NE1020 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

**Rapid City, South Dakota, November 16 and 17, 2015**

**Host: Anne Fennell**

Rhoda Burrows, South Dakota State University

Anne Fennell, South Dakota State University

Paolo Sabbatini, Michigan State University

Dean Volenbergh, University of Missouri

Matthew Clark, University of Minnesota

Steve Lerch, Cornell Tech

Steve Menke, Colorado State University

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, North Dakota State University

Terence Bradshaw, University of Vermont

Daniel Ward, Rutgers University

Steve Gament, University of Nebraska Tech

Paul Read, University of Nebraska

Sadanand Dhekney, University of Wyoming

Michael Baldwin, graduate student, University of Wyoming

### **Reminders:**

- Jason Londo at Geneva is looking at genetics of V. riparia cold hardness

- Send state report electronically to Anne Fennell

- Collaborations need to be specifically reported in the Impact Survey

- Our survey needs to include narrative of other benefits

- Get data from Anna Katharine of the tasting performed in 2014

Anne Fennel, 2015 chair, called the meeting to order. Dan Ward was elected secretary.

Review of 2014 minutes submitted by ???. Motioned to accept made by Terence Bradshaw, 2nd by Matthew Clark.

Much of the meeting was focused on developing a submission for future project funding and renewal of NE-1020 due in 2017.

Datasets progress:

AF called for everyone to update the database with recent project data. Discussion was had about reporting units for trtratable acidity (TA) of juice samples. TA is to be reported in grams per liter (g/L) to two decimal places as tartaric acid, not European method of using H2SO4 equivalents. DW discussed data analysis and submission to the centralized database. Few cooperators have sent in full datasets to-date. The database was highlighted for all participants to see, including statistical reporting functionality. [www.aesop.rutgers.edu/~dward/NE1020/](http://www.aesop.rutgers.edu/~dward/NE1020/).

AF proposed an action item to send a call for data submission with follow up from DW. The importance of complete data submission and analysis was made in light of pending renewal of NE-1020 in 2017. DW highlighted that even incomplete datasets may be submitted. Many participants are not able to complete the full suite of optional data collection on some more ambitious (high n) projects or remote sites.

Conference call with Brad Hillman, USDA Multi-State Administrator:

Discussion focused on critical steps as the project nears its 2017 end date. The group was urged to request to write a proposal into NERA for continued support. The request would need to go into NERA well ahead of their March 2016 meeting, which practically meant immediately. The group was directed to write a termination report in 2016 for the first phase of the project. It was suggested that the National Research Support Projects (NRSP) program may be appropriate for hosting NE-1020 database and administrative documents. Current NRSPs include: Genome Database for *Vaccinium*; National Animal Genome Research Program; Bioinformatics Coordination Program; and U.S. Potato Genebank. BH suggested that the chances for getting new NRSPs approved are likely declining.

Suggestion was made to engage an economist to assist with compiling project impacts and in developing future proposals. Data collected from individual states and as part of supporting SCRI proposals (Northern Grape, Eastern Grape) should be collated for these uses. Other considerations in developing renewal or future funding proposals included focusing on climate change impacts on viticulture, which as deemed politically risky in some states; and the issue of supporting a crop where the end product is alcoholic in nature, which was noted is an “unknown at the federal level.”

Continued funding for NE-1020 was proposed as a potential Specialty Crops Multi-state Program (SCMP) project by AF. This is a new program open winter 2015-16. Caution was made to ensure that submission to SCMP would not require NRSP approval (TB note: it doesn’t). BH agreed that the project should be requested for renewal, and that the person taking the lead on renewal and future funding proposals be capable and willing to do the work.

Approval of 2014 minutes

Minutes were distributed to attendees. TB moved to accept, MC senonded. Minutes approved.

State Reports

State reports were distributed to attendees and summaries presented.

Michigan, Paolo Sabbatini: Two winters in a row have created an unprecedented damage to grapes. Volunteers from the VESTA program at a nearby community college helped with project activities. The Geisenheim varieties were a little colder hardy than most vinifera. The Geisenheim are similar to Riesling in cold hardiness.

Missouri, Dean Volenbegh: Winter injury was major factor.

Minnesota, M.C.: This very late season left acids high. MN1285 will be released in 2017, produces nice white wine. MN1285 vines are available to researchers looking to evaluate. MN1258 is approaching release and discussed as easy to train. Marquette has early bloom, but good fruiting from secondaries. Marquette also has some tolerance to freezing of leaves.

New York, Steve Lerch: Harvest went late this year. Geneva had cold winter that stayed cold. Reasonable harvest from most varieties. NY has one site with nine varieties.

Colorado, Steve Menke: Raccoons destroyed the crop from an entire site. Hot and Cold site did well this year following three or four years of winter kill. Chambourcin has been better quality at Hot and Cold site. Troubles with trunk splitting in spring.

