

## Meeting Minutes

### NCERA 197

#### Agricultural and Health Research and Extension Coordinating Committee

National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA

800 9<sup>th</sup> Street SW; Room 3455; Washington, DC 20024

May 22-23, 2013

Wednesday, May 22

Members in attendance were:

Aaron Yoder  
Dennis Murphy  
Bobby Grisso  
Dee Jepsen  
Karen Funkenbusch  
Michael L. Pate  
Bill Field  
Cheryl Skjolaas  
Larry Olsen  
Chuck Schwab  
Connie Baggett  
Kitty Hendricks  
John Slocombe  
Marshall Martin  
Aida Balsano  
Brad Rein  
Bob Aherin

Welcome & Introductions – Aaron Yoder called meeting to order and began introductions.

**First item of business** – Additions/Approval of minutes from December 10, 2012 meeting  
Larry Olsen moved to approve minutes seconded by Dennis Murphy minutes approved by committee.

**Second item of business** – Review of 10/1/10-9/30/15 project objectives

Six objectives of original proposal for NCERA-197

Opening comments were provided by Marshall Martin. Marshall Martin stated he was delighted to see attendance blossoming and this group has been making a difference addressing important issues and that unfortunately incidents are still occurring warranting the continued efforts of the committee. Marshall Martin recommended the committee considered submitting an application for an accomplishment award.

Aaron Yoder asked for suggestions on changes to the objectives because the committee has made progress on several objectives and wondered if there were considerations to do more. Aaron Yoder noted that the committee was half way the current objectives and thought the committee might consider adding or modifying for future work. Aaron Yoder commented that participation

of committee members was welcomed. Aaron Yoder noted that it was time to elect a new chair for a two year term. Aaron Yoder want to clarify he had finished his second year as chair and was willing to complete another two-year term. Bob Aherin nominated Aaron Yoder for committee chair. John Slocombe second. Aaron Yoder was unanimously elected as committee chair for 2013-2015. Aaron Yoder asked for any comments or concerns before moving on to first objective on the agenda. Chuck Schwab asked if the committee want to sequence chair persons being in tuned with committee procedures. Aaron Yoder indicated he would start counting someone. Chuck Schwab noted that electing a vice chair might help transitions. Bob Aherin noted the secretary normally takes over as chair and that a vice chair would by pass this. Chuck Schwab noted he was curious who might be the next person learning the process of preparing and submitting reports and that shared leadership might help. No further discussion on leadership positions was made.

***Objective 1. Develop a white paper that addresses agricultural confined spaces: Review current draft and details of dissemination plan.***

Bill Field reported on the status of the white paper dissemination efforts. Bill Field noted that 100 copies of the document were circulated at the MRSASH conference. Bill Field indicated that 120 comments for grain industry representatives were collected. Bill Field stated he was looking for images to include by next Wednesday before the document went to final printing. Bill Field commented that the white paper was the work of the committee and that he would like to have additions on current projects being done. Bill Field noted that at the MRSASH conference he got a substantial number of comments to keep track and incorporate. Bill Field noted the document has increased in size by half since the start of the project. Bill Field called for images representative of confined spaces from other geographic regions such as Michael Pate in the West and Dee Jepsen in Ohio. Bill Field noted that the accomplishments listed in the back of the document were rather impressive meet most of the goals. Bill Field indicated he was appreciative of the committees work and welcomed any suggestions.

Bill Field indicated that the 2012 Summary of Grain incidents were included in the current version of the white paper and the current document will be circulated at ISASH in Ohio. Dee Jepsen commented that registration for ISASH 2012 indicated approximately 100-200 individuals will be in attendance. Bill Field commented that he has worked with NPR aggressively using the freedom of information to get incident cases from OSHA. Bill noted that after review of cases there were some that were incorrectly as chicken processing. There were an additional 17 cases in Kansas added. The number of cases back to 1980 increased. This was included in the white paper.

Bill Field commented that states near Indiana with lower numbers of confined space incidents were probably due to miss-coding creating underreporting of incidents. Bill Field stated that Indiana had the most aggressive attempt to record incidents. Bill Field stated that a graduate student performed a statistical model for estimating confined space incidents and that the model indicated the number of incidents would double with proper reporting. Bill Field indicated that the grain journal published the report and a couple others picked it up.

Entanglement in in-floor augers and sweep augers while removing residual grain is still an issue.

Bill Field called for individuals to send stuff on what you are doing for the white paper. Bill Field indicated the white paper is near closer and is ready to be finished and move on.

Aaron Yoder posed to the committee if biomass harvest storage should be included on the topic of agricultural confined spaces. Brad Rein indicated the level of processing determines how hazardous. Bill Field indicated that this was a concern due to a lack of experience of individuals engaged in ethanol and biomass production. Aaron Yoder questioned which industry this fell under as either agriculture or forestry.

