

**NEERA 1004 Meeting Minutes**  
**Salt Palace Convention Center**  
**Salt Lake City, UT**  
**March 23, 2015**

General Session (National Discussion)

The national IPM program leaders introduced themselves and had everyone in the room introduce themselves and their affiliation. The program leaders then discussed the results of the 2014 CPPM-ARDP grants program. The successful grants dealt mainly with vegetables, cotton and cereals and were mostly centered on insect pests. The distribution between Research, Research led and Extension led grants was pretty even. By region, the Southern, Northeast and Western regions were evenly distributed. The exception was the North Central region which was lower than the other regions.

The discussion then moved to the CPPM-EIPM grants. Eight million dollars was available in 2014 for grants. Submitters need to remember that these grants are mainly for extension activities and should not center on research. This was a problem in 2014 especially with project proposing to do classic extension demonstration projects that are the basis for grower adoption. The reason may have been the reviewers not understanding that this is an extension activity. Research is funded by the USDA AFRI program. Research/extension grants that are stakeholder driven can also be submitted through the USDA AFRI Foundational Programs CORE section. The program leaders also mention that the grants need to include coordination but don't emphasize it. We will receive the renewal RFP in mid-May from Kathy Kimble-Day. It will require us to submit a REEport on our 2014 report 90 days before the grant's anniversary date. If you have questions regarding writing REEport's you can download the "REEport Guide for Project Directors at [nifa.usda.gov/tool/reeport](http://nifa.usda.gov/tool/reeport). We should only discuss the planned activities for 2015 in the renewal submission. In actuality, both the progress report and the renewal should be done as soon as possible. Also, do not request a no-cost extension on any 2014 money that was not spent. They can be spent in 2014.

Joseph LaForest from the Southern IPM Center then discussed what the centers can do for us that we might not be aware of. These include helping set up conference calls and webinars, audio recording, YouTube clips and project management (using Basecamp®). The centers also have access to an Impact Toolkit that has modules for assessment, logic models, etc. The final item discussed was access to weather and pest modeling modules via USpest.org. This site is managed by Len Coop.

Northeast Regional Meeting

Welcome and introductions, agenda overview: The chair welcomed the group and asked that those present introduce themselves. A representative was present from the following states: CT, DE, ME, NJ, NY, PA, RI and WV.

The group then discussed next year's meeting location and co-chair. Next year's chair suggested having the meeting in either Albany or Saratoga. Both would serve the groups needs. Including

regulators, ARDP recipients and Center staff as a way to enhance linkages was discussed. The group felt this was important to do and that we might facilitate this by holding next year's meeting in January at the joint ESA Eastern Branch/Northeastern Weed Science Society/Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society/Northeastern American Society of Agronomy/Northeastern Branch of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences. The meeting is being held in Philadelphia at the Sheraton – Society Hill Hotel on January 4-7. The group thought this was a good idea. Jennifer Grant (next year's chair) and Rakesh Chandran, who is in charge of the meeting, will look into this. The chair then stated that he thought that Ed Rajotte had agreed to serve as next year's co-chair. Grant remembered this as well. The chair double checked this with last year's chair Ann Hazelrigg. She confirmed that Ed agreed to do so.

Northeast Extension Directors Report: The report was presented by Dr. Michael O'Neill from the University of Connecticut. Dr. O'Neill discussed several items including projects on water quality and climate change that could bring funding to IPM programs by connecting community foods projects, etc. with the program. He talked about the Land Grant Impacts Database which is a collection of success stories used by extension administrators and lobbyists to argue for continued funding. He suggested that we should think about this database when developing new programs. Herb Bolton mentioned that NIFA has staff sorting through these stories and that each state has a person responsible for entering success stories into the database. Dr. O'Neil then talked about connected with state NRCS programs. They have technical support money for farmers through the Rural Conservation Partnership Program. Each state has a pool of money as part of the national program. The RFP for the program is usually announced in mid-May and you must connect with your state conservationist to apply for funds. Issues such as indirect costs were discussed and applying for a NE Extension Directors Planning grant were discussed.

