

Multistate Research Activity Accomplishments Report
Multi-State Project NC1173, “Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health”
Business Meeting
Marc Linit, Project Director
Juliana Rangel-Posada, Project Chair
Friday, 8 January 2016, 4:15pm – 6:00pm, Tournament A
Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), FL

Project/Activity Number: NC1173

Project/Activity Title: Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health

Period Covered: 1 January to 31 December 2016

Date of This Report: 10 January 2016

Annual Meeting Date(s): 8 January 2016

1. Call to order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Juliana Rangel at 4:23 pm.
2. Roll call
 - a. The following people attended the meeting:
 - Marc Linit, linit@missouri.edu
 - Juliana Rangel, jrangel@tamu.edu
 - E. N. Escobar, enescobar@umes.edu
 - Mary Purcell, mpurcell@nifa.usda.gov
 - Brian Eitzer, brian.eitzer@ct.gov
 - David R. Tarpy, drtarpy@ncsu.edu
 - Michelle Flenniken, michelleflenniken@gmail.com
 - Greg Hunt, ghunt@purdue.edu
 - Olav Rueppell, olav_rueppell@uncg.edu
 - Pat Pono, info@nybeewellness.org
 - William Meikle, William.meikle@ars.usda.gov
 - Steve Pernal, steve.pernal@agr.gc.ca
 - Dennis vanEngelsdorp, dvane@umd.edu
 - Marla Spivak, spiva00@umn.edu
 - Judy Wu-Smart, jwu-smart@unl.edu
 - Zachary Huang, bees@msu.edu
 - Hongmei Li-Byarlay, hlibyar@ncsu.edu
 - John Burand, jburand@microbio.umass.edu
 - Tom Webster, Thomas.webster@kysu.edu
 - Reed Johnson, Johnson.5005@osu.edu
 - Elina Niño, elnino@ucdavis.edu
 - Jennifer Tsuruda, jtsurud@clemsun.edu
3. Chair’s report on current membership
 - a. The committee chair, Juliana Rangel, discussed the membership of the group (http://www.nimss.org/projects/view/participant_list/16199) and asked those present in the meeting whether they belonged to the NC1173 working group or not.

4. Project Director's report
 - a. Project Director Dr. Marc Linit discussed how to access the National Information Management & Support System (NIMSS) website, where information about the NC1173 project is located. You can go to the website <http://www.nimss.org/> then search for NC1173, view, all info on project on the left panel, and participant directory appears.
 - b. These multistate projects are five years long. We are finishing up the second year of the project. Past committee chairs David Tarpy and Reed Johnson requested an extension of the project. Next year we will have to do a project review, showing evidence of collaborations, interactions, tangibles, publications. Therefore each project participant needs to write a brief summary of the work that is being performed by his/her group, with whom, what objective of the project is being addressed, etc. Creating a template document that can be sent to everyone to fill out will be a good idea.
 - c. US Congress passed its budget in December 2015, and the USDA did well, better than expected. NIFA got an increased budget of \$37 million, \$25 million of which is in the AFRI program. NSF got a 1.6% increase in its budget compared to last year. The EPA got a flat change in its annual budget. The NIH got a 6.6% increase over last year's budget. The transportation bill for the highways' Bee Act was passed (unsure of amount).

5. Presentation by Mary Purcell on whiteboard priorities/report
 - a. Dr. Mary Purcell-Miramontes from the USDA gave a report on news for the USDA-NIFA and AFRI programs. In June 2014, President Barack Obama sent a memorandum for a federal strategy to promote all pollinators. There are three goals for this National Strategy:
 - i. Decrease overwinter losses in honey bees by 15% within 10 years
 - ii. Increase the eastern monarch butterfly population to 225 million occupying 15 acres in Mexico by 2020
 - iii. Restore and enhance 7 million acres of pollinator habitat by 5 years
 - b. The national pollinator action plan has many collaborators including the USDA-RS, NIFA, NRCS, ERS, NSE, NIH, etc. The document has 92 pages.
 - c. Project "white boards" provide information to the USDA secretary Vilsack and the science advisor. Mary Purcell will send the NC1173 chair a final version of the whiteboard for pollinator research and she will pass it to the rest of the NC1173 members for them to fill out.
 - d. Some of the \$25 million budget for the USDA has new programs with new names:
 - i. Agriculturally important pests and beneficial species (formerly known as plant-associated insects and nematodes), contains standard grants, conference grants, new investigator grants, seed grants, sabbatical and equipment grants, primarily fundamental research. Expect 10% success rate for these.
 - ii. New Frontiers in Pollinator Health. Primarily applied and integrated research but with a strong extension and/or education component. Similar types of awards as the item above, expect about 20% success rate. These grants have a problem-solving approach that has to be linked with the pollinator action plan. Letters of Intent are required for both grant programs.
 - iii. The RFA for foundational programs and Food Security Area LIO will be in spring, 60 days after the RFA is released. Proposal deadlines will be in summer

about 120 days after the RFA is released. Panel and funding decisions will be in fall.

- iv. There is a new collaborative grant opportunity: USDA-Northern Ireland-Ireland 2016 AFRI grant. 3-way funding between AFRI, Ireland and the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture. Plant associated insects, nematodes and animal programs.
6. Discussion on interest by members of the AAPA and the NC1173 Multi-Regional Project on hosting joint “business meeting” at ICE-ESA meeting in Orlando, September 2016 to work on USDA’s Pollinator Research Action Plan progress report.
 - a. There was no positive move to have a joint meeting during the ICE.
 7. Open discussion on progress report, challenges and plans for 2016 for all member institutions and their representatives
 - a. Creating a template document that can be sent to everyone to fill out will be a good idea.
 8. Location of 2017 NC1173 meeting
 - a. The group voted positively on holding the next NC1173 business meeting in conjunction with the joint meeting taking place in Galveston, TX, 10-13 January 2017, between the American Honey Producers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation.
 9. Adjourn
 - a. The meeting was adjourned by Juliana Rangel at 5:45 pm.