

Report and Recommendations
NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Teleconference

June 26, 2013
2:00pm to 3:00pm

Chair, Kirby Stafford III (CT-NH)

Members: Tim Phipps (WV), Fred Servello (ME), Gary Thompson (PA), Bob Schrader and Bill Hare (NEED)

1. Request to approve the *revised* proposal NE_TEMP2081: Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1032]

Proposal NE_TEMP2081 was granted conditional approval by the NERA Directors at the spring meeting. MAC recommended that the proposal be revised. MAC noted, "They need to articulate their milestones, outputs should be measurable (ex. How was release successful?), outcomes should be specific for each objective, and the outreach program needs to be strengthened".

Additional comments from MAC were:

- Important area and came back with strong reviews.
- Project has a history of a well-coordinated group with good output.
- Weak outreach plan.
- Milestones are vague.
- Expected outcomes should be measurable and can be better documented.
- Looks more like a coordinating committee and could better integrate their activities.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: MAC's concerns were satisfactorily addressed and pleased that under Methodology the 17 objectives in the original proposal were removed. They are now clearly delineated under four general objectives of conservation, augmentation and classical biological control of invasive plants and insects. A much improved version.

2. Request to approve the *revised* proposal NE_TEMP2061: Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE1035]

Proposal was revised as recommended by MAC at the spring meeting to address the following:

- Important area for the region, but need to demonstrate and articulate interdependence better.
- Emphasize Topics 2 & 3, and press for more integrated approach.
- This is an expensive technology so they need to explain the economic implications to those who will adapt.
- Consolidate objectives.
- Reach out to faculty in the urban centers.
- This is a good project that can have significant impact especially in niche urban markets, and can be easily integrated and multidisciplinary.
- It can have the potential to create opportunities and help develop markets for emerging immigrant farmers in the Northeast.

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal.

Discussion: MAC members commended the group for doing a good job in addressing their concerns, and have demonstrated that they are integrated and plan to work interdependently. Economics is still considered an important component and MAC wants to make sure that the Economist's involvement in the project is significant. Need to complete Appendix E participation table.

3. Request to approve the proposal NE_TEMP2121: Management of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NE508]

Action: Recommends approval of the proposal as an Education/Extension and Research Activity (ERA). Funds can be expended other than travel.

Discussion: The project involves a lot of coordination. Project's goals and approach are clear, but need to develop their outreach strategically. This will be assigned as an ERA as MAC did not see it as a purely research based multistate project. However, since the proposal has been peer reviewed and NE508 had demonstrated successful coordination and have positively contributed to the understanding of this species, MAC realizes that a lot of research and strategic education/extension still needs to be done and proposes its continuation as an ERA.

4. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Changing the Health Trajectory for Older Adults through Effective Diet and Activity Modifications, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1039]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal.

Discussion: Research area is important but justification is weak. MAC wants to see in the full proposal a focus on elderly obesity and how the project will address the nutrition needs of an increasingly ageing population. The Northeast region will see in the near future a significant increase in its senior population. Funding opportunities have been focused on childhood obesity and this project will be a good opportunity to address this ageing demographic particularly in urban areas.

5. Request to Write a Proposal for a Multistate Project - Poultry Production Systems and Welfare: Sustainability for Tomorrow, 10/2014-9/2019 [Renewal of NE1042]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. The request is well written and area of research is very important for the Northeast.

6. Request to Write a Proposal for a Coordinating Committee - Northeastern Corn Improvement Conference, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC029]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. Has a long history of successful coordination and information exchange.

7. Request to Write a Proposal for a Coordinating Committee - Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing, 10/2013-9/2018 [Renewal of NECC1012]

Action: Recommends approval of request to write a proposal. This is an important multistate activity in the region. We need standards for soil testing particularly in urban areas where gardening and organic farming in small areas is increasing.

