**SERA-3: SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES**

The committee met on March 17, 2021 via Zoom.

**Attendees:** Boyd Padgett (Chair, LSU), Ash Sial (Secretary, UGA), Ric Bessin (UKY), Joe LaForest (UGA), Glenn Studebaker (Ark. Cooperative Extension), David Monks (AA), Robin Boudwin (NCSU), Francis Reay-Jones (Clemson), Danesha Seth Carley (NCSU), Daniel Frank (VT), Sarah Thomas Sharma (LSU), Tom Royer (Oklahoma State), Rebecca Melanson (Mississippi State), Amer Fayad (USDA-NIFA), Norm Leppla (UF), Wanda Almodovar Univ. of Puerto Rico), Harald Scherm (AA), David Held (Auburn), David Kerns (TAMU), Vijay Nandula (USDA-NIFA), Henry Fadamiro (Auburn), Julie Chao (USDA OPMP), Clayton Myers (USDA OPMP), Carrie Castille (USDA-NIFA), William Hoffman (USDA-NIFA), Wendy Britton (Southern IPM Center)

Minutes read and approved.

Comments were made by Administrative Advisors David Monks and Harald Scherm. Mentioned the project must be renewed (expires September 2022). Writing committee will need to be formed. Review committee looks at goals and objectives, annual reports, website, and participant list.

Danesha Seth Carley provided an update on opportunities for collaboration among the group (multi-state). Suggested the group meet more frequently during the year. David Held suggested posting a spreadsheet of potential collaborations on the SERA3 webpage on the Southern IPM site. This would provide individuals in the group to identify areas of collaboration. Ash Sial suggested posting workshops on the SERA3 webpage (UGA IPM Academy). Provides programs/workshops to other states.

Danesha provided an update on the National IPM Coordinating Committee. Chairs and incoming chairs of NIMSS IPM committees invited to attend. The committee addresses IPM at the national level (pulls together the regions across the US). Three national priorities are: IPM communication, invasive species, resistance management.

Francis Reay Jones presented on MyIPM and regional collaboration. Application has expanded to field crops and across disciplines (diseases, insects, and weeds). Tool for identifying pests and making management recommendations. App developed by the Southern IPM Center. There are nine collaborating states. The Southern IPM Center wants to keep the application simple to encourage user use.

Carrie Castille (Director NIFA) provided an update on programs and budget. She introduced the NIFA representative Vijay Nandula and Amer Fayad. Spoke about the need for additional funding for IPM and setting research priorities. It was suggested good projects that are not funded be retained for future consideration. This will allow the reviewers to have a portfolio for future funding. There is concern that EIP grants that are not fully funded could results loss in salary for personnel associated with the grants.

Clayton Myers and Julie Chao provided a PowerPoint on USDA Office of Pest Management Policy. Responsible for 1) setting policy on pest management, pesticides, and agricultural biotechnology; 2) consult with stakeholders on pest management related actions taken by the USDA and other agencies; and 3) coordinate with EPA, FDA, and other federal and state agencies. Spoke about who are the stakeholders and federal pesticide regulation (impact on humans, animals, environment). Pesticide registration and re-revaluation was addressed. Mentioned OPMP role assisting EPA in registration (pest use, target pest, how much pesticide is used, how applied, etc), and the label used and directions. OPMP evaluate risk and benefits of specific pesticides.

Henry provided an update on Friends of IPM. Goals are to recognize outstanding individuals working in IPM and promote IPM. Mentioned the professional and graduate student award winners. Graduate student winners are Oluwatomi Ibiyemi (MS) and Kadie Britt (PhD). Mentioned signature program winners. There was discussion on making sure faculty receive nomination information in a timely manner and possibly expanding nomination categories to collaborators (example: producers) and other IPM categories.

Joe reminded to everyone to fill out the IPM Adoption and Impact Survey. Spoke about crop profiles and pest management strategic plans. Encouraged the IPM coordinators to get information out to faculty. Asked for input from the group if funding is sufficient for crop profiles ($1-2 K) and PMSP workshop ($2-12K). Group suggested crop profiles need to be funded at a higher level. Incorporate CP and PMSP into other grants. Form working groups for CP and PMSP.

Discussion on priority list. Limited discussion and the committee decided to meet at a later date to further discuss the priorities. It will be important to have a big list; however, the group needs to have a list of top priorities. Group decided to make edits and meet to finalize the list. Set a date for follow up. Proposed the end of March for a meeting.

Francis was elected secretary.

Adjourned

Committee met again on February 1st and 19th to discuss EIP collaborations and priorities.

**2021 Minutes of SERA3 (met virtually Zoom)**

March 31, 2021

**Participants:** Wendy Britton (NC, SIPMC), Ric Bessin (KY), Norm Leppla (FL), Joe LaForest (GA, SIPMC), David Held (AL), Ashfaq Sial, chair (GA), Danesha Seth Carley (NC, SIPMC), Daniel Frank (VA), David Kerns (TX), Rebecca Melanson (MS), Francis Reay-Jones, secretary (SC), Glenn Studebaker (AR), Tom Royer (OK), Boyd Padgett (LA).

**Discussion on writing letter to NIFA.** A letter to the program leader at NIFA was discussed to convey the following:

* Unique challenges related to the writing of complex EIP grant proposals given the line spacing and page limitations.
* Need for both more funding and for non-competitive funding for more sustainable IPM programs in the Southern Region, given the uniqueness of the EIP program relative to other programs.
* Need for more detailed feedback from NIFA and EIP review panels to better understand classification of grant proposals into funding categories to help IPM coordinators improve proposals from one cycle to the next.

**Proposal to ECOP and ESCOP.** Danesha Seth Carley will be writing a proposal to ECOP and ESCOP to request an increase in funding for IPM. Norm Leppla underlined the historical decline in funding in IPM to support this request. Ash Sial suggested a letter from the region with signatures of IPM Coordinators.

**Updates to SERA3 priorities.** Ash Sial stated the importance of these priorities to seek funding. Compared to other regions, the SERA3 priority list has historically been the shortest. Among a number of improvements and updates to the list, the following was discussed:

* In the section “projects that address critical IPM issues”, edits included adding climate change, adding new pest associations, host range expansion, and natural disasters.
* In the section “maintain and enhance sustainable public IPM infrastructure,” we clarified training of private vs. public IPM professionals, and liaisons with the Southern Region through the Southern IPM Center was clarified (IPM Coordinators, working groups, NGOs, other USDA programs, multistate Hatch projects, IR-4, SARE, and others).
* There was a consensus in the group to replace the “two or more states or territories” criteria for selection of IPM priorities with “priority is relevant to the Southern Region.” One concern was how to highlight pests that are significant in multiple states.
* Roger Magarey suggested using a poll to prioritize pests across the region, rather than listing a long list of all significant pests. The goal would be to clearly identify region-wide pest problems. Concerns with this approach were expressed, including that this approach would limit justification of pest problems for faculty members seeking funding. As a solution, the group agreed to add a top regional priority list, and keep a separate list with all other pests.
* Rebecca Melanson asked about the procedure for moving pests from the emerging to the established category, which is typically done by seeking input from state specialists in the region. Given the lack of clarity regarding these two categories, Rebecca will add a definition of each category for the group to review.
* A number of edits were made to the listings of pests, including:
  + Replacing red imported fire ant with imported fire ant.
  + Remove crop listings from fall armyworm, two-spotted mites, slugs and snails.
  + Replace pigweed with Amaranthus.
  + Remove “from FL via the Caribbean” for scales, mealybugs, and whiteflies.

Ash Sial asked that the group review the document over the next 2 weeks, with a follow-up meeting to be scheduled by Wendy Britton to finalize the 2021 SERA3 priorities.