NCERA220 Meeting – 3/18/20, Via Zoom

Attendees

1. Jason Harmon – North Dakota State University
2. Ben Puttler – University of Missouri
3. Mariana Szucs – Michigan State University
4. Deborah Finke – University of Missouri
5. Bob Wright – University of Nebraska
6. Jen White – University of Kentucky
7. Luis Canas – Ohio State University
8. Julie Peterson – University of Nebraska
9. John Ruberson – University of Nebraska
10. In light of the upcoming renewal, how do we feel about the group and how it is working?
    1. Good discussion about the group and its events.
    2. General consensus is that they like the group and that it works
    3. However, past proposals had perhaps over promised
    4. New proposal should focus more on activities that are currently working well
       1. Perhaps with a continuation of the recent priority of supporting early career professionals working in biological control
    5. Consensus was to keep the group and move forward with the renewal
11. **Renewal** – **Timing** [Thanks to Julie! – This timing and other resources based on her recent renewal experience are available at: https://unl.box.com/s/ixfwlxbznm0mbzvn8vbs5746fogl9xra
    1. OUR DEADLINE – SHOOT FOR MID-MAY TO HAVE A ROUGH FIRST DRAFT OF RENEWAL
    2. **September 15, 2020**: Deadline to submit a request to write a proposal in NIMSS and upload the Issues and Justifications section.
       1. I&J section needs to be submitted online by this date, but can be edited until Dec 1
    3. **October 15, 2020**: Deadline to upload the Objectives section in NIMSS. The NCRA office (Chris Hamilton) should be contacted when this is complete and they will send out the national request for participation.
    4. **Between October 15 and November 15, 2020**: anyone who wants to be a member of the new NCERA220 must complete an Appendix E form through their institution’s Ag Experiment Station.
    5. **November 15, 2020**: Ideally, all participants and their AES offices should have submitted completed Appendix E forms into NIMSS.
    6. **December 1, 2020**: Completed proposal is due in NIMSS in its entirely. Failure to meet this deadline may result in the project not being reviewed and renewed this round.
    7. **December 15, 2020**: Administrative Advisor review forms due in NIMSS.
    8. **Mid-late December, 2020**: All proposals are sent to NC regional review committees (NCACs) and multistate research committee (MRC)
    9. **Late March/Early April, 2021**: Final project reviews and decisions made at the NCRA Spring meeting. The NCRA office will notify project AAs of results and send any requested revisions to project AAs by mid-April.
    10. **June 1, 2021**: All proposal revisions must be completed in NIMSS.
12. **Renewal** – **Tips and Guidance from Discussion**
    1. Make sure to organize renewal for a group of folks coming together around a set of objectives
    2. They like to see progress on objectives
    3. Want ones that can be obtained
    4. Shape objectives around what is important now and will be important over next five years
    5. Produce some products that are valuable
    6. Synergize what you are already doing and create cross linkages
    7. Brevity is okay
    8. Be explicit about research and extension/outreach
    9. Two objectives are okay if there are clear sub-objectives that define the things that we are comfortable doing
    10. As we develop renewal and think about getting people back to submit their Appendix E to be part of new group, know we are not limited to just folks in the North Central region
13. **Renewal – Issues and Justifications**
    1. Using the last renewal as a guide, we will edit and update things to produce the next issues and justifications page
    2. This will be available as a shared google sheet for everyone to access and edit
       1. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mDPUYwAXSJxDNcevkhqMBeMCBAUOVRJKLXQTZItyB9A/edit?usp=sharing
14. **Renewal – New Objectives**
    1. We decided on two objectives, each with sub-objectives
       1. The first will focus more on out external activities
       2. The second will be more about our internal activities
    2. Again, these will be available as a shared google sheet along with our old objectives to use as is helpful.
       1. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mDPUYwAXSJxDNcevkhqMBeMCBAUOVRJKLXQTZItyB9A/edit?usp=sharing
    3. Individuals volunteered to help with writing the various aspects of these new objectives
    4. PROPOSED NEW OBJECTIVES (Briefly worked on together in the meeting)
       1. (External activities) Objective 1: Educate, train, and share information about biological control with…
          1. Sub-objective 1.1: Regular symposia (Jen)
          2. Sub-objective 1.2: Teaching (Luis & Marianna?)
          3. Sub-objective 1.3: Extension (Bob & Julie & Jeff)
       2. (Internal activities) Objective 2: Promote research on biological control of current and emerging regionally-important pests
          1. Sub-Objective 2.1: Quarterly meetings – current and emerging issues (Debbie & Jason)
             1. Taking the place of state reports
             2. Use as a means of networking and looking for help
             3. Can discuss possible funding opportunities + collaborations
             4. Make meetings informal, minimize paperwork
             5. NCB can be one of the quarterly meetings + whatever additional admin needed
          2. Sub-Objective 2.2: Promote graduate students and post-doctoral researchers in biological control (Jen)
    5. **Next step: Mid-May**
       1. Edit current document (issues)
       2. First draft of new objectives
15. **Election**
    1. Jen White agrees to be the next group Secretary (rotate to Chairperson after a year)
    2. Marianna takes over as current Chairperson