

Brief Summary of Annual Meeting

Complete meeting minutes are available at http://ncr101.montana.edu/meetings_past.htm

Opening: Alex Turkewitsch called the meeting to order at 8:15 am and welcomes the members of the NE-1035 group. He also thanks Peter Vanderveer and Bob Morrow for organizing this meeting. Peter Vanderveer (local host) welcomed everyone to Madison, WI.

Announcements: Upcoming meetings of interest include the 1st Meeting of the American Council for Medicinally Active Plants (Rutgers, 20-23 July 2010), GreenSys 2011 (Greece, summer 2011), and the upcoming lighting conference.

Approval of 2009 Minutes: Jonathan Frantz presented the Minutes of the 2009 business meeting in Park City, UT. The minutes are available on the NCERA-101 website.

Administrative Advisor's Report: Richard Straub (University of Wisconsin), on behalf of Ramesh Kanwar, gives the administrative advisor's report. He commends the group on holding a joint meeting with the NE-1035 group and recommends doing this periodically to tap into synergy between these two groups. He also announces that the NCERA-101 project expires in 2011 and needs to be renewed. The new project proposal to continue this project is due this fall. Several deadlines need to be met to renew the project. The most important deadline is December 1, 2010, when the complete proposal is due December 1. This is a hard deadline.

CSREES Administrative Report: Dan Schmoltdt was unable to attend and to give the CSREES Representative Report. John Lea-Cox makes some comments for Dan Schmoltdt and mentions that there have been changes USDA. NIFA (National Institute for Food and Agriculture) is a new USDA institute. USDA hopes that NIFA will raise the profile of its research programs and that this will result in larger research budgets. Mandatory USDA spending is decreasing, with more money going to AFRI, USDA's large competitive grant program. Other programs are being rolled into AFRI. There likely will be more of an emphasis on large multi-institutional grants, with budgets of \$5 - 10 million. The Specialty Crops Research initiative will remain as a separate program at least for next few years, while other programs are combined in AFRI. USDA has five new areas of emphasis: agricultural competitiveness, nutrition and obesity, climate change, food safety, and energy security. The expected 2011 budget for AFRI is expected to be \$262 million, with a long-term goal of up to \$800 million. All programs are going to be trans-disciplinary. John Lea-Cox then describes his experience with SCRI proposals, and mentions that matching issues can be particularly hard to deal with.

Membership Report: Mark Romer presented the Membership Report (see meeting minutes for complete report). There currently are 150 members, from 104 institutions, 29 states, and 8 countries, with several new people attending this year. We now have a letter of invitation, which can be used to recruit new members/recruits for this group. The chair is responsible for sending these letters. If someone has a need for such a letter, contact Mark Romer or the current chair

Website Report: Mark Romer gives a brief history of the website, which was started by Dave Tremmel. The website has the group's history, as well as a separate page for each member, which can be updated by the members. The website has been expanded to include guidelines for growth chambers and tissue culture. The growth chamber handbook is on-line as well. The website was initially hosted by Duke, but transferred after Duke was no longer a national facility. Tracy Dougher (Montana State) took over web site at that point. She has been adding station reports and member information. A major upgrade was made several years ago to include the last international meeting at KSC and more history. Tracy Dougher has requested that we find someone to take over website. Mark Romer asks for volunteers to take over the website and Carole Saravitz at NC State volunteers. This gets approved by unanimous vote. The decision is made that the group will get its own domain name, ending in '.org'. The exact name will be determined later.

Email/Electronic Discussion Group: Mark Romer than gives an update on Google Groups. This discussion group is currently functional, started in May 2009. 68 people signed up for this group as to date. There has been very little activity in this group. One of the problems is to make sure that people are aware of new postings. Currently the Google groups site is not very effective. Often postings to this group get e-mailed to the general membership as well, so there is a duplication of effort.

Instrument Package Report: Bruce Bugbee gives the instrument package report and reviews the purpose of this package. It is a revolving instrument calibration package, and users should use it to calibrate their own sensors. There are four different packages available. Traditionally the cost has been \$300/package, but it now has dropped to \$100/package. Alec Hay administers the instrument package. The instrument package had a balance of about \$477 one year ago, but the surplus from the KSC meeting has now been transferred into this account. The surplus from the Park City meeting also been added to account. The current balance is \$13,792.22.

International Committee on Controlled Environment Guidelines: A.J. Both mentions that this committee was started in 2001, to develop minimum reporting guidelines for growth chambers, which were completed in 2004. In 2004, tissue culture guideline project was started, and these were published 4 years later. In 2008, a suggestion made to start developing greenhouse guidelines. The goal is to have these guidelines in place for the 2012 meeting in the UK. This topic has been discussed at previous NCERA-101 meetings, as well as GreenSys 2009. At GreenSys, the decision was made that the outline at that point was too much focused on engineering and a new outline, with five focus areas has been developed. A.J. Both asks people to look at this outline and asks for people to volunteer to work on one of these five areas.

New Business

Committee Officers: The nominating committee (the executive committee) nominated Peter Ling (Ohio State University) for incoming secretary. No other nominations were voiced; Ray Wheeler motioned to accept the nomination, Dick Gladon seconded, and the appointment passed unanimously.

Surplus Meeting Funds: Gary Gardner proposes that next year's executive committee should present a proposal on how to use some of these funds to support the UK meeting and expresses the opinion that these funds should not be used to help plan our annual meeting, but rather as a buffer if a particular meeting has a shortfall. He also emphasizes that we would lose money without corporate membership. Alex Turkewitsch states that the executive committee will follow up on what to do with the surplus funds and look into funding opportunities to support travel to the UK meeting in 2012..

Future meetings:

Mark Romer gives an update on the 2012 meeting and relays information he got from Lynton Incoll. They have booked a venue in Cambridge (Downing College) in East Anglia, which is easy to reach from London. The program will follow the format of 2001 meeting, with invited review talks, about 25 minutes long. There will be eight sessions with 20 speakers, who will cover the historic background of topics. There will also be poster sessions and a trade exhibit. The full scientific program still needs to be developed.

Dick Gladon volunteers to host the 2011 meeting. They will have new greenhouses going up, which could be toured. His offer is accepted by the group.

Cary Mitchell indicates interest at Perdue to organize the 2013 meeting, perhaps together with Dow AgriSciences.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Transfer of Chairmanship: The gavel was passed from Alex Turkewitsch to Jonathan Frantz

Graduate Student Poster Competition: The NCERA-101 2010 competition had four participants and was won this year by John Snider from The University of Arkansas.

Prepared by Marc van Iersel, Secretary, April 20th, 2010
