

2015 Annual NCERA 180 Business Meeting

Courtyard Marriott, Lincoln, NE

Meeting Minutes

- Chair Joe Luck called meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Quick introductions by all participants; 3 call-ins, 22 in-person participants (*see attachment*)
- Presentation by Dr. Chittaranjan Ray, Director Nebraska Water Center, UNL about UNLs Water for Food Initiative
- USDA NIFA Report to NCERA-180 by Dan Smoltz, National Program Leader, NIFA
 - Covered FY16 funding levels and opportunities
 - NIFA proposes establishing 2 new institutes that focus on bioeconomy
 - Covered Engineering Science, Technology & Application funding opportunities that at times fund Precision Ag projects.
 - National Robotics Initiative (NRI)
 - 2016 Cyber-Physical Systems
 - Specialty Crops Research (Research & Extension focus; \$80M annually)
 - \$20M-\$30M available in Precision Ag competitive grants available; primary focus on plants; Strong competition but low success rates
 - Concern brought forward by Raj and Newell that available funding not necessarily enabling science in critical need areas such as water and nitrogen concerns within agriculture today.
 - Suggestion from Dave Clay to have committee members and possible a few farmers visit NIFA and educate on current status of Precision Ag; changes in production are evolving quickly including the use of technology and data.
 - Suggestion from Robert Ferguson to create a 1-page whitepaper to pass along to NIFA.
- Dave Clay requested all teaching a Precision Ag course to send syllabi to Leon Schumacher at University of Missouri --- schumacherl@MISSOURI.EDU.
- Dave Clay is working through ASA on a book titled "Practical Mathematics for Precision Agriculture" – will be seeking people to help write sections of the book.
- Bruce Erickson covered two surveys being facilitated at Purdue
 - Retailer survey that is administered through CropLife; this survey goes back 20 years with past survey available at <http://agribusiness.purdue.edu/resources/type/survey-results>.
 - University / College survey that will come out soon.
- Joe discussed annual report
 - Due in 60 days

- Need to incorporate impacts and accomplishments; important as renewal comes up
 - Requests of state reports coming out soon; please respond since need to show good progress as we go into the renewal phase.
- Joe facilitated **goals and outcomes** for this group in the future:
 - Solicitation of proposal ideas
 - Need objectives for Education, Extension and Research
 - Need to develop an advocacy plan for promoting PA
 - Could be a joint effort with ISPA.
 - Establish priorities (e.g. N, water, data etc.) for research
 - Climate smart agriculture – producing more, sustainability with the smallest foot print.
 - Decision Dashboard: <https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/tools>
 - Development of a 1-page whitepaper to outline Research needs for Precision Ag; need to send to Dan by September.
 - Adhoc Committee to work on Advocacy and develop an educational experience in DC about the current needs and challenges in PA
 - Develop a PA messaging to gain support within our professional societies
 - John Shanahan
 - Raj Khosla
 - Ken Sudduth
 - David Clay
 - Support from Joe Luck and John Fulton
- Announcements
 - InfoAg 20th year anniversary --- will be a display and presentations covering PA history over the past 20+ years.
 - Raj and David Mulla wrote a chapter in their upcoming book about the history of Precision Ag.
 - Group needs to consider how to grow the group and encourage more people to participate.
- Possible 2016 Locations
 - **Columbus, OH (Ohio State) voted on; Moved by Dave Clay and seconded by Ajay Sharda**
 - Co-locate with ICPA
 - Washington DC
 - April or March
 - Send out a Doodle poll to see a decent time
- Joe opened floor for Vice-Chair nominations
 - Ganesh Bora – North Dakota State University
 - Brian Luck – Wisconsin-Madison
 - Ignacio Ciampitti – Kansas State
 - Decided to vote via Doodle or similar online means

- Possible 2017 location at McGill in Montreal, Canada as proposed by Slava
- Meeting adjourned by Joe Luck at 11:30 AM