

1. Call to order by Tom Porter (roughly 5:15), with Milt Thomas serving as the secretary.
2. Update on NRSP8 renewal – Tom Porter

In brief, Tom reported that the writing committee started working in early spring of 2012 and a draft of the proposal was submitted to the directors of the Agricultural Experiment Stations that summer. A response was quickly provided then the writing committee, species coordinators, and the leadership of NRSP-8 revised and resubmitted the proposal last week (i.e., late December 2012). A response from the Directors of the Agricultural Experiment Stations is expected by June of 2013. The new project should be implemented in September of 2013. Also, accomplishments reports were assembled by each species coordinator and NRSP-8 leadership and submitted the last week of December 2012.

3. Livestock ENCODE project –Alan Archibald and Martien Groenen

The Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) Consortium is an international collaboration of research groups funded by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI; <http://genome.ucsc.edu/ENCODE/>). The initial goal of ENCODE was to build a comprehensive parts list of functional elements in the human genome, including elements that act at the protein and RNA levels, and regulatory elements that control cells and circumstances in which a gene is active. Alan Archibald presented an overview of the ENCODE project as it relates to livestock animals. He posed questions to the group. Specifically, which animals and tissues should be included in this project and how do we pool our resources to build a livestock version of ENCODE? He also asked the NRSP-8 group for ideas.

Action item(s): Joan Lunney moved that NRSP-8 assist the concept of further development of ENCODE for livestock animals (i.e., “assist the concept” was defined as participation). Ernie Bailey amended the motion to say that Alan Archibald be the contact for those wanting to participate. Second was obtained for both actions (primary motion and the amendment) and the motion passed unanimously.

4. HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC) – Elspeth Bruford

In brief, Elspeth reported that the HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC) has assigned unique gene symbols and names to over 33,500 human loci, of which around 19,000 are protein coding. Specifically, <http://www.genenames.org/> is a curated online repository of HGNC-approved gene nomenclature and associated resources including links to genomic, proteomic and phenotypic information, as well as dedicated gene family pages. Elspeth also reported that ISAG voted that gene names and symbols from animals be synonymous with those already established for humans, which would establish homologous and orthologous relationships across species. She emphasized that

her presentation was a call for help, which meant she needs help accruing funding as well as garnering information. If NRSP-8 members want to help/contribute, they should email their interest/information to hgnc@genenames.org.

5. Coordinator Reports

Tom Porter called on each species coordinator to give their report. The allotted time for each report was shortened due to the need to use the room to prepare for the opening session of PAG. Thus, below is a list of the species reports. The specifics of each report will be submitted in their annual report. Notable highlights of these 7 reports follows the list.

- a. Equine – Ernie Bailey
- b. Swine – Max Rothschild
- c. Aquaculture – Caird Rexroad/John Liu
- d. Cattle – Juan Medrano
- e. Sheep/Goat – Noelle Cockett
- f. Poultry – Gerry Dodgson/Hans Cheng
- g. Bioinformatics – James Reecy

Notable highlights: Each species group continues with sequence and SNP-Chip efforts. These tools are at various stages of development depending on when the projects were initiated and funding was obtained. After ~20 years of service, Max Rothschild will step-down as the swine coordinator in 2013. A new swine coordinator will need to be obtained and approved. The NRSP-8 recognized and thanked Max for his remarkably dedicated effort. Jim Reecy announced that funding will expire in the next 6 months for the data entry technician of tools such as AnimalQTLdb. He informed that he was actively pursuing funding for the position. Jim wanted the group to know that if he is not successful in his effort to accrue funding, that the services may subside or a new procedure for data entry will have to be developed. He encouraged the group to consider the issue and would gladly entertain ideas or assistance.

6. Administrator reports

- a. Eric Young

Eric stated that he represented the accumulation of the geographical regions of the Agricultural Experiment Stations. Regarding the new NRSP-8 project, it will be assigned a 5 year budget. A mid-point review is scheduled for year 3. This review will be dependent on the success documented in the annual reports.

- b. Lakshmi Matukumalli

Because of time constraints, Lakshmi gave a brief announcement after the meeting. He said he was helping to develop an integrated working group among agencies such as USDA-AFRI, NSF, and NIH. The goal of the activity is to pool funding resources, etc. He stated that he would be soliciting feedback from NRSP-8 leadership and species coordinators.

7. Call for old business: no items requested or presented.
8. Nominations for next business meeting: no items requested or presented.
9. Nominations for Secretary/Chair-elect:

Noelle Cockett nominated Stephen White of USDA-ARS/Washington State University for the Secretary in 2014 and Chair in 2015. Second was obtained and the motion passed unanimously. Stephen was in attendance and agreed to accept the nomination.

10. "pass the gavel" to Milt Thomas:

Before passing the gavel, 2 congratulatory actions were stated:

1. Thanks to Tom Porter for his tremendous effort in leading the NRSP-8 group through the project renewal/writing effort.
2. Thanks to Max Rothschild for ~20 years of impeccable service.

11. Meeting adjourned

Minutes prepared by Milt Thomas, 1/21/2012.