**Annual Business Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**North Central Extension and Research Activity (NCERA)-217**

**April 7, 2022, Ft Wayne, IN.**

Present: Lindsay Pease, Keegan Kult, Lynn Bradley, Kelly Nelson, Abigail Tomasek, Ramesh Kanwar, John McMaine, Vinayak Shedekar, Mark Dittrich, Jane Frankenberger, Matt Helmers, Eileen Kladivko, Laura Christianson, Ehsan Ghane, Falasy Anamelechi.

Online: Xinhua Jia, Gary Feyereisen, Jeff Strock

Meeting called to order by Chair Lindsay Pease at 7:33 AM EDT

**Approval of 2021 minutes (Lindsay Pease):** Motion to approve the 2021 minutes by Gary Feyereisen with the correction that the misspelling of Reid Christianson’s name be corrected. Seconded by Laura Christianson. Motion carried.

**Advisor’s report (Ramesh Kanwar):** The NCERA-217 is one of the most successful NCERAs, with many multistate projects and meaningful coordination occurring through the Conservation Drainage Network. An example of impact is that the Annual Meeting attracts over 110 attendees. Dr. Kanwar also appreciated the poster session at the botanical gardens during this year’s Annual Meeting. Dr. Kanwar is encouraged by the US EPA’s $12M annual funding allocation as part of the hypoxia task force.

Dr. Kanwar encouraged members to consider the north-central multi-state grant program. The deadline for this year’s program has passed (May 1), but something to consider for next year. This year’s focus was on climate change.

NCERA217 will expire 9/30/2024, therefore, we need to submit a renewal proposal in the fall of 2023. Dr Kanwar referred to the following link he provided via email: https://www.ncra-saes.org/new-renewal-nc-project-instructions.

June 6, 2022 is the deadline for submitting the annual report for NCERA-217. Dr. Kanwar referred to a link to the reporting guidelines he provided via email under #7: https://www.ncra-saes.org/multistate-handbook. Minutes of the meetings should be brief and not include the state reports but focus on collaborative activities with a multistate focus and impacts.

**Old business (Lindsay Pease):** Annual station report reporting period is calendar year 2021. Kelly Nelson encouraged state reports be submitted for the CDN impact committee and for summarizing annual report. Eileen Kladivko supported the idea of submitting annual state report. Kelly Nelson suggested state reports be submitted to NCERA217 chair (Jeppe), motion approved. Jeppe Kjaersgaard noted he will send an email with a reminder to submit state reports.

**Project and Committee Updates (Lindsay Pease):** Lindsay Pease introduced the overarching objectives of NCERA217, and initiated a discussion of updates and suggestions regarding them:

* Alternative drainage design: Xinhua Jia noted drainage water capture and reuse combined with sensing technologies has a lot of interest and encouraged continued work on this.
* Progress on nutrient loss: Eileen Kladivko stated that drainage is a prerequisite for being able to implement other practices, including cover crops, no or reduced till, etc.
* Emerging areas (such as, energy, GHG, pathogens):
  + Kelly Nelson noted Covid levels are being tested in waste and drainage water.
  + Lindsay Pease mentioned there were presentations regarding GHG emissions during yesterday’s session, but more studies are needed. Vinayak Shedekar noted carbon credits are not adequately accounted for in many companies’ carbon credit balances. John McMaine suggested considering including carbon intensity in carbon crediting. Keegan Kult noted trafficability is a factor in carbon intensity as well.
  + Jeppe Kjaersgaard noted there is a focus on micro and nano plastics, including nano-plastics in the environment including on cropland and in drainage water. Jane Frankenberger asked the question if plastic tile itself is a source of microplastics, especially as the tile age. Gary Feyereisen suggested microplastics would be a good topic for a future meeting session.
  + Ehsan Ghane said PFAS and PFOS are emerging contaminants also.
  + Matt Helmers noted neonicotinoids is being sampled for in drainage water in Iowa.

Ehsan Ghane encouraged developing a team to look at microplastics and PFOS/PFAS from a research perspective.

**Update on ASABE, ASA/SSSA or other committees or activities** (Lindsay)

* + 1. SERA-17 P Task Force meeting will be held Aug 9 – 10, 2022, Crookston, MN
    2. 11th International Drainage Symposium is scheduled for Aug 30 – Sep 2, 2022, Des Moines, IA. Matt Helmers and Chris Hay are co-chairs. A little over 100 abstracts submitted so far. Farm progress show is at the same time. John McMaine is chairing the program committee. Proceedings will be extended abstracts and will be housed in the ASABE library. Full length papers are due July 15 to be published as a special collection in the Journal of the ASABE.
    3. ASABE annual meeting on July 17-20, 2022. There will be a session on drainage education and outreach focused on honoring the contributions of Larry Brown. The session will have invited presentations.

There are also two technical sessions related to drainage, namely

* + - 1. Advances in Drainage, and
      2. Conservations Drainage for Reducing Nutrient Loss

**New business (Lindsay)**

* 1. **Election of vice chair-elect:** A particular activity for the vice chair elected this year is when that person is chair, the 5-yr charter for NCERA217 will need to be renewed. Lindsay Pease made a call for nominations for vice-chair. Jane Frankenberger nominated Abigail Tomasek as vice chair. The motion was seconded by Kelly Nelson and the election approved by acclamation.
  2. **Annual reports:** Please submit state reports for January to December 2021 to incoming chair Jeppe Kjaersgaard. Due 60 days after meeting (June 6, 2022)
  3. **Date and location for the next business meeting:** Next year’s business meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning during the 2023 CDN Annual Meeting. Jane Frankenberger suggested north-east Missouri (Kirksville, MO) to be hosted by Kelly Nelson. Another suggestion is Delaware-Maryland (Chesapeake area). The 2023 Annual Meeting Planning Committee will work with the CDN Steering Committee and the CDN membership to determine the location.
  4. **Other new business (Lindsay):** None
  5. Jeppe was welcomed as incoming chair, effective after today’s meeting.

**Adjourn:** Eileen Kladivko moved to adjourn, seconded by Jane Frankenberger. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 AM EDT.