

## **NE-1227 Annual Meeting Minutes (May 15 and 16, 2017)**

Attending: PA – Pate, Ott, Diaz; NH – Tsang (plus Miseirvitch, graduate student); NY – Fortune, Quirk, Butler, Giordano, Cheong, Selvaraj; NE – Wood; WV – Inskeep, Dailey; KY – Bridges; WI – Wiltbank; VA - Rhoads, Ealy; IA - Keating; MS – Memili; VT – Townson; MA - Fissore

Attending Administrative Advisor: Gary Thompson  
Attending CREES rep: Adele Turzillo

May 15, 8:30 am: Welcome (Dave Townson) and call to order (Aileen Keating)

Presentation of Station Reports (8:30 am to 12:30 pm):

Joanne Fortune (NY)  
Aileen Keating (IA)  
Shelly Rhoads (VA)  
Francisco Diaz (PA)  
Jen Wood (NE)  
Sue Quirk (NY)  
Joey Miservitch (for Paul Tsang, NH)  
Dave Townson (VT)

12:30 to 2 pm:

Break for lunch and guest speaker, Sam Von Trapp (Trapp Family Lodge)

Continuation of Station Reports (2 to 4 pm):

Phil Bridges (KY)  
Keith Inskeep (WV)  
Joy Pate (PA)  
Troy Ott (PA)

4 to 5 pm:

Adele Turzillo NIFA report

- 2 documents had been forwarded to the group and were discussed

1) 2 page NIFA update

- Dr. Sonny Purdue (GA) is now Secretary of Agr
- Sam Clovis may be new undersecretary (not confirmed)
- 2 program specialist positions were filled to help Mark Mirando
- 1 retirement: Gary Sherman

2) Budget for FY 2017

- \$375 million received for AFRI
- HATCH funding remained consistent

- Gary Thompson clarified a few points to the group relating to how HATCH \$ are spent at different institutions

Adele:

- Some unanticipated increases in certain areas of budget were observed
- Fiscal Year 2018: Some speculation of a 20% cut

- Ron Butler brought up subject of next Farm Bill. Washington is preparing; some lobbying groups are active
- Troy Ott brought up subject of dispersal of competitive funds. Plants > Animal research; Speciality crops lobby extremely well

Adele:

- AFRI: All RFA's now out for 2017
- Challenge areas are morphing a little
- Increase in 2016 funding for Animal Research was a one-time increase to alleviate the backlog of outstanding applications that were not being funded
- Reminder of alternative (non-foundational) sources of funding  
For example, Engineering products and systems, Exploratory applications
- Dual purpose/dual benefits with NIH will likely cease in the near future

Gary Thompson and Adele discussed IMPACT statements. Don't discount the importance these. Best written in layman's language. Discussion ensued included difficulty of true economic analyses, need for better communication, fact that impacts are from many years of building upon research, not a single year's results etc.

Adele – Suggesting going to NIFA website for good examples

Gary – Reports can/will get rejected without them

- One or two good impacts per year work very well (rather than an inclusive statement, given the breadth of research)

Continuation of Station Reports (5 to 6 pm):

Bob Dailey (WV)

Erdogan Memili (MS)

6 pm: Adjourned

May 16, 8:30 am: Call to order (Aileen Keating)

Gary Thompson update:

- Annual Report (incl. minutes) due 90 days after meeting
  - Include IMPACT statement
- Re-write approved (very positive reviews)
- NE 1727 designation begins Oct 1, 2017
- Appendix E needs to be filled out by all participating members
- New project initiation (individual state initiation forms) need to be filled out before Oct 1, 2017. Check with individual institutions Exp. Station Offices for details.
- Individual state final reports due to USDA by Feb 1, 2018 (i.e. termination reports for 2017/NE1227)

General discussion on presentation of IMPACT statements ensued

Joy brought up current nomination for award. Some questions need answering; asked for input from group

Continuation of Station Reports (9 am to 12 pm):

Alan Ealy (VA)

- Included discussion of multi-state graduate level class.
- Currently involves Iowa State, Penn State, Tennessee, Virginia Tech and Wisconsin
- Planned offering in Fall, 2017

Ron Butler (NY)

Julio Giordano (NY)

Milo Wiltbank (WI)

Vimal Selvaraj (NY)

Raphael Fissore (MA)

Cheong So (NY)

Location of 2018 annual meeting briefly discussed – Cornell University of University fo  
Kentucky two potential locations

1:30pm      Meeting Closed