**Minutes of the December 17, 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting of NCERA-59**

Meeting time:10:00 to 12:00 CST.

Participants:

*Present:*

Sindhu Jagadamma – Univ. of Tennessee

Will Horwath – Univ. of California-Davis

Ron Turco – Purdue Univ. – Administrative Advisor

Larry Cihacek - North Dakota State Univ.

Ann-Marie Fortuna – USDA-ARS, Oklahoma

Sandeep Kumar – USDA-NIFA Advisor

Stephen Machado – Oregon State Univ.

Rhae Djriber – Univ. of Nebraska

Michelle Wander – Univ. of Illinois

Ray Weil – Univ of Maryland

Dan Olk - USDA-ARS, Iowa

*Visitors:*

Rashad Alghamdi – North Dakota State Univ. - Post-Doc Associate (L. Cihacek)

Maria Batool – North Dakota State Univ. – Graduate Student (L. Cihacek)

*Not Present (but submitting reports):*

Thea Whitmann – Univ. of Wisconsin

Matt Ruark – Univ. of Wisconsin

Anna Cates – Univ. of Minnesota

Julie Grossman – Univ. of Minnesota

Jessica Gutknecht – Univ. of Minnesota

Carmen Ugarte – Univ. of Illinois

Jehangir Bhadha – Univ. of Florida

Mark Coyne – Univ. of Kentucky

Hannah Poffenberger – Univ. of Kentucky

The meeting was called to order by Chair L. Cihacek at 10:00 AM CST. He presented the welcome to the participants and provided a few administrative remarks. Since this was a virtual meeting, state reports would not be discussed except a few 2-3 sentence remarks at the end of the meeting if time permitted. Business as per the meeting agenda would be the focus of the meeting.

M. Wander would act as secretary for C. Ugarte who is currently out of the country.

Advisor’s Updates:

R. Turco noted that each Multi-State Committee is required to meet each year to remain in good standing. With issues still surrounding COVID travel for some people is still difficult for in-person meetings. This meeting fulfills the requirements for NCERA-59 for 2021.

He reported that currently there are no major changes anticipated within the Multi-State research Committee system and that also applies to NCERA-59. The committee will need to submit a report within 60 days of this meeting.

L. Cihacek asked that that the committee participants get their reports in to him by December 31 so he can compile the report. All committee participants are expected to submit a report for their state. Since this the first meeting since the new iteration of the committee began on October 1, 2021, not everyone may be on the participant list. He will work to notify those who have not yet been listed on the new project. You may need to check with your experiment station to get on the list. Some individuals got late invites because of email address problems and may not have been able to attend.

S. Kumar (former committee member) has just recently mover to his current position at USDA-NIFA and did not have a formal report but was participating in a listening mode.

*Old Business:*

The revision of NCERA-59 was approved for a 5-year period beginning on October 1, 2021through September 30, 2026. L. Cihacek reviewed the new project objectives which are similar to the objectives of the previous project with some small changes. This project is one of the longest standing multi-state committees within NIFA. Part of its success is in its activity in publications and generating key group products.

The main old business point of discussion was the way forward for the C Methods book that has been considered for some time now. A-M. Fortuna and the chair of the SSSA Methods Book Committee were recently asked to provide leadership for the book going forward and Fortuna lead the discussion.

Richard Eastby is the SSSA representative to Wiley for book publications and is willing to do the technical editing of the book. A discussion followed relating to which chapters that had originally been submitted had been published elsewhere and what was still available; what formats were available; and deciding what was relevant. The consensus was that the book should be organic matter focused and not soil health focused. M. Wander encouraged that the physical characteristics should be split up into more chapters and mirror some of what is in the chemical section.

R. Turco noted that SSSA is interested in publishing chapters as they come in. Books can be compiled in this way – a chapter at a time. This is a different approach than the previous approaches of compiling a book. This needs to be clarified how this is to be accomplished- as well as getting the impacts of the material clarified. An example of the POXC chapter in the new Soil Health Methods, Part 2.

A-M. Fortuna asked who would be willing to do this review of materials. D. Olk is willing to review the chemical methods. L. Cihacek will send out the book outline and individuals can review and make recommendations as to what is needed.

Several items were put on the table regarding the orientation of the book. M Wander asked what are the choices between book chapters and their collection? Is this going to be useful as a textbook? A-M. Fortuna thought that the idea was originally that it was a book that could be used as a textbook. D. Olk noted that the original plan was that it was going to use Methods of Soil Analysis as the organizational template. A-M. Fortuna recalled that previous discussion wanted a book where the text or chapters were available to students.

W. Horwath noted that we as a committee are focused on C (not N) so that understanding how C is involved in different aggregate fractions should be a component in the book. R. Weil pointed out gaps we have in our knowledge on handling different forms of C such as black-C (chars) in soil. A reference, text, or a methods (reference ) approach should include a discussion of methods. There is often a lack of understanding of how to adapt a “recipe” to your soil. A chapter/discussion should provide an overview of a method, strengths, weaknesses, and share the detail of one method including the significance and function. From the discussion, the monograph format seemed to be most popular. A-M. Fortuna reminded us that this was the format that a previous committee member used in his book – tried and true, strengths and weakness. M. Wander wondered whether ISO standards need to be included and probably should be acknowledged at a minimum.

L. Cihacek will adapt a list of chapters, and revise them with a new framework that mirrors R. Weil’s suggestions.

*New Business:*

Timelines for reports:

State reports need to be in to L. Cihacek by December 31 so that the committee report can be submitted by the end of January 2022.

New leadership for 2022:

C. Ugarte is the current secretary and will be chair in 2022. Since several participants had to leave the virtual meeting, the election of the new secretary was postponed until a later date. Names for nomination were discussed including L. Tiemann, H. Poffenberger, and J. Bhadha.

C. Ugarte is willing to contact the individuals to see who is willing to serve and L. Cihacek will set up an election poll.

Illinois is willing to host next year’s meeting. We should have another meeting (likely virtually) to discuss details and to follow up on today’s discussions and check on progress.

Duties of the Committee leadership are outlined under the Governance Section of the project outline available in NIMSS.

A few minutes were still available near the end of the virtual meeting, so the remaining participants each presented a 2-3-minute summary of their current activities.

The meeting was adjourned by L. Cihacek at 12:00 PM CST.