

SAC-012, NCAC-015 Department Heads Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 31, 2015
Hilton Garden Inn, Fort Riley Room
Manhattan, Kansas

Present: NCAC015: Gary Brewer (NE), Dave Hogg (WI), Tom Payne (AA), , Bill Ravlin (MI), John Ruberson (KS), John Obricki (KY), Sue Blodgett (IA), Dave Wright (SD), , Paula Davis (NCB ESA President)
SAC012: Phil Muldar (OK), Rob Wiedenman (AR)

Program

- **NCAC015 Chair John Ruberson - Welcome to Manhattan & the North Central Branch, ESA**
- **Introductions**
- **NC ESA Welcome and Update - Paula Davis, President, North Central Branch, ESA**
 - Travel scholarships available with 45 applicants
 - Sponsored Linnaean Games for two teams
 - 270 participants registered for NCB ESA
- **ESA Update - Phil Mulder, President, ESA**
 - ESA meeting paper deadline June 12, 2015 – Still need more papers and posters!
 - Meeting numbers down possibly because of competition with Intl Congress of Entomology.
 - ESA now has Lewis-Burke Associates¹ (LB) as an advocacy group in Washington. ESA Science Policy (SP) Fellows met with LB for training and then went to the Hill to meet with staffers. Meetings were very well done. Next cohort of five SP Fellows soon to be selected.
 - ESA Initiatives were a theme for some of the discussions including: Invasive species, pollinator health, arthropod-borne diseases, arthropod collections.
 - ESA representatives presented briefing to group of staffers on arthropod-borne diseases.
 - Pollinator health hearing was also attended support by a pollinator white paper.
 - ESA is working on global issues with visits to Ireland and possible meetings in Japan and China to be done by Phil Mulder and Grayson Brown.
- **Administrative Advisor Update - Tom Payne**
 - Key websites for information on federal budget and key issues
 - Cornerstone/President's FY2016 Budget Request: <http://www.land-grant.org>
 - NCRA Spring Meeting Outline: <http://ncra.info/docs/Historical/Minutes/April2015.pdf>
 - National Impacts Database: <http://landgrantimpacts.tamu.edu/>
 - NC507 Monarch Butterfly Multistate Project: http://lgu.umd.edu/lgu_v2/homepages/outline.cfm?trackID=17476

¹ <http://www.lewis-burke.com/>

- President's budget: Land-grant.org web site has information on budget and talking points.
 - President Obama's budget has large increases for USDA, AFRI, Hatch, Smith-Lever, and McIntire-Stennis. All important from the standpoints of competitive, capacity, Extension, and forestry support respectively.
 - Global Food Security becoming large issue across the country. One example is Florida Governor is putting \$200M into this issue and will be filling many faculty positions.
 - Water also a big issue that should exceed everything else in importance and entomology has a role to play in several related issues (e.g., water quality indicators).
 - Payne encouraged department of entomology heads to make contact with Experiment Station Directors in their respective states on upcoming issues.
 - Reporting impacts is still very important and encouraged entomology heads to provide statements to Experiment Station and Extension Directors. This is important because Congressional staffers look to these statements to inform Congress.
 - Monarch Butterfly Multistate Project. Important project because of the iconic nature of the Monarch and its potential impact on public awareness and possible state and federal funding for entomology. Efforts to support Monarch projects are occurring in several states. For example, Missouri is going to establish "Monarch watch stations" at their Ag Research Stations. This should attract and sensitize stakeholders to entomological and environmental issues. This is an ideal time to get support for entomology.
 - A white paper on pollinators has been in development for over a year and still has a way to go in terms of brevity and potential impact. An alternative process is needed to develop papers of this type. Need to be more nimble with one-pagers including only front side of a page and written at the 8th grade level.
 - Going forward it will be important to reduce the number of multistate projects and focus on those that have the potential to do more than simply share information (e.g., grant proposals, task forces, publications).
- **USDA-NIFA Report - Rob Nowierski, USDA, NIFA, National Program Leader.**
 - Nowierski was not present but sent a written report (attached).
 - **NC 507 Monarch Project – Sue Blodgett**
 - Project is getting started with meeting 6-10 pm Tuesday evening (June 2nd) at NCB ESA Manhattan, KS.
 - Fish and Wildlife Foundation² has an RFA for Monarch Butterfly Conservation³ with awards ranging from \$50K - \$250K for two years supported by money from Monsanto. There is interest encouraging interstate collaboration.
 - Iowa has milkweed demonstration plots (including one at the Des Moines Zoo) with multiple species and a standard plot design (1 meter sq. with 9 species). The focus is on planting and promoting "Monarch habitat".
 - Iowa also has a milkweed survey which will be important to establish a baseline and measure progress.
 - There is also a statewide effort with Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium⁴.

