**NC-1178: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Intensification of Agroecosystems and Soil Carbon Dynamics Regional Project**

**Meeting Location:** Agronomy & Horticulture Dept., University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dates: June 27-28, 2016

**Chair:** Humberto Blanco, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Secretary:** Francisco Arriaga, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Secretary-elect:** Sandeep Kumar, South Dakota State University

**Members Attending:**

Mahdi Al-Kaisi, Iowa State University

Francisco Arriaga, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Humberto Blanco, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Larry Cihacek, North Dakota State University

Mohammad Golabi, University of Guam

Sandeep Kumar, South Dakota State University

Rattan Lal, The Ohio State University

Ken Olson, University of Illinois

Gary Pierzynski, Kansas State University (Advisor)

DeAnn Presley, Kansas State University

**Guests:**

One graduate student with Dr. Kumar

Three graduate student with Dr. Blanco

**June 27, 2016**

9:00am Meeting called to order by Blanco. He gave welcoming remarks and discussed logistics of meeting.

9:05-9:20 Self-introduction of attendees. Some discussion by attendees took place related to having the 2017 meeting in Guam. Some members noted that they might not be able to attend due to time commitment to travel to Guam, costs and other already planned travel. It was noted that prior approval is needed due to costs. Blanco suggested to table this discussion for later.

9:40-10:15 Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Department Head of the Agronomy and Horticulture Department, gave welcoming remarks. A background of the Department was provided, including changes in the number of students and faculty positions. In general, the state of UNL agricultural programs seems strong with good support from UNL administration and the state legislature.

10:15-10:45 Pierzynski reported on administrative topics related to the regional project. Committee information is up-to-date, including reports. He noted that this year’s report is due 60 days after the meeting is over, which includes the annual report and meeting minutes. He also noted that the main report should be a summary synthesized from the states reports and not just a compilation. The mid-term review is due December 2016, which he will provide. Golabi asked a question related to the format of state versus the committee report; it was noted that the format of the state reports should follow a similar format to that of the committee report to facility the secretary’s work. A discussion on the format by the members followed. Individual state reports are to be sent to the secretary (Arriaga). Using information from the members’ discussion, Arriaga sent a template with the format via Email to facilitate creation of individual state reports, which are due to him on July 12.

This project expires in 2019, therefore the renewal documents will be due Fall 2018.

The NIMSS system has changed and improved. Login user credentials need to be updated.

As a member of the Inter-Governmental Technical Panel on Soil (Global Soil Partnership, FAO), Pierzynski remarked that ecosystems services are of great importance, and that soil organic carbon presents a significant role on these services. It was highly suggested to keep this in mind for the project renewal process. A discussion by the members on soil health and soil carbon followed.

10:45-10:57 Break

10:57-11:30 Election of secretary for 2018. A discussion of the secretary position and meeting hosting followed. This discussion followed the earlier one of having the 2017 meeting in Guam. Lal moved to have Golabi be the host in 2017, but keep Kumar as secretary. Presley stated that cost of travel to Guam was a concern, especially since she has already planned an international trip in 2017. Golabi mentioned that the airfare to Guam is typically around $1,500. Al-Kaisi stated that each universities experimental station typically provides $1,000 for traveling to regional project meetings, but the rest of the cost then falls on the individual member to cover. Olson and Golabi noted that the last time the meeting was in Guam, another conference took place at the same time and that helped cover additional travel costs. Another possibility is to have the meeting before or concurrent with the Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference, which will be held in Madison WI in 2017. It was also noted that approval from USDA is needed to have the meeting in Guam.

Lal moved to explore the possibility to have Guam as the host of the 2017 meeting. Cihacek second. Votes: 8 Yea, 1 Nay.

Cihacek moved that if the meeting in Guam is not possible in 2017, to explore then the possibility to have this meeting the day before the SWCS conference begins. Al-Kaisi second. Vote: unanimous Yea.

Discussion on the 2019 chair (members are elected as secretary for a year and the following year they serve as committee chair) followed. Cihacek moved to have Kumar as 2018 chair (i.e. 2017 secretary) and Al-Kaisi as 2019 chair (i.e. 2018 secretary). Vote: unanimous Yea.

Additionally, it was agreed to engage with Lisa Tiemann (University of Michigan) as her research work includes soil carbon cycling, which is of interest to this committee, and MI is an integral part of the North-Central Region. Blanco or Arriaga will contact Dr. Tiemann. Also, Presley volunteered to contact Shalamar Armstrong (Purdue University) as another potential recruit for the committee.

Randy Miles retired from the University of Missouri and it wasn’t clear if there is a replacement. Similarly, it is unknown who would be a contact for the University of Minnesota.

11:30-11:33 Presley brought up that she will be serving as program chair for the SWCS meeting in 2017 (Deanna Osmond, NC State served for the 2016 meeting), and that there is an opportunity for someone within this committee to serve as the SWCS program chair for the 2018 conference. The program chair helps with abstracts, technical side of the conference and help with organizing submitted abstracts to different sessions. The mission of SWCS aligns well with interests of this committee. Arriaga showed some interest and will think about it.

11:36-12:05 State Reports (see attached report documents); OSU

12:05-1:45 Lunch Break

1:45-5:35 State Reports continued (see attached report documents); U of I, U of G, ISU, SDSU, NDSU, UW-Madison, KSU and UN-Lincoln

5:35-5:47 Discussion of committee outputs lead by Blanco. Discussion on potential publications with multiple state committee members, or book to include research findings related to this regional project. Potential topic or title “Agricultural Intensification and Carbon Dynamics”.

5:47pm Meeting adjourned

**June 28, 2016**

7:30a-4:00p Field Tour (see attached agenda for details)