Dennis Murphy asked what the agenda was for publication of the white paper. Bill Field indicated those electronic news releases were used as well as conference publications at ISASH, ASABE and ASEE. Aida Balsano offered new release assistance through NIFA.

***Objective 2: Collaborate with other organizations to sponsor a national conference focused on safety and health issues associated with agricultural confined spaces. Report on confined space conference outcomes and details of ISASH PD session.***

Bob Aherin, Bill Field, and Dee Jepsen provided a report of collaborative conference efforts. Bob Aherin and Bill Field provided an update on the results of the MRASH conference in Cedar Rapids, IA. It was indicated that this conference was a success and well attended by various stakeholders of the grain industry as well as other safety professionals. The conference looked at a lot of different issues. One issue was the need for an adequate life live and practical solution to be accepted by OSHA to be in a grain bin with a sweep auger. Bob Aherin indicated more will be discussed through a working coalition with grain industry representatives and OSHA. Bob Aherin indicated that there was a higher focus at the MRASH conference on rescue but less on prevention and the issue of prevention needs to move forward. Dennis Murphy stated that we should put forth prevention first. Issues like the tie off for lanyard and harness. Bill Field noted on pages 20-21 of the white paper that the focus on rescue was higher probably due to more funding available for rescue than prevention activities.

Bob Aherin stated that the ASCHA conference in Minneapolis will have a confined space session as well as an expert session called a "Genius Bar." Bob Aherin noted that there were plans for a poster session at the conference. Dennis Murphy explained that more details will be provided on the ASCHA conference during the committee's work session tomorrow. Dennis Murphy stated that there will be a session on grain bin safety standards, a biomass session and a plenary session with Bob Aherin, Catherine an OSHA industry rep working collaboratively. Dennis explained this would be an opportunity to highlight success getting stakeholders together. Dennis stated that Bill Field will be doing something on cost of injury as well as cost estimation on converting grain bins to comply with regulations.

Aaron Yoder continued discussion regarding past and upcoming conferences. Bill Field shared with the committee the proposed ISASH conference professional development session agenda on Agricultural Confined Spaces. Bill Field commented that an ASABE grain bin standard had been proposed but was not well done or partly done.

Dee Jepsen continued the discussion regarding activities at the ISASH conference. Dee Jepsen stated there were plans to present a session on portable units for rescue training to show case sustainable efforts and how to overcome costs restraints.

2:22pm Aaron Yoder called the committee to a recess for a break  
Aaron called meeting back to order

***Objective 3: Encourage research and outreach at Land Grant universities that utilizes their expertise in addressing safety and health issues associated with agricultural confined spaces. Update on current projects and activities.***

Bill Field shared information on Purdue's Susan Harwood grant to develop training resources and is being reviewed by OSHA. Bill Field noted the goal was to provide the training binder on a thumb drive to pass out. Bill Field commented that a draft was floating around on children in Ag confined spaces based on his data collected. Additional efforts were to provide the National FFA website an introduction to grain and hazards curriculum.

Bob Aherin shared with the committee the progress regarding efforts Illinois has made on their Susan Harwood. Bob Aherin commented there was confusion on understanding who were eligible to participate in the trainings.

Dennis Murphy provided updates on Penn State efforts regarding engineering designs for manure gas ventilation for entry in every type of storage. Dennis Murphy provided updates on current efforts for revision of ASABE SO6 Standards for all storage to be covered. Dennis Murphy shared a current issue being investigated was non-enclosed and open air storage with the use of Gypsum bedding producing high levels of Hydrogen Sulfide gas. Cheryl Skjolass indicated this was a concern in Wisconsin and shared efforts to work with nutrient applicators. Bill Field stated that there was a fatality in Saratoga Springs involving a wooden manure storage facility. Cheryl Skjolass stated the manure summit will focus on getting people designing storage systems thinking about safety.

Aaron Yoder commented he noticed the number of digesters increasing.

Charles Schwab provided an update on Iowa State biomass fuel projects involving risk awareness analysis with production of fuels using switch grass, miscanthus and corn.

Aaron Yoder and Dennis Murphy provided an update on a collaborative wood biomass project involving willow shrubs and safety issues with timing of harvest

Marshall Martin inquired if this was more of a economics cost-benefit analysis  
Bill Field noted that Europe's power systems using biomass was more of a transportation issue involving low density material and large trucks

Bobby Grisso commented that there were substantial biomass storage fire issues involving outdoor/indoor storage. Bobby Grisso indicated concerns involved putting tarps over bale stacks. Bobby Grisso indicated there were also operational issues due to a lack of constant production capacity. Bobby Grisso indicated material flow-through and business plans no adequately predicting production of units.

5:00pm Aaron Yoder closed the meeting to wrap up on next topic for tomorrow.

