

**Minutes for the Multi-State Project NC1173, “Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health” Business Meeting. Marc Linit, Project Director. Juliana Rangel, Chairperson.
Reed Johnson: Note taker.**

**Thursday, 12 January 2017, 5:00pm – 6:30pm
Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, TX**

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:18PM by Chairperson Juliana Rangel (Texas A&M).

2. Roll call

Roll call was conducted by a sign-in sheet. In attendance were Geoff Williams, Reed Johnson, Judy Wu-Smart, Keith Delaplane, Zachary Huang, Ramesh Sagili, Marla Spivak, Brian Eitzer, Greg Hunt, Tom Webster, Cathy Neal, Laura Brutscher (representing Michelle Flenniken), Marc Linit and Juliana Rangel.

3. Chair’s report on current membership (Juliana Rangel)

Dr. Rangel announced that the multi-state project currently has 38 participants registered in the NIMSS system and displayed the NC1173 participant list on the projector. She invited unregistered participants to contact their Experimental Station Director to get added to the official participant list.

4. Project Director’s report (Marc Linit)

Marc Linit (University of Missouri), the Project Director, complimented the group on the excellence of the 18 student presentations made on the first day of the meeting and noted the way the group leverages the multi-state project into a substantial meeting.

Dr. Linit explained that multi-state projects like NC1173 are a way for Ag Experiment Stations to meet their requirement to spend 25% of allocated Hatch funds on multi-state research. The “NC” in our projects designation indicates that the project originated in the North Central region, but anyone around the country is welcome to join and membership is not limited to North Central region participants.

Our current approved project runs from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2019 and we’re soon up for mid-term review. Dr. Linit noted that Annual reports must be filed 60 days after each meeting and that these reports will be the basis for the mid-term review and that we should use past annual reports as a model for future reports. These annual reports should document collaborative research between members of the project in different states and should include “Impact Nuggets” that capture the nature of our research in a concise way that non-scientists can immediately understand.

Since we are in the middle of the current 5 year project Dr. Linit advised us to begin thinking about what we want to do after the project expires. The group has 3 options: 1. Terminate the project, 2. Renew as a “funded” project with a new proposal and research objectives that demonstrate multi-state collaborative research 3. Renew as a NCERA project focused on extension activity.

Dr. Linit noted that renewing as a NCERA project would allow us to focus our meetings on sharing research and extension work without the expectation of collaborative grants and research. Given our current research meeting all that would be required as an NCERA is that we continue to have annual meetings. However, moving from a “funded” research project to a NCERA may cause some members to lose travel and/or research funding.

Dr. Linit noted that the federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017 and the future of USDA funding is uncertain after that time.

Nominations for the vice-chairperson, who will be responsible for writing the next project in 2018, were taken from the floor. Brian Eitzer (Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station) nominated Judy Wu-Smart (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) for the position of vice-chairperson. Juliana Rangel seconded. Dr. Wu-Smart was elected to the 2-year position of vice-chairperson by unanimous voice vote.

5. Open discussion on progress report, challenges and plans for 2017 for all member institutions and their representatives

- a. The Chair’s report was made by Dr. Rangel. She reviewed the 6 objectives of the current project and encouraged any members that had not yet reported their activities to fill out and return the template she had distributed by e-mail in December as soon as possible, but no later than the end of January. She noted that photographs can be included in the reports illustrating research and extension activities.

NC1173 Website:

https://www.nimss.org/projects/view/mrp/outline/16199/projects/view/participant_list/16199

Objectives

1. To evaluate the role and causative mechanisms of parasitic mites, viruses, and microbes in pollinator abundance and honey bee colony success
2. To facilitate the development of honey bee stock selection, maintenance and production programs that promote genetic diversity and incorporate traits conferring resistance to parasites and pathogens
3. To determine how land management practices affect pollinator nutrition and how nutrition affects honey bee colony productivity and success
4. To assess the effects of exposure to pesticides and other xenobiotics on the survival, health and productivity of honey bee colonies and pollinator abundance and diversity

5. To determine the effects of interactions among various factors affecting pollinator and honey bee colony health
6. To develop and recommend "best practices" for beekeepers, growers, land managers and homeowners to promote honey bee and pollinator health