² <http://www.nfwf.org/Pages/default.aspx#.VWt97OdeG1k>

³ <http://www.nfwf.org/whowere/mediacenter/pr/Pages/NFWF-MBCF-RFP-PR-15-0529.aspx#.VWt7VedeG1k>

- **NCAC015/SAC012 reporting system. After a few problems it appears the reporting system is working.**
- **Common concerns from state reports**
 - Discussion of IPM “Disruptors” such as emergence of Spotted-wing *Drosophila* and the development of resistance as events that “disrupt” IPM programs.
 - Lone star tick found in Wisconsin with heightened concern for human diseases.
 - Oklahoma - looking at 3% reduction in state support.
 - Missouri – resources being allocated at the campus level based on an application focused on strategic plans. AAU metrics as a driver of budgets and hiring “stars”. College has to put up 2%/yr. including a 2% salary increase for faculty and staff. Similar program at Oklahoma with departments being asked to come up with dollars from “carryover” funds.
 - Entomology positions
 - Kentucky – Field crop position (R:25, E:75 with technician) at Princeton station
 - Missouri – Position on insect-plant interactions. Applied Ent. position to work between Extension, Industry, campus. Non-tenure track.
 - South Dakota – new tenure track teaching/research on pollinators. SD is having to add non-tenure lecturers to meet teaching demands. Also, having difficulty getting applicants for regional Extension positions including having some Ph.D.’s applying.
 - Nebraska – Just hired a person for their pollinator position and will have toxicology position and another field crops positions.
 - Wisconsin – Will hire a curator for insect research collection (non-tenure track staff position).
 - Iowa – Looking at 1% raises this year. Concern over AAU membership and metrics⁵.
 - Arkansas – Expect significant changes between campus and Division of Agriculture with changes in upper administration. Three Agriculture department heads stepped down in last year. Entomology head search on-going.
- **Follow-up: White papers (see 2014 minutes)**
 - ESA has taken on this activity so there is less reason for branches to write papers except on region-specific issues.
- **Follow-up: Teaching with diminishing pools of students and expertise (see 2014 minutes)**
 - Discussion of how to address educational deficiencies at individual institutions through collaboration and technology.
 - Wiedenman and Obrycki described an IPM Case Histories course presented this year with a poster presented at this meeting.
 - Students signed up at their own institution so no money changed hands and minimized bureaucracy.

⁴ <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2015/0421Hartzler.htm>

⁵ <https://www.aau.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=10972>

- The course was assessed using an ag educator who conducted interviews and a written survey.
 - Going forward there's interest in identifying a course and instructor among other institutions and they plan to present the course again.
 - Obrycki, Wiedeman, Ruberson volunteered to prepare a white paper on this experience.
- **Undergraduate programs in Entomology. Dave Hogg**
 - Discussion on the benefits and costs of entomology undergraduate programs. Wisconsin challenged to justify having a undergraduate major.
 - Driver was a new budget model based on major student credit hours.
 - Oklahoma State went from 3 majors to 30 since 2007. Developed linkages with other highly enrolled majors (e.g., medicine). Also developing post B.S. certificate programs.
 - There was discussion regarding the potential for ESA to implement an annual graduate job survey. Muldar will take with up with ESA.
- **Pending initiatives in regions**
 - Iowa has a program in resistance management.
- **Hiring directions**
 - Insect-plant interactions
 - Chemical ecology
 - Microbiome in aquatic systems
 - Vector entomology
 - Environmental toxicology
- **Follow-up: Faculty evaluations (see 2014 minutes) – not discussed.**
- **Participation in and value of Plant Diagnostic Information System: Ruberson**
 - Oklahoma actually growing this area with number of samples increasing.
 - GPDN provides Oklahoma \$25-30K/yr.
 - Iowa – diagnostics based in Plant Pathology
 - Nebraska – gets some money
 - Iowa part of a crowd sourcing approach on line.
- **New officers**
 - NCAC Chair-elect – Dan Herms
 - SAC Chair-elect – Pat Zungoli
- **2016 Meeting**
 - Proposed NCAC / SAC joint meeting 2016 – Tyler, TX; Raleigh, NC, Cleveland, OH determined by electronic vote.

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NCAC (May 2015)

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