**RESPONSE TO PETITION REVIEW:**

The reviewer’s primary comments were that we 1) describe how we intend to expand participation 2) remove redundancy from the document and 3) remove participant names as participants are included through other channels.

**Our Responses to Comments**

1. **In response we wrote in the PROCEDURES AND ACTIVITIES SECTION:**

*“A web-based meeting was conducted among members on June 18th 2020 to discuss how to increase the effectiveness and membership in WERA 97. The outcome was a decision to expand the services rendered by the committee to its participating members and eliminate barriers to expanded participation. The expanded services include 1) expanded participation by graduate students in WERA-97 activities, 2) increased coordination of research and educational endeavors among WERA-97 members and 3) introduced advocacy for issues we face in disease management at local, state, and national levels. In addition, the committee will seek to expand participation through greater flexibility in meeting dates to better accommodate differing climates across the region and through better advertising of WERA-97 activities in professional forums.”*

1. **In response:** We eliminated approximately 1 ½ pages of redundant topics and text from the document.
2. **In response:** We eliminated the members list from the proposal.