NCERA 220 Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2017; 1 – 5 PM; Indianapolis

Omni Severin Hotel – 40 W Jackson Place, Indianapolis, IN 46225; Indiana Room

Present: George Heimpel (Minnesota), Jen White (Kentucky), Brian McCornack, Bob Wright (Nebraska), Luis Canas (Ohio), Matt Grieshop (Michigan)

1. Introductions

2. Review of current status of committee

 a. Recent approval and cycle – committee is renewed for the next 5 years. But representatives need to submit their forms again.

 b. Representation by state –

North Dakota – Jason Harmon will be representative

South Dakota – no current rep. Adam Verenhorst has not replied to invitation from George. Louis Hessler. George will reach up to him.

Nebraska – Julie Peterson is official representative. Bob is present at the meeting.

Kansas – Brian, John (admin advisor). Brian has asked JP if he is interested in participating. Agroecosystem Landscape Management position opened (David Margolis will retire in 2017).

Minnesota – George Heimpel is representative.

Iowa – Matt O’Neal is representative

Missouri – Debbie Finke, Ben Puttler has also been active

Michigan – Matt Grieshop is representative. New faculty member would start in January. Matt does not know if he would go to Madison, because of course commitments.

Wisconsin – no representative currently. George, reached out to Claudio Gratton and he has agreed to represent. Shaw Stephan would be another good person to invite, but double check if his appointment allows.

Illinois – no representative currently. Lee Solter was the representative. Marianne Alleyne should be invited (Luis to contact). Check out our bylaws to see who can serve on our committee. That way we can ask department chairs. Adam Davis is another possibility.

Ohio – Luis Cañas, and Mary Gardiner. Need to invite Kelley Tilmon to participate.

Indiana – Ian Kaplan has agreed to represent.

Kentucky – Jen is representative. John Obrycki is working on new projects. Raul Villanueva.

Question: can someone from a private biological control company participate in the group? They cannot be the official representative, but they can be invited.

 c. Representation by BC topics (classical, augmentation, conservation; arthropod, weed)

Classical

Augmentation

Arthropod

Weed – weak in this area

Parasitoids

Predators

Pathogens – weak in this area

Modeling work?

Can we identify why we do not have people working on weed biological control and insect pathogens? Maybe develop a white paper to identify potential weaknesses in this area. We might consider reaching out to Insect Pathologist even if they do not do biological control. Identify the health of biological control at the different states. We could compare it to the different regions. Maybe reach out to people in companies that are working here in the US. Examples include Koppert, Biobest, others.

What are our objectives and goals? Establish a critical mass and find out how we collaborate on grants, classes, etc.

It seems currently the activity in biological control is picking up.

3. Follow-up from the last meeting

 a. A ‘clearinghouse’ for educational materials

Talked about classes that could be offered. Books and papers that have been produced.

Create a list of classes being offered by the group and provide it to every member.

Book by George Heimpel – Ecological aspects, he could make available to make available some powerpoints for classes. Reach out to other authors for this.

There are other three books – Ann Hajek, Van Driesche (how to…)

How do we make them available – use box for this. How could we organize this? Midwest Biocontrol Working group.

Steps: 1) box to include everything, 2) add to website with keywords, 3) then use this material to create public documents

Use Brian’s website with tags: author, key words, come up with a list of terms we can add to database. Create initially a database of terms and add the possibility of new terms.

Add papers as well.

Set up a conference call to follow up on this work.

We will start with lectures and papers (biocontrol activities)

**ACTION ITEMS:** Brian will give access to website, Luis will give access to box. Luis will set up Zoom meeting and send to members. Brian will set up Basecamp – to continue with the working group. Start with state reps. Then add people if they are interested.

**White papers?** Find them and revise some of the ideas (Doug Landis, John Obrycki). Maybe they could be published and/or included in policy statements.

 b. Summer BC Workshops

Was tied to Biological Control Institute.

Currently, Kris Wyckhuys is running a workshop.

Cornell is having Insect Pathology workshop.

Luis – augmentation implementation, workshop for 2019.