NC1173 Project Report Content

1. **Impact Nugget:** A concise statement of advancements, accomplishments and impacts. (Limit to 1-2 sentences)
 2. **New Facilities and Equipment.** Include production areas, sensors, instruments, and control systems purchased/installed.
 3. **Unique Project Related Findings.** List anything noteworthy and unique learned this year that can be captured under this project.
 4. **Accomplishment Summaries.** Draft one or two short paragraphs (2 to 5 sentences each) that summarize **NC1173-ONLY** research or outreach accomplishments that relate to the project objectives (i.e., work that you have done with others in the group). Please use language that the general public can readily comprehend.
 5. **Impact Statements.** Please draft 2 or 3 impact statement summaries related to the project objectives. Statements should be quantitative when possible and be oriented towards the general public. This is perhaps the most difficult yet most important part of the report.
 6. **Published Written Works.** Include scientific publications, trade magazine articles, books, posters, websites developed, and any other relevant printed works produced. Please use the formatting in the examples below.
 7. **Scientific and Outreach Oral Presentations.** Include workshops, colloquia, conferences, symposia, and industry meetings in which you presented and/or organized.
 8. **Fund leveraging,** specifically, collaborative grants between stations and members.
 9. **Other relevant accomplishments and activities.**
- b. Dr. Rangel went through an e-mail provided by Mary Purcell-Miramontes at USDA-NIFA-AFRI outlining current and future funding opportunities available within AFRI (see attached e-mail). The content of the email is below:

Hi Juliana, Here are several funding opportunities that support pollinator health research, educational and extension projects in 2017. I have provided contact information for all of them. I hope this is useful. Mary Purcell-Miramontes, NIFA

1. AFRI Foundational RFA: (expected release in late January 2017).

- a. Stand-alone pollinator health program (no longer offered in the AFRI Food Security Challenge Area RFA). We expect the date of release to be in January or early February. Standard research grant requests are a maximum of \$1 Million per project (including indirect costs) for up to 5 years. Projects should align broadly with one or more of the priorities in the White House Pollinator Research Action Plan.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pollinator_research_action_plan_2015.pdf

Institutions that qualify for FASE funding (EPSCoR states, minority serving or small-mid-sized institutions that are less successful in receiving federal grants) may apply for seed grants (up to \$150,000 for 2 years), equipment or sabbatical grants. Conference grants are also supported (average amount is \$15,000—no indirect costs allowed for conferences). Contact Mary Purcell-Miramontes for this.

b. **Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE) Program** Supports projects that address any of the 6 farm bill priority areas (e.g., Pollinator health fits the Plant health farm bill priority). Grants must be stakeholder-driven, implementation-focused and include research and extension components. Maximum award size is \$300,000 for up to 3 years (including indirect costs). No seed, equipment, sabbatical or conference grants are supported. For questions about project suitability and other information, contact Dr. Charlotte Kirk-Baer, cbaer@nifa.usda.gov

c. **Exploratory Research Program** supports for novel and innovative or high risk projects that develop proof of concept for untested ideas. Grants must not exceed \$100,000 per project (including indirect costs) for up to 2 years. For questions about project suitability and other information, contact Dr. Charlotte Kirk-Baer, cbaer@nifa.usda.gov or Dr. Liang-Shiou Lin, llin@nifa.usda.gov

2. **AFRI Education and Literacy Initiative RFA (formerly AFRI Fellowships)** The AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI) targets talented, highly-motivated undergraduate, doctoral, and postdoctoral students that demonstrate remarkable promise and the potential to become exceptional education, extension, and research professionals in the United States. This grant program provides fellowships to undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students in the agricultural sciences. The program's goals are to: a) Promote research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills; b) Prepare the next generation of scientists through doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. Funded projects will encompass the AFRI Challenge Area and AFRI Foundational Programs, through well-developed and highly engaged mentoring and training activities. Contact: Dr. Ray Ali, rali@nifa.usda.gov, Tom Bewick, tbewick@nifa.usda.gov

3. **Crop Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants RFA: Extension Implementation Program (EIP). A priority for Pollinator Health is included.** Maximum award size is \$900,000 for 3 years (up to \$300K per year). For information, contact Dr. Herbert Bolton, (202) 401-4201 or hbolton@nifa.usda.gov

4. **Specialty Crops Research Initiative.** <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/specialty-crop-research-initiative-scri>
Contact Dr. Tom Bewick, tbewick@nifa.usda.gov

6. Location of 2018 NC1173 meeting

When the minutes were written, the location of the 2018 NC1173 meeting was unknown. It was decided that the location for the 2018 meeting would be decided on January 13 at the AAPA business lunch. A couple of days after the meeting, the location of the meeting was determined based on where the Apiary Inspectors of America will meet, which will be during the 2018 ABF Conference & Tradeshow, January 10-13, at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada.

7. Other business

Dr. Linit advised that the number of student reports be included in our annual report to highlight student involvement in the multi-state research meeting.

8. Concluding remarks

Chairperson Rangel thanked those that attended the meeting and encouraged them to attend the ABRC poster session following the meeting.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00PM by chairperson Juliana Rangel.

Minutes were compiled by Reed Johnson (Ohio State University) and Juliana Rangel (Texas A&M University).