

NE1035 Annual Meeting
Greensys 2009
Laval University
Quebec City, QC, Canada
June 14, 2009

Participants (in alphabetical order):

A.J. Both	Rutgers University	both@aesop.rutgers.edu
Stephanie Burnett (Chair)	University of Maine	sburnett@maine.edu
Katherine Garland	University of Maine	katherine_garland@umit.maine.edu
Robert Geneve	University of Kentucky	rgeneve@uky.edu
Martin Gent	Conn. Agric. Exp. Stn.	martin.gent@po.state.ct.us
Murat Kacira	University of Arizona	mkacira@cals.arizona.edu
Meriam Karlsson	Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks	ffmgk@uaf.edu
Chieri Kubota	University of Arizona	ckubota@ag.arizona.edu
Roland Leatherwood	Cornell University	wr132@cornell.edu
Neil Mattson (Secretary)	Cornell University	nsm47@cornell.edu
Dave Mears	Rutgers University	mears@aesop.rutgers.edu

Minutes:

1:05 PM – Meeting called to order by Chair Burnett

Introductions

Participants introduced themselves.

The NE1035 group has a couple new members: Meriam Karlsson from University of Alaska, Fairbanks (present at the meeting) and Brian Krug from University of New Hampshire.

Approval of the 2008 Minutes

The 2008 meeting minutes were approved by the group.

Election of Officers

Murat Kacira volunteered to be Secretary for next year, which was unanimously accepted by participants.

Discussion on Potential Future Collaborations

MK noted there was discussion of developing a group wide SCRI proposal last year, but it was too difficult to develop a specific focus and so proposal development did not proceed. Perhaps the broad area of “sustainable greenhouse” could be a group proposal.

RG mentioned that the Marketing for Floriculture and Nursery working groups put forward a proposal last year, but this was shot down as too broad. The group is now putting forward two proposals one related to sustainable nursery and the other on marketing.

MG had submitted a SCRI proposals last August to investigate Partial Saturation Ebb and Flow irrigation and reviewers said it wasn't sufficiently broad. He has submitted a new proposal this spring which has additional objectives and collaborators.

It was mentioned that it looks like SCRI planning grants will not be called for in the next RFP.

CK stated that perhaps we could move forward with 2 or 3 proposals out of our stated objectives one could focus on "resources: water, energy, fertilizers"

RG mentioned that these themes are commonly submitted; however one strength we have is a strong engineering component along with greenhouse floriculture and food production

AJB noted that we don't have a good history of real cooperative projects, rather we meet once a year to network and exchange ideas. He would propose that it is okay for people to take out individual parts of our project's narrative and develop their own proposals, but then involve group members with specific skills related to the proposal.

CK stated that many of us have already basically followed AJBs suggested model, her question was whether if any of these get funded can we consider that an outcome from this group?

MG responded that yes, if there is a successful proposal that includes more than 1 member of our group we can include that as a successful outcome of our group. MG also noted that when a proposal is written you should note in the proposal that you already have a relationship with the Co-PIs (for example, through this group).

RG added that our group is too broad to be effective for putting a proposal together and money wouldn't stretch far enough.

AJB noted that to put an effective SCRI proposal together you have to have your act together early – i.e. start working now for next year to develop outreach partners, etc – so that things are in line before the RFP comes out.

CK noted that SCRI proposals must demonstrate a significant industry partnership.

MG said decisions from the current SCRI funding round may come out in mid-July.

RG stated that SCRI funding rates are so poor that we would need to develop a proposal that is really outside the box. An example might be remote sensing for greenhouse control and irrigation (ties in biology and engineering). In one grant that RG was a part of each member was to replicate the same thing in each of the participating states which is different model than each member doing their own part of the project

RG would like to participate with others in a training grant program – NRI has national needs areas; in the past he had been involved with a grant from the standpoint of seed biology and informatics associated with that to address a need. Now national needs areas are different than before. The proposal typically funds 6-7 students to share across the member states (provides provides salary, tuition, and some research support).

Arizona, Iowa, and Rutgers looked into a teaching grant – to start an online curriculum for greenhouse engineering (within a plant science major) this would start with a single course and eventually become a full curriculum

AJB noted at Rutgers there is a struggle with having enough faculty members to offer a full CEA course offering.

RG pointed out that “Ag Idea” – will meet before ASHS. About 10 or 12 states are involved – using Midwestern consortium as a clearing house for the coursework. The faculty members involved provide online distance courses (about 70 proposed) – will they offer a horticulture M.S. degree online? Regardless, Bob is interested in access to other individual course offering or offering say advanced plant propagation to a wider audience. The concept started as grad courses, but is now broadened to undergrad

AJB wanted to mention one other opportunity, the IGERT – NSF program that funds graduate students (requires multi-state and international collaboration) an opportunity to get multi-year funding for 20-30 graduate students. A team may have 10-30 participant members; PIs come up with a theme under which to train students – so you don’t get cash yourself, but you did get funding for a graduate student. It is fairly competitive but a group from Rutgers was successful. International collaboration is required and students could do some work overseas. Applications are due in the fall.

AJB also brought up the point that we could collaborate by sharing students – example having other NE1035 members on the student’s committee as an external member of the committee.

RG noted that some Universities (such as Kentucky) have some funding for travel associate with this and AJB notes that phone conferences can also work well.

MK noted that he is planning to work on an energy conservation proposal (i.e. our narrative’s topic #1) – this would be for fairly small size growers.

Meeting Location 2010

A discussion was held on where to hold the annual meeting next year, Maine emerged as the top member state choice due to potential for tours (large tomato greenhouse, gardens such as Rockefeller estate, etc.)

CK put forward the question as to whether it would make sense to try to arrange our annual meeting to coincide with the NCERA101 annual meeting. Their next meeting will be March 20-23, 2010 in Madison, WI. Many NE1035 members also belong to this group and for those that do not this would be a good networking opportunity.

SB will check with members not present today to see if they concur.

NM noted that this could be a good platform for really developing the IGERT proposal for the fall 2010 date

CK noted that NCERA101 typically has an ASHS working group meeting on the first day (Saturday); the first half of Sunday is usually a business meeting followed by Station reports the second half of Sunday and first part of Monday, then followed by tours.

If we proceed with this option we could try to have a joint meeting sponsored by our two groups. We could add on a separate session to this for our NE1035 annual meeting.

Potential New Members

AJB wonders if anyone from University of Georgia would like to join us?

AJB knows that Eric Runkle at MSU is not participating with 1035 because his director made him choose 1 of the 2 groups. Perhaps Paul Fisher in Florida has a similar situation? How about involving Sonali Padhye as the University of Florida Rep?

RG wonders about North Carolina State - Stephanie will email John Dole to see if there is any interest from NCSU.

RG has also been trying to get Rebecca Schnelle from University of Kentucky to join.

AJB mentioned that in the past we've talked about bringing in industry members? One way to encourage that is when we have a meeting is to invite local companies to participate. Depending on whether meeting is in Maine or Wisconsin – we should try to involve local industry members.

Member Retiring

Martin Gent is retiring effective July 1st. He plans to remain an active emeritus faculty member.

Upcoming Conference

CK noted that the Light in Horticulture Conference will be held in Japan in November, the abstract deadline is now June 25th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

The meeting was followed by a tour of the Laval University botanical gardens and research greenhouse facilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neil Mattson