North Dakota, Harlene Hatterman-Valenti: Site is located south of Fargo. Herbicide drift from wheat growers has been a problem. Strong regrowth net with some severe cold and dieback. ‘King of the North’ is excessively acidic. ‘Bluebell’ lacked flavor. ‘Valiant’ is also very acidic but adds color. ‘Bluebell’ shows iron chlorosis more than other varieties.

Vermont, T.B.:Some decline in crop yield from the two successive cold winters. Traminette, Vignoles, were removed from trial because of poor cold hardiness, disease resistance, and crop yield. Corot Noir is showing poor cold hardiness in light of severe winters. Some growers have pulled Frontenac and St. Croix from commercial production.

New Jersey, D.W.: Three weather events in 2014 and 2015 caused severe damage to the vines at Rutgers AREC: 1) cold winter temperatures in January 2014 that followed warm temperatures in December 2013; 2) A powerful hailstorm in May 2014 that removed all green tissue from the vines just before bloom; and 3) cold winter temperatures in January 2015. These events left so many damaged and dead vines that the decision was made to remove the planting after the 2015 growing season.

Nebraska, Paul Read: Herbicide drift “clobbered” one site. MN1200 looked as good or better than other cultivars, but it is low yielding in some sites. MN1258 was described. Noted that Tom Plocker showed interesting material at VitiNord. Need to create a list of sources for new cultivars to look at as a group was noted. Early bud break created a greater risk for herbicide injury. Winter injury from the point of acclimation, depth of hardiness mid-winter, deacclimation, and spring bud break needs to be considered overall. Norton is slow to establish but is in the top two in yield most years. Norton may be a good sentinel cultivar for the next round.

Wyoming, Sadanand Dhekn: Established new cultivar trial in 2014, but untimely, early, severe freeze killed all vines to the ground. Spring freeze also occurred in 2015. Marechal Foch had 100% survival. Frontenac and Osceola Muscat also had good vine survival from regrowth. S.M. noted that Marechal Foch sometimes has poor bud survival even though the vines live. Marquette may have been later bud break from the secondaries or tertiaries. Frontenac Gris has differences in the vine, not just the fruit.

South Dakota, A.F.: MN1200 and MN1220 are easy to train. MN1258 was also easy to train. La Crescent is difficult to train. November weather is the biggest challenge to the planting in A.F.’s location (Brookings).

November 17, 2015

Bob Weyrich, SD Department of Agriculture, Liaison to the Wine Industry, regional in assignment, but defacto statewide. He introduced the new SCMP. Awards are for projects of $250,000-$1,000,000 with $3 million total available in this cycle The cooperating agreement will be between the State Department of Agriculture and the Feds. These are 3-year projects. Deadline to State Department of Agriculture is December 15, 2015. January 14, 2016 to get to the Feds. T.B. was developing a proposal with apple specialists in New England and was familiar with the program. 8% total indirect costs

A.F. - Participating departments. Renewal of NE1020 will be five years

- Motioned T.B.

- Seconded by H.H-V.

M.C. - Says MN will have 3-5 elite lines

H.H-V. - Will have two elite lines

NY- Will have three elite lines

D.W. - Will help

P.S. - Should the renewal include table grapes by reducing the focus on wine to include table grapes?

Discussion of the Goals and rewriting (cleansing the goals of the term “wine”)

P.S.- Concerned winemaking will require most of the resources

A.F. -Pointed out that the first five years are only about grapes since the wine will be made in five years or more.

S.M. - We need to establish plantings early to make that possible.

A.F. - We need to include language that acknowledges the need for growth into the wine quality.

P.S.- Why U.S. industry

A.F.- Moved we accept the new goals

Seconded by D.W.

Voted

Discussion of Application for Specialty Crop Multi-State Program

A.F. assembled list of participants- one-per-state from the NIMS. A.F. will request that Ruby Mize send an email from NIMS to query people to participate in the renewal.

SCMP budgeting: indirects are capped at 8%, but that rate is negotiated with the sponsoring state Agency of Agriculture. Sections 1,3, and 4 of the RFA apply to this project.

New proposals should divide the identities (cultivars and lines) into two groups. A grant would cover 8 identities:

Characterization group

4-6 grape identities with 24 vines per identity to permit making two 5-gal carboys of wine. Designed to evaluate wine quality potential.

Evaluation group

Number of vines per experimental unit of 2 or 3, minimum of 3 replicate blocks. Designed to quickly identify horticultural characteristics.

A template for outreach will be prepared by H.H-V. and P.R. Establishment costs will be estimated by P.S. and S.L.

T.B. - Next year’s meeting will be in Burlington, VT on November (day to be determined), 2016.