NE IPM Center Update: The update was presented by IPM Center Director Steve Young. Steve talked about the center's new signature programs, moving to a new location at Cornell University (Rice Hall) and that they were developing a new look for the website that will make it more mobile friendly. He then explained that they have hired five new staff in the past 11 months, two new staff for the StopPests Program for housing and that they will be emphasizing communications. To do this the communications specialist is now a full time position, IPM Insights will be published four times a year instead of two and they will be creating news stories for the website. A discussion of the center's connections to the ARDP program, the development of an AFRI NE undergraduate fellowship proposal, and a national proposal dealing with climate and Pests then ensued. Steve also mentioned that the center was working on creating new and improving current partnerships with various multistate hatch projects and programs run by the other centers (Tribal IPM – North Central, Organic and IPM – North Central, iPIPE – North Central, Western, & Southern, and climate – Western & North Central). Steve closed by discussing where the center wants to go in the future and how they want to focus on evaluating their impacts, audience engagement and reinvigorating the stakeholders.

IPM Partnership Grants Program Update: The update was presented by IPM Center Director Steve Young. Steve explained that the center's regional priorities this year were "Wicked Biological Programs" and the new "Signature Programs." They had ~\$400,000 available for funding projects this year in the research/issues, working groups and communications categories.

A total of 28 proposals were submitted (communications – 4, research/issues – 14, working groups – 10). On a state basis, while states submitted proposals, more came from New York and Maryland than other states. Based on the reviewer's recommendations, 14 proposals were funded (communications – 3, research/issues – 5, working groups – 5). In the future, the center intends to reach out to newly funded PI's via a "Welcome Webinar" and will ask current PI's to help with this. They are also currently revising the RFA for next. If you have comments please send them to the center. Finally, the center is revising their reporting system to make it simpler and more user friendly. It will include an optional longer version and the information will be used to better assess impacts.

#### State Updates:

Connecticut – Uconn participated in a new fruit IPM project using 32 weather stations installed on farms, school grounds and athletic fields. The data collected will be used to aid decision making and the information is available 24/7 via mobile devices and computers. Greenhouse growers in CT increased their interest in using biological controls at their facilities. Connecticut's Invasive Plant Working Group provided outreach to over 73,000 businesses and citizens and had exhibits at 28 local, state and regional events. Other ongoing programs that were reported on include CT's landscape and turf, school and vegetable IPM programs, and plant diagnostic laboratory. Connecticut also has a new greenhouse pest guide app and a new plant sample submission app.

Delaware – Delaware received funding from a number of sources including state, federal E-IPM, Delaware and United Soybean Boards, USDA SCRI and NERIPM Grants. Under the EIP Extension Implementation grant, Delaware's IPM program focused on 3 main areas of emphasis: Agronomic Crop Issues (Soybeans and Small Grains), Specialty Crops (Spotted Wing Drosophila Management in Blueberries, Maintenance of an Insect Trapping System for IPM Decision Making in Processing and Fresh Market Vegetables, IPM Education for Small Farms using High Tunnels) and Community (Consumer/Urban) IPM. The funding from the United Soybean Board was to look at the impact of brown marmorated stink bug. The NERIPM funding was to develop ecologically sustainable pest management plans for weed and insect pests of leguminous and solanaceous crops and is a joint program between the University of Maryland, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of Delaware, and Delaware State University. The USDA SCRI grant is to look at the impact of brown marmorated stink bug in vegetables.

Massachusetts – Massachusetts received funding to advance IPM on diversified and organic farms in Massachusetts. This project will increase IPM implementation through collaboration and interaction with mentor and partner farms. "Mentor farms" are run by growers who are building a farm-wide comprehensive IPM program for their operation. "Partner farms" will have one issue of focus on one crop and will be sites for trials with novel IPM techniques. The project also seeks to promote pollinator diversity and sustainability in cranberry production areas by encouraging adoption of habitat improvement and educating growers how to promote the populations of native pollinators and how to identify pollinators and parasitoids. Another component of the project involves the use of the Network of Environmental and Weather

Applications (NEWA). NEWA evaluates key pests in several fruit and vegetable crops and is useful for IPM implementation.

New Jersey – New Jersey continues to run IPM programs for fruit, greenhouse, nursery and vegetable growers by providing scouting, black light traps disease forecasting technologies. Under the auspices of the 2014 EIPM grant that NJ received, a new grape IPM program will be expanded and will include demonstration projects that will be featured during extension's summer meetings for grape growers. Several Rutgers faculty continue to be involved in developing IPM friendly management tactics for the brown marmorated stink bug and spotted wing drosophila. Rutgers has just hired a new nursery management specialist who will interact with the nursery IPM program and will be hire two new weed scientists (one for turf and ornamentals, one for agricultural commodities).

New York – New York reported on several IPM research and extension projects involving fruit, hops, vegetables, ornamentals, livestock and field crops. These included the updating of organic production guides, five fact sheets on economic impacts of bird damage in blueberries, wine grapes, sweet cherry and “Honeycrisp” apples, GIS mapping of 23,038 acres of grape vineyards on 386 farms, the use of a greenhouse biocontrol app called GreenhouseScout that provide biocontrol and pest information to growers. The program helped survey rodents in NYC for pathogens and parasites and discovered oriental rat fleas during the survey (see article in Medical Entomology) and conducted numerous community IPM related research and extension activities.

Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania provided copies of their annual report to the group. It includes a compilation of all their activities in the areas of Latino community outreach, public health IPM, School IPM, IPM in early learning environments, field crop IPM, greenhouse IPM, tree fruit IPM, vegetable IPM and Christmas tree IPM. A copy of the report can be found at <http://extension.psu.edu/pests/ipm/grants>. Dion Lerman then discussed the personnel and programmatic changes that have been occurring because of shrinking state and federal funding.

Rhode Island – Rhode Island is working on several projects during the last year. Heather Faubert worked closely with blueberry and raspberry growers to manage spotted wing drosophila (SWD) and is collaborating with the regional working group on SWD, conducting research on trapping and management methods. Heather also worked with Joe Elkinton from the University of Massachusetts on biological control of winter moth in Rhode Island through additional releases of the parasitic fly, *Cyzenis albicans* in 2014. This year the first record of recovery of *Cyzenis albicans* parasitizing winter moth larvae occurred in Warwick, RI at a site in which the parasitoids were released in 2011. Andy Radin began collaboration with MA and VT to develop a pest and disease scouting calendar and alert system for fruits and vegetables. Lisa Tewksbury released *Rhinoconomimus latipes* weevils to control mile-a-minute weed in 8 sites in Rhode Island in 2014. She also collaborated with Connecticut to release the parasitoid *Tetrastichus setifer* to control lily leaf beetle. We are awaiting a permit to release *Hypena opulenta* to control black swallow-wort after receiving TAG approval for this agent in 2013.

West Virginia – West Virginia reported that they have two new faculty joining their IPM group. The first is Dr. Barbara Liedl who has agreed to high tunnel and greenhouse IPM programming. The second is Dr. Sheldon Owen who will conduct wildlife management programming. The program carried out three, three hour long pest clinics during 2014, and formed a collaborative arrangement with Penn State's IPM program to carry out annual tree fruit workshops in WV. The program continues to publish their quarterly IPM Chronicle newsletter. Dr. Daniel Frank participated in numerous outreach activities that target growers, homeowners and landscapers. He also authored several web-based fact sheets. Dr. Mahfuz Rahman provided disease expertise at several outreach events and is Co-PI on a recently funded multi-state iPIPE-Cap grant. Dr. Rakesh Chandran was also involved in weed related outreach activities and co-authored a regional field crops pest management guide and a regional spray bulletin for three fruit growers. He is also the current president of the NE weed Science Society and as such offered to help host our meeting next year in conjunction with their joint meeting with several other NE societies next January in Philadelphia.

NIFA Undergraduate Fellowship RFA: The update was presented by IPM Center Director Steve Young. This proposal will address the development of an IPM Fellowship designed to train the new wave of IPM researchers and educators. Several NE states plan to be part of the proposal. Cerruti Hooks at the University of Maryland is taking the lead on submitting the grant. The group then discussed the nuts and bolts of the proposal including how many people to train per year, how that training would be conducted and how the budget should be organized. Steve will forward the comments to Cerruti.

Discussion of EIPM grants, regional fact sheets, regional research priorities: The last round of EIPM funding was discussed in terms of successes, issues with the process (mainly indirect charges), etc. The regional fact sheet grant idea is still being considered. It was not pursued due to time constraints this last year. Updating our research priorities list led to a discussion centering on our priorities is a laundry list of items that need to be consolidated and reorganized. The chair will work on this. Bob Nowerski offered to send the chair the priority list put together southern IPM center as an example. The group agreed that Swede Midge research should be added to the priority list.