8. Revisit request for off-the-top funding for FY13-14 for Northeast Multistate Project:

- NE9: Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources = \$240,750
NE9 FY2014 Budget Request

Action: Defer decision since the sequestration issues are not yet resolved and MAC suggests discussing federal budget issues in general at the NERA meeting.

9. NRSP Review Committee Report

Discussion: NRSP Review Committee recommendations will be discussed at the NERA Meeting –

- NRSP4, NRSP6 and NRSP9 midterm review results were good and these NRSPs were approved to continue without any changes
- NRSP_temp281's renewal and budget was recommended for approval without any revision
- The Committee decided to table the NRSP-RC definition of "leveraging funds" until a later date (Continue discussion via email, as needed).
- The NRSP-RC approved the recommendation to NOT support an increase in funding for NRSP1 to support the impact writer full-time. (Final AES vote will take place this fall during our ESS meeting in Columbus, OH)

10. Advisor assignments for new projects – no new assignments. Advisors for renewing projects will remain the same.

ACCESSION NO. xxxxxxxx SUBFILE: CRIS
PROJ NO: NYG-xxxxxx AGENCY: CSREES NY.G
PROJTYPE: HATCH PROJ STATUS: NEW MULTISTATE PROJ NO: NE9
START: 01 OCT 2013 TERM 30 SEP 2018 FY: 2014

INVESTIGATORS: Zhong, G.; Robertson, L.R.; Griffiths, P., Labate, J.; Fazio, G.; J.A.; Baldo, A.
PERFORMING INSTITUTION:
 HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE, NY AGRICULTURAL EXPT. STATION
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BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2014 NORTHEAST REGIONAL PROJECT NE-09

<u>Item</u>	
Salaries and benefits	\$215,588
Field Technician – Vegetable Germplasm Manages field operations for seed propagated collections.	\$ 42,530
Supervisory Farm Manager (clonal crops) Manages field and greenhouse operations for clonally propagated collections.	\$ 75,380
Field Assistant (clonal crops) Assists with field maintenance and propagation of clonally propagated collections.	\$ 39,397
Field Assistant (clonal crops) Assists with field maintenance, and characterization of clonally propagated collections.	\$ 39,480
Temporary field laborer – Vegetable Germplasm (6 Mon. @ \$12/hr) Assists with spring/summer green house and field operations	\$ 12,534
Temporary field laborer – Vegetable Germplasm (3 Mon. @ \$12/hr) Assists with spring/summer green house and field operations	\$ 6,267
Operational costs (utilities, FRU, etc.)	\$25,162
Supplies	\$3,581
Field research - land maintenance, pesticides, etc.	\$6,760
Field equipment repairs	\$3,903
Seed storage, vernalization, etc.	\$5,447
Seed testing	\$5,471
Total:	\$240,750

This budget is reflective of the final fiscal year (2012/2013, FY13) budget for the current NE-9 project with an increase of 3% for salaries for the salary improvement program (SIP) for the Cornell staff on the project, and an increase of 2% allocated for the operational costs. Salaries

make up 90% of the total budget. The four full-time positions supported by the NE-9 project provide critical support for genetic resources conservation, characterization, and distribution activities for the northeastern region and the Plant Genetic Resources Unit. This support includes the clonal farm manager, other support staff for clonal germplasm activities, and critical support for regeneration activities of the vegetable crops. The subsequent years of the budget for this project only provide for SIP costs for these critical staff positions.

Currently, while NE9 receives approximately 11.4% of its budget from regional funding as compared to W6 – 14.2%; NC7 – 16.8%; and S9 – 18.3%, the current project has raised this from the 8% level in 2007. This project proposal maintains the ratio at approximately the same level of funding of regional versus base funding.

Base Funding at ARS in Geneva for FY14*

			<u>\$k</u>
•	Salary costs	NE9 related projects	1302.1
•	Operational costs	NE9 related projects	<u>571.5</u>
		Total NE9-related projects	1873.6

*Base funding figures are estimates because for federal budget uncertainties.