

**Meeting Minutes**  
**NCR-197, Agricultural Safety and Health Research and Extension**

November 6-7, 2002  
Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport North  
St. Louis, MO

**Members Present:**

Robert Aherin, University of Illinois  
Connie Baggett, Penn State University  
Thomas Bean, The Ohio State University  
Willard Downs, University of Missouri – Columbia  
William Field, Purdue University  
Dennis Murphy, Penn State University  
John Myers, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown  
Mark Purschwitz, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Secretary  
Brad Rein, USDA-CSREES  
Charles Schwab, Iowa State University, Chair  
Keith Tinsey, Michigan State University  
Dale Vanderholm, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Administrative Advisor

**Wednesday, November 6**

Chair Chuck Schwab called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Self-introductions were made. Schwab noted that a \$45 registration fee was needed from each attendee to cover meeting expenses.

The agenda was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Dale Vanderholm gave his Administrative Advisor report and handed out written copies. Highlights include:

We are still waiting for Congress to pass most FY03 appropriations bills.

There has been significant turnover in executive directors for the four regional SAES associations.

The National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) is being used for multistate committee paperless administration, and NCR-197 will be submitting a report instead of minutes.

NCA-16 will again be reviewing annual progress of NCR-197.

Various groups and agencies (OSTP, OSTP/OMB, NASULGC, USDA-CSREES, ESCOP) have identified federal research priorities for FY04 programs.

The NCR-197 termination date is September 30, 2004. If the committee is to be revised or extended, a proposal would be required by January 1, 2004.

Members who have been actively working to gather input and prepare the draft “National Land Grant Research and Extension Agenda for Agricultural Safety and Health” are to be commended.

Dale suggested starting the proposal to revise or extend the committee. Brad Rein asked if preparation is needed for the NCA-16 meeting to be held February 2003. Dale said NCA-16 expected more diversity in the committee (e.g., biomedical engineering), and suggested we communicate to our department heads what NCR-197 is doing, that we are focusing on the goals and objectives listed in our proposal. NCR-197 could also suggest that another multistate committee be established for other things like biomedical engineering.

Chuck Schwab reported that he was able to get an extension of the USDA Innovative Grant for one year, to allow us to develop and print the national agenda.

The draft agenda document (draft #6) was handed out and explained by Bill Field, on behalf of the subcommittee (Aherin, Bean, Field, Murphy). He noted the differences from draft #5.

We agreed that everyone involved with NCR-197 and NCT-177 would be listed in the document layout (not in the text itself) unless they objected. Schwab and Purschwitz were to pull the list together. Appendices will not be included.

There was a lengthy discussion about the content of the draft, including comments and recommendations to the subcommittee.

Schwab said the document must be printed and distributed by March 2003, and thus he needs it in-hand by mid-January.

A question was raised about the process for getting the final approval of the committee and the Experiment Station directors. It was concluded that no other approval was needed, but that USDA should be identified as the provider of the grant. It was noted that if the USDA name and logo are put on the document itself, identifying it as a USDA document, it must have USDA review, so we will not do that. We will work on getting buy-in nationally after it gets approved (through normal NCRA channels) as an NCR committee publication.

Field said he would produce draft #7 by November 18; Schwab would send it to the entire committee for vote up or down. Votes would be due by November 29; no reply would be considered an approval. Vanderholm will send it to the NCR directors for approval with votes due back by December 13.

Design and printing was discussed; the goal is to make it very attractive and professional. Field passed out an example four-color publication, and offered to have layout and printing done at Purdue. Estimated cost at Purdue was \$2250 for layout and \$1.40 to \$1.60 per copy for printing in quantities of 5000 to 10,000. Schwab discussed grant money issues; the consensus was to let Schwab and Field work it out and do what is necessary to get it done.

An additional idea would be to allow a .pdf file to be distributed and posted on web sites; no decision was made on that.

Potential audiences and quantities for the publication were discussed, including Experiment Station directors, Extension directors, deans, agricultural engineering department heads, Extension safety contacts, NIFS members and attendees, Extension agricultural program directors, ASAE T-15 committee, state departments of agriculture, NIOSH ag centers, NISH administration, USDA, ACGIH agriculture committee, various commodity groups and farm organizations, all agricultural Extension agents nationwide, and all county Extension directors. The final conclusion was to make it look the way we want, then decide how many we can afford.

