

## **NE-1835 Resource Optimization in Controlled-Environment Agriculture Annual Meeting – July 31, 2022, in person and via Zoom**

In-person location: Hyatt Regency O'Hare - Tegel Room (Lower Level)

Virtual Zoom link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/99903704010>; password: NE1835

### *Business meeting*

9:00 AM CST

Welcome and introductions (Roberto Lopez)

Approval of minutes from 2021 (William Meng)

Technical Advisor report (Adel Shirmohammadi)

- The group needs to determine whether the group is on track to achieve objectives and reflect this in the annual report.
- Renewal process for NE1835: The group needs to submit a simple form on NIMSS by Fall 2022 (current project ends in Fall 2023). The renewal proposal needs to include what previous objectives have been achieved and what new objectives the group will pursue (e.g., climate change, water management, emerging efficiency tools, socioeconomic acceptability). The group needs to keep compiling all station reports (joint publications, students and personnel trained, grants developed, etc.). Roberto Lopez will ask senior founding members to help prepare proposal renewal writing and develop new objectives and how to work together as a group.
- Reaching out to HBCUs was brought up last year by John Erwin. The group needs to touch base and put effort in this matter.
- Website development was brought up last year by John Erwin. Updates are needed.
- Voting members are encouraged to talk with their Ag experimental stations to obtain travel funding to attend annual meetings and explore competitive seed funding possibilities (research or shared equipment).
- Roberto Lopez: Member stations need to submit station reports on time by August 10<sup>th</sup> to Qingwu Meng. There may be additional multistate funding for equipment; each member should check with their own station.
- Founding members with experience are needed to assist with the project renewal process.

Updates on collaborative research and grant activities (past, current, and proposed)

- Is the hydroponics book on hold? Roberto Lopez asks if anyone is interested in continuing this effort. Jennifer Boldt says John Erwin and Chris Currey were interested in spearheading this last year. Roberto encourages collaborative publications. Celina Gomez says for the last HortScience review article from this group, junior faculty wrote the bulk of it while senior faculty revised it. Ellen Paparozzi says it is also good to have joint trade magazine article series.

Membership report and brief introductions from new members

- Josh Craver (Colorado State Univ.), Yujin Park (Arizona State Univ.), Casey Barickman (Fluence), and Melanie Yelton (Plenty) are interested in becoming new members.

## Discussion on joint outputs

- See above.

## Nomination and election of incoming secretary

- Incoming chair is Qingwu (William) Meng (Univ. of Delaware)
- Election of secretary
  - Nominations are taken for the next secretary. Roberto Lopez says the role of the secretary is to assist meeting organization and preparation of annual reports. Shuyang Zhen (Texas A&M Univ.) is the only nominee. All approve of Shuyang Zhen being the new secretary.

## Announcements and upcoming events and relevant conferences

- Josh Craver: The National Floriculture Forum meeting will be held from Jan. 21 to 27, 2023 in Essen, Germany, Netherlands, and possibly Denmark. Josh will provide a QR code for people to express interest. More details will follow soon.
- Roberto Lopez: The IHC meeting will be in France in August 2022.

## 2023 meeting location

- Adel Shirmohammadi: The next ASPB meeting will be held in mid-July 2023 in Omaha, Nebraska. One possibility is to hold next year's NE-1835 meeting before this meeting. One NE-1835 member is with ASPB.
- The group needs to think about this beforehand.

## Other new business?

- The hydroponics book: Roberto Lopez will email the group the current outline draft and see who is interested and can commit time and expertise.
  - Brian Poel: This can be used as teaching aid.
  - Celina Gomez: The leading person is missing. This would be too much for an assistant professor to lead. A senior member is better to lead this.
  - Roberto Lopez: It is important to have an up-to-date hydroponics textbook. Roberto Lopez is willing to lead the effort, maybe with Neil Mattson.
  - Adel Shirmohammadi: The book may also include aquaponics. A collection article series can help junior faculty with tenure and promotion.
- A new USDA NIFA Urban, Indoor, and Emerging grant is requesting for applications.

10:45am CST Business meeting adjourned followed by station reports.