**NE-1227 Annual Meeting Minutes (May 16th-18th, 2016)**

**Attending members**: KY – Bridges; NY - Butler, Quirk, Fortune, Giordano; WV - Dailey, Inskeep, Yao; PA - Pate, Ott, Diaz; VA - Ealy, Rhoads; NE – Wood; IA – Keating; MI- Memili; VT – Townson; NH - Miseirvitch, Tsang; WI – Wiltbank.

Attending Administration – Gary Thompson

NIFA representative – Mark Mirando

**May 16th, 2016**

2:00pm Welcome and call to order (Aileen Keating)

Jen Wood - Introductory discussion on rewrite

Gary Thompson - Key dates for rewrite:

 Sept 2016: request to write due

 Sept - Nov 2016: 1st complete draft due

 10/1/2017: Anticipated Start date

Joy Pate - Discussion on non-attendees

Gary Thompson - Removal of PIs performed by individual Exp Stations

- Gary will contact Exp Stations of those who do not attend to initiate removal process

Group - Continued discussion on collaborations with respect to the rewrite

2:40 Presentation of annual reports

Bridges (KY), Butler (NY), Dailey (WV), Diaz (PA), Ealy (VA), Wood (NE)

5:15 Adjourned for dinner

**May 17th, 2016**

8:30am Call to order (Aileen Keating)

Presentation of annual reports

Insleep (WV), Fortune (NY), Keating (IA), Memili (MI), Miseirvitch (NH), Ott (PA), Quirk (NY)

12:00 Adjourned for lunch

Presentation of annual reports

Rhoads (VA), Pate (PA), Giordano (NY), Wiltbank (WI), Yao (WV),

5:10pm Conclusion of Station Reports

Presentation of the plan of action for the rewrite (Jen Wood)

5:45 Adjourned for dinner

Mark Mirando report (8:45 - 9:40 am):

- 2 handouts provided: NIFA update and Presidents budget

Budget: Consistent (small) increases over last few years

 Full $700 000 million authorization request in Presidents budget

 Hatch Act: Flat funding

 Farm Bill: Organic Agr and Research Initiative could be of interest to group

 Overview of breakdown for allocations provided

Joy Pate: Noted less money for animals with respect to specialty crops. Mark Mirando agreed; suggested this is in response to lobbying pressures

Milo Wiltbank: Noted more money to larger grants at the expense of regular foundation-type grants. Mark Mirando indicated priority is to get the money authorized first with the proportions being adjusted subsequently

- RFAs mostly out, foundation RFA announced last Friday

- Dual-purpose / dual-benefits (with NICHD) approved for 3 more years. Program announcement being worked on. Mark Mirando noted what you study needs to be reasonably applicable to both humans and animals.

Sue Quirk: questioned whether age-distribution analysis of funding has been performed (given that only established PIs appear to be receiving the larger grants)

Joy Pate: Brought up White House report on predicated jobs / graduate numbers

 Current demand is exceeding graduate numbers

Mark Mirando: Agreed

Julio Giordano: Questioned allocation of applied versus bench research for funding

Mark Mirando: Applied grants get funded. Quality counts, not type of research and that there is usually a good balance of people on the panel. Suggested need to show impact better.

Mark Mirando: $4.6 million in Animal Reproduction

10% funding rate is very inefficient

Keith Inskeep and Milo Wiltbank - agreed

Gary Thompson report (9:40 to 10 am):

- Appropriations process. Full amount not previously asked for. A promising sign.

- Research Award. Nomination placed last year. Re-nominated this year with assistance of a professional writer. Being moved forward, indicating that NE-1227 won NE regional award. Nomination now goes to the science and tech committee.

NE-1227 was originally NE-1 (1st multistate in NE)

9:45 am: Mirando handed out NIFA impact cards. PIs should submit 2-3 sentences on impacts to NIFA

Gary Thompson report continued:

- Annual reports: format of 2014 report worked best. Suggested using this format.

Points to stress: collaborations, outreach and funding achieved due to interactions among the group.

Joy Pate - indicated we should format the station reports the same as the final report

Station Reports should be placed in drop box folder

Gary Thompson - Mid-term report has been posted, including progress, results, accomplishments versus objectives, linkages, funding, industry cooperation etc

- Re-write reminders:

Appendix E - Email Gary contact information of who should be removed

Deadlines discussed again:

Sept 2016: request to write due

 Sept - Nov 2016: 1st complete draft due

 10/1/2017: Anticipated Start date

10:30 to 11:20 am: Continued discussion on rewrite (Milo Wiltbank)

3 broad objectives: Ovarian function, pregnancy and reproductive management

Individual “sub-objectives” discussed as a group

Broke into small groups to discuss potential collaborations

Jen Wood: For rewrite, members need to provide-

- 2 to 3 sentences of accomplishments from previous 5 years by August, 2016

- Publications from last 5 years (2012 - 2017)

- 1 to 2 paragraphs on plan for next 5 years by October, 2016

- Indication of which Objective each PI fits under

11:20 am (Aileen Keating)

Nomination for new director:

Shelly Rhoads nominated (Aileen Keating), seconded by Alan Ealy, unanimously passed

Location for next year: Vermont discussed with Dave Townson to coordinate

Congrat’s given to Aileen (P&T passed this year)

Troy Ott: questioned whether overlap between regional projects is evaluated.

Gary Thompson: Yes, need to justify/explain overlap

11:45 am: Meeting adjourned