The meeting concluded for the day and the group went out to dinner.

### **Thursday, November 7**

Brad Rein gave his USDA report and also handed out written copies. Highlights include:

The IFAFS (Initiative for the Future of Agriculture and Food Systems) is a \$920 million program. The FY03 RFP should be released in early 2003 and he suggested we look at IFAFS and NRI RFPs.

The budget might not be passed until March. The Senate version proposes IFAFS priorities in NRI and Integrated Authority. The House version proposes a small increase (less than \$500,000) for the AgrAbility program. Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification funding remains level at \$499,000.

Three new grants were awarded in FY02 for the Hazardous Occupations Safety Training in Agriculture program, including two to Purdue for a graphics-based curriculum and database development, and one to Ohio State for database development.

There was discussion on USDA farm safety reporting procedures and also mentoring of new people working in farm safety.

John Myers gave the NIOSH report. Highlights included:

They do not expect a budget until May 2003, so are using the 2002 budget as guidance.

John Howard (from CAL OSHA) is the new NIOSH director. He is very open to learning new ideas and approaches, and has some knowledge of California agriculture. He is more interested in applied research and is results-oriented. He wants NORA (National Occupational Research Agenda) more focused.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) will be a special emphasis area within NORA. Dermatitis might also be an emphasis area, due to interest in bioterrorism effects.

There will be agricultural money available through the childhood agriculture initiative RFP to be issued in January or February.

A Community Partner Grants RFA will be issued, probably in February.

The child center will be re-announced. The RFA is being rewritten to look more like the agricultural centers, which means a series of R01 grants. The center will definitely be research-oriented and not a program, service, resource-oriented center.

The NIH model being followed probably de-emphasizes evaluation. (There was discussion on the implications of following the NIH model.)

There will be new emphasis on underserved populations, probably with opportunities in the migrant and seasonal farm worker area.

Regarding NIOSH surveys and data, by late spring or early summer, there will be a second NIOSH publication injuries to youth on minority-operated farms and general farm injuries to youth. In 2004 a component dealing with adult injuries on minority-operated farms will be added. NIOSH will do a publication using the health and injury data from the US Department of Labor's National Agricultural Workers Survey.

Schwab asked if there were any other reports. There were none. Willard Downs asked if any other states had seen an increased interest and/or opportunities to work on indoor air quality.

Schwab went over the requirements for the innovative grant we have. They are:

Assessment of what projects were out there: Mark Purschwitz attempted worked on this last May and passed the information on to the subcommittee.

Database on individuals: Possible places to search or lists to use included ASAE, JASH (Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health), others such as Bill Field's list. We concluded that the database should consist of a list of persons at land grant institutions who are involved in agricultural safety and health research and Extension, as obtained through the state Extension farm safety contact. The list should be posted on the USDA farm safety web page. Keith Tinsey and Connie Baggett agreed to serve on a subcommittee to develop the format and criteria for the list.

Study papers on select needs and opportunities: After discussion, it was concluded that the subcommittee working on the national agenda will work on this. There is no need to recreate outcomes from the conference Chip Petrea coordinated, but they should be looked at. Bill Field's document about the national agenda and the process of its creation could possibly be a JASH paper, maybe appear in Resource magazine later.

Conference: Presentations can be made at the NIFS and ASAE meetings, perhaps the AETC conference, the 2003 Saskatoon conference, the NIOSH NORA conference, etc.

The subcommittee will look at who is going to these meetings. Bob Aherin will develop Powerpoint templates. Brad Rein will make a presentation to the CSREES Executive Council. Another possibility is the USDA-hosted meeting of agricultural engineering department heads in February in Washington.

Elections were held for officers for the next two-year term. Schwab and Purschwitz volunteered to continue as chair and secretary, respectively, for the next two years, which will finish out the committee's four-year cycle. They were elected unanimously.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday and Thursday, November 5-6, 2003, at this same hotel.

There was general discussion of the future of the committee, its purpose and ideas for future activities. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Purschwitz, Secretary, NCR-197.

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Charles Schwab, NCR-197 Chair

Date

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Dale Vanderholm, NCR-197 Administrative Advisor

Date