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Members in attendance were:

Aaron Yoder  
Dennis Murphy  
Bobby Grisso  
Dee Jepsen  
Karen Funkenbusch  
Michael L. Pate  
Bill Field  
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Larry Olsen  
Chuck Schwab  
Connie Baggett  
Kitty Hendricks  
John Slocombe  
Marshall Martin  
Bob Aherin  
Called in to meeting: Marcel Hacault CASA

Aaron Yoder called meeting to order.

***Review of discussion on Objective 1-3***

A discussion was generated on fall protection. Cheryl Skjolaas indicated an interest in fall protection. Dee Jepsen shared an update on the barge systems used for grain handling. Dee Jepsen indicated prevalence of problem with falls but nothing out there from their look at design change on barges. Cheryl Skjolaas indicated that she would send an email out to continue discussion with those interested in fall protection issues as an action item. Additional discussion was generated by the committee on large bales and forklift safety concerns.

***Objective 4. Encourage new and improved American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering standards to reduce hazard and risks exposures associated with agricultural confined spaces. Standards activities. ASABE EP 470 and Proposed Grain Bin Standard, ASAE S607, others?***

**Standards Discussion**

Bill Field stated the Grain Bin standard was not shared with him and that no one was allowed to see. The proposed standard was defeated. Bill Field shared updates on development of a hitch pin standard. Additional discussion was generated on standard labels for grain bin to protect farmers with standards operator's manual versus installation manual. Manure storage ventilation standards progress was being made on software only to update accepted revision. Dee Jepsen shared updates on the revision of the standard concerning animal drawn carts 570.6.1. This involved the lighting and marking of low profile pony carts. Dee Jepsen shared that a plenary session will be held at the ISASH conference with Amish families.

***Objective 5: Identify the next high priority topic from the National Agenda for Action document to be addressed by the committee. Update on New and Beginning Farmer Projects. Discuss additional National Agenda topics or updates, possibly biomass.***

Aaron Yoder and Dennis Murphy shared updates on their collaborative grant project for new and beginning farmers. Brad Rein commented that BFRD funding to be included in the farm bill. Connie Baggett inquired on Veteran's new farm plan. Dennis Murphy provided comments on website Extension Ag extension educators manual on how to organize tractor safety course. Committee comments indicated interest from CSA non-profit farms as a potential safety market using more small farm conferences. Dee Jepsen provided updates on Cleveland programs for New and beginning farmers. Brad Rein commented that vertical farming taking off found market from warehouse to produce. Additional discussion was generated on green houses and ergonomic issues.

Bill Field inquired if anyone was keeping stats on rising cases concerning this group. Bill Field indicated it could be difficult to classify injuries because most of these farmers work off farm.

Marshall Martin provide an update on new entrance conference in Canada to address higher risk case studies with life style farmers captured in data Oct 7-13<sup>th</sup>

Aaron Yoder led a discussion on the need to revisit the committee's research agenda to become up to date with more current machinery and technology. A discussion was generated on the next 5 year action plan for the committee. This focused on gathering information to evaluate current position on accomplishments and reprioritize topics.

Aaron Yoder provided an update on eXtension website activities.

Discussion of the function of eXtension COP as gate keeper agreement for review and endorsement of safety materials. Additional discussion on eXtension's role in grant RFA was conducted.

***USDA-NIFA updates:***

Brad Rein provided an update that budget and accounting is being delayed and accountability procedure getting complex. Brad Rein stated it gets harder every day.

***NIOSH update:***

Kitty Hendricks provided an update on 2012 childhood data collected with NASS. Kitty Hendricks stated no data collection for this year. Additional updates were provided on the National Ag worker injury and muscular skeletal findings and minorities farm owners. Kitty Hendricks indicted that budget would dependent on 2015 Farm Survey wording regarding manure questions

***ASHCA, the summit***

Dennis Murphy provide updates on the proposed sessions for the ASHCA conference. Dennis Murphy shared that break-out sessions will be led by Dee, Bob, Bill, and Chuck.

***CASA and FARSHA Updates***

Marcel Hacault provided an update on New Entrants Conference Oct 9-11<sup>th</sup> Quebec City, Quebec

Marcel indicated funding was being cut and working to raise funds

**No report from FARSHA**

***Other Agency and organization updates***

Dee Jepsen provided update on ISASH sessions. Bill Field discussed ASABE EH&S Committee meeting times are not in program addendum. Bill Field questioned the need for membership at ASABE safety group technical sessions.

Bill Field provided updates on current National AgrAbility.

Final Comments from Marshall Martin were provided thanking leadership of the committee. Marshall Martin stated the committee had great Attendance and discussion on creative and excitement progress.

Aaron Yoder stated he would send a Doodle poll out for November meeting to be set.

Meeting Adjourned