**Presentations and/or webinars** – try to come with ideas and then put in website for sharing. 10-15 min presentations, sending material (paper) in advance and then go into discussion. Provide information about what is going on. Start with members of the group presenting. Maybe develop 9 per year that would lead to summer workshop. Each state will be responsible for one. Send doodle poll to find times to start and for states to commit. Name= biocontrol blitz. Matt (Michigan) will do one in September and Brian (Kansas) = October. George (Minnesota) = November. Jen = probably in spring. Luis = December. Always try to use 2nd week of the month.

 c. BC symposium for the next NCB-ESA meeting (Wisconsin), also arrangements for next meeting

Cleveland symposium worked really well – Classical biological control

Symposium ready for this year – Host plant resistance and biological control

**ACTION ITEM:** Next year, list of ideas from previous years? Tentative title = “Biological control in fruit and vegetables”

Chris Phillips, possible organizer – ask people to commit students (Mary, Celeste, Luis). Ask others to think about participants. Luis will start ball rolling during NCB meeting. Matt (Michigan participation).

4. State Reports

 a. Oral reports of BC activities by state

 b. Written state reports. Continue as usual? Is there an alternative approach?

They are in the website. Need to add the ones from Ohio.

Ask for an example or go into the website to include. Request them again.

Send template to people to fill out. Title, key personnel, objective addressed, project description, keywords.

Meta- analysis (Matt – Michigan) = think about collecting data for meta-analysis, lecture metrics (download), questions in classes, maybe add lecture rating (?), feedback on use (analytics).

Edited volume of biological control in Midwest – history of the region, advances

Biological control scholars in this area

**Special issue in journal or book (electronic book?)** – Journal of IPM? Journal of Insect Science. Another open source? – George will take lead.

5. Next meeting (Madison, WI; March 18-21).

 a. Chair: M. O’Neal; need secretary.

Contact John so meeting is included in the planning for next year. Also, try to find a way to support travel for members that do not have support.

Invite people to our meeting that are not members (locals), so that we can increase our reach to other people.

Wednesday symposium this year.

6. Classes

 Online class

 Discussion based

 Connect campuses

 Wednesday and Thursday – maybe connect my class with theirs. Ask Brian M about this.

Kansas

Brian – symposium talks on beneficial insects

JP - Videos – lady beetles as predators of sugarcane aphids

Multi state protocol for sampling

Michigan

In the process of hiring a new biological control specialist

Work on Emerald Ash borer biological control

Spotted winged Drosophila work

Nebraska

Jeff Bradshaw – *Trichogramma ostriniae* (?) for western bean cutworm BC

Collaboration with Bob

Julie – BC in corn, using PCR-gut analysis, what predators are feeding on, western bean cutworm. Spiders in corn and habitat enrichment for pollinators and beneficials.

Kentucky

Ecology letters – land cover diversity increases predator aggregation and consumption of prey. Former Harwood people. Hannah Penn.

Differential aphid toxicity to lady beetles is not a function of host plant or facultative bacterial symbionts – Jennifer A. White

A window… – Jennifer A. White

Ohio

Mary Gardiner (6 papers) - Measuring biodiversity and arthropod mediated ecosystem services in urban vacant lands.

Celeste Welty (1 paper) - Management of insects on vegetables. Natural enemy impact on eggs of the invasive brown marmorated stink bug.

Kelley Tilmon (1 paper) - Insects attacking agronomic crops. Natural enemies and soybean aphid.

Luis Cañas (5 papers) – Insect ecology in controlled environments. Entomopathogenic nematodes, sweetpotato whitefly predators and modeling.

Minnesota

Dave Andow is back. Very active. Predator gut content analysis, organizing a symposium at ESA

George – soybean aphid, *Aphelinus certus* found by Jen (2009, 2010), graduate student showed this parasitoid by itself can control soybean aphid well. Grant for state wide evaluation. Native prairie skippers that are on endangered list (since 2000). Spraying for soybean aphid is leading cause for decline of these butterflies. Testing this hypothesis: can biological control save these butterflies? Conservation angle.

Invasive fly attacking Darwin finches (basic principles of BC).

Next chair: Matt O’Neal

Secretary: Julie?