisco, CA
9. National Education Conference– Feb. 27-28, 2013, San Antonio, TX
10. Washington, DC Main event - week of March 11 in D.C.: Still TBD
  - a. 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)
  - b. Wed., March 13 – PMC meeting in a.m.; 50<sup>th</sup> year event at Minor Crop Farmer's Alliance building in the p.m.
  - c. Thur., Mar. 14 – complete PMC meeting in the a.m.; possible luncheon on the Hill

**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.

11. The Pacific Branch ESA meeting April 7-10, 2013, Lake Tahoe, NV
12. AAFC-PMC meeting in March 18- 21 , 2013, Ottawa, CN
13. APS Aug. 10-14, Austin, TX
14. At IR-4 Food Use Workshop, Sept. 17-18, Albuquerque, NM

15. Florida Nursery and Landscape Show September 19 - 21, 2013 Orlando, FL
16. IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop October 8-10, 2013, South FL
17. ESA – Nov. 17-20, Austin, TX