



Minutes of the NREC Research Committee Meeting DRAFT
November 10, 2014 - Conference Call – 10:00 am

Committee Members Participating in Conference Call: Dale Hadden (Research Committee Chair), Jim Larkin, Ed Corrigan, Marcia Willhite, Jessica Dexter, Howard Brown, Matt Duncan, Cindy Skrukud, Ted Mottaz, Terry Pope, