

NE-1835 Resource Optimization in Controlled-Environment Agriculture

Annual Meeting – August 17, 2021, via ZOOM <https://msu.zoom.us/j/94355470200>

Password: NE1835

Business meeting

11:00 am EST

- Welcome and introductions (Brian Poel)
- Member introductions and approval of minutes from 2020
- Technical Advisor report (Adel Shirmohammadi)
 - Midterm report must be put together in preparation for the 2022 re-application
 - What objectives were not met and why/how can NIMSS support those objectives
 - Begin compiling previous years' reports for the re-application
 - Reapplication is due October 1, therefore we need to meet and establish new objectives
 - Framework for the next meeting on objectives needs to be clear prior to meeting
 - Therefore, we should put out the call for objectives well in advance to 2022 annual meeting as well as schedule that meeting well in advance of the Oct 1 deadline
- Discussion about strategies to reach out to new members
 - Suggestion to be expanding to HBCUs
 - John Erwin has reached out for collaboration and suggests this as an important step in improving diversity and expanding the reach of our impact
 - Keep in mind there might not be a mechanism for some departments to have funding to participate
 - Qingwu Meng suggests creating some documentation about how to integrate with the group as a new member
 - This would improve collaboration efforts of new and existing members and increase overall impact
 - Creation of a FAQ for new members in terms of how to apply for travel money etc
 - Ellen Paparozzi suggests disseminating the NE-1335 report to the group so members can familiarize themselves with previous objectives and successes
 - Brian will deliver report along with the meeting minutes
 - State ag experimental station is the final determiner of the status of additional members from that state
 - Increased collaboration of current members should be prioritized over membership expansion at this time
- Updates on collaborative research and grant activities (past, current, and proposed)
 - Textbook writing
 - Celina started up with the overview, but she has to step back because of commitments
 - Generally, everyone on the project has stressed time commitments and are not able to step into the leadership role
 - There's a need for the book, but is there a less intensive track?
 - No, compendium journal articles are not quite a substitute, since members are looking for something that can be leveraged for

teaching, though a full intensive 'textbook' is not necessarily the goal

- Something similar to the format of Light Management in Controlled Environments
 - Come up with some shared repository in order to compile chapters and make the management aspect of the task more manageable for the lead

12:00 pm ET Business meeting tabled for pre-arranged lunch break

1:00 pm ET Resumption of business meeting with NIFA Update

- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Update
 - Mat and Vance introduced themselves as the points of contact for NIFA
 - Mat – plant production/protection and organic farming
 - NIFA is hiring!
 - Bioenergy, Climate and Environment
 - Youth family and community
 - Division Directors
 - Plant systems production
 - Plant systems protection
 - Environment
 - National Program Leaders (all departments – horticulture, agronomy included)
 - National Science Liaisons
 - Education and workforce development
 - International development and supply chains
 - Any incoming funding for granting opportunities?
 - SAS program – follow up for more information on that
 - 2018 Farm bill – program on urban and indoor ag
 - SER (4 regions have their own research and education mandate)
 - There may be opportunities if you're involving a local producer for that grant
 - Question on NIFA proposal review process
 - Lack of constructive criticism on rejected proposals
 - The review panel is receiving increased training on proper review and response protocols
 - Are there granting opportunities coming up with the new infrastructure bills?
 - So far have not heard anything clear on that inclusion
 - Probably will come through USDA hq if there is anything included
- Discussion on joint outputs
 - Virtual field trips (previously run by Stephanie Barrett, Chris Currey, and)
 - Josh Craver (or Chad Miller) will likely head up HEC program
 - Letters of support are needed, so keep an eye out for a request
- Nomination and election of incoming secretary
 - Incoming chair is Roberto Lopez from Michigan State University
 - Election of secretary
 - Qingwu Meng (University of Delaware) is incoming secretary for 2021-22 and Chair for 2022-23
- Announcements and upcoming events and relevant conferences

- GLASE/LAMP/OptimiA workshop is starting in October
 - 6 afternoons (~3 hours per)
 - <https://glase.org/plant-lighting-short-course/>
- 2022 meeting – CAST or ASHS
 - ASHS Chicago (July 30th to Aug 3rd)
 - There is concern trying to secure a room for meeting would be prohibitively expensive
 - In the past, ASABE has worked with multistate groups to book a room in advance
 - Roberto will work with ASHS to determine feasibility of meeting concurrently
- Other new business
 - Potential to develop a website similar to John Erwin's plantgrower.org (something simple to serve as a landing place for new or potential members)
 - In addition to (or more important than) a website, we need a file sharing structure to house collaborative files like chapters to a potential textbook or an FAQ

1:45 pm ET Business meeting adjourned followed by station reports