**Multi-State Project Meeting S-1053**

**Minutes and notes from the Annual Meeting**

 **December 4th, 2015**

**Time**: 9 am- 4 pm CST

**Location:** Noble Research Center – Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

**Member attendees:**

Fulya Baysal-Gurel Tennessee State University

Carla Garzon Oklahoma State University

Franz Lichtner Colorado State University (representing Kirk Broders)

Craig Rothrock University of Arkansas

Luisa Santamaria Oregon State University

Harald Scherm, University of Georgia (Administrative Advisor)

**Invited and student attendees:**

George Abawi Cornell University

Maria Soledad Benitez USDA-ARS Brookings, South Dakota

Nathan Walker Oklahoma State University

Stephen Marek Oklahoma State University

Fernanda Proaño-Cuenca Oklahoma State University

Andres Espindola Oklahoma State University

**Luisa Santamaria** (Chair) provided a brief overview of her applied research projects on root rot diseases in ornamentals caused by *Phytophthora plurivora* and *Pythium*. Also presented her current extension and outreach programs in and effort to educate the workforce at the nursery industry in Oregon using technology and hybrid classes.

**Harald Scherm**, the Administrative Adviser for S-1053, reported on a few national issues of interest. He mentioned the chartering of the public-private Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research which emerged out of the 2014 Farm Bill. Once matching private funds are secured, the Foundation will have $200 million to invest in research in two priority areas, 1) More productive, sustainable agriculture, and 2) Better health through food. The former priority area may be of particular interest to the group since it includes a sub-theme titled "Transforming soil health."

Scherm also mentioned the discussions that are currently ongoing at the national level regarding USDA's new Open Access implementation plan, which will have important implications for making both publications and the digital data that led to the conclusions in these papers available in publicly accessible and curated data bases. The details of how, where, and in what format these data should be deposited, and who pays for long-term duration, is still being worked out at this time.

With regard to NIFA funding programs, Scherm reported that the Center of Excellence provision will be carried forward into the FY16 RFAs, although the language may change based on review panel feedback during the previous funding cycle. If multiple members of S-1053 participated in a grant proposal, it should be relatively straightforward to make the case for a Center of Excellence.

**Carla Garzon** and her students provided information regarding their current research oncharacterization and identification of *Pythium* and *Globisporangium* species present in ornamental greenhouses from Long Island, NY in 2014 and the draft genome of *Sclerotinia minor.*

**Fulya Baysal-Gurel** provided information regarding current research on soil- borne diseases of woody ornamentals in nursery production systems in Tennessee.

**Craig Rothrock** provided information on Rhizoctonia and spatial soilborne disease pattern research in Arkansas.

**Franz Lichtner** on behalf of Kirk Broders provided an overview of work related to soil microbial community change over time and space relative to plant variety mixtures.

**Further discussions:**

Possibility of meeting at the 2016 APS Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida as a group to enhance collaboration and interaction in the group. **Harald Scherm**, **Carla Garzon** and **Fulya Baysal-Gurel** will be sending out e-mail in March to determine the meeting details.

Possibility of pre-application for USDA-NIFA SCRI Research and Extension Planning Project in December 2016. **Fulya Baysal-Gurel** will be sending out request to set up conference call in June 2016.

**Business meeting:**

Location for the next meeting was discussed and the meeting will be held in Tennessee (Nashville or McMinnville). The next chair (**Craig Rothrock**) and the new secretary (**Fulya Baysal-Gurel**) will be informing the group members regarding meeting date and location.

**Fulya Baysal-Gurel** was elected as the new secretary of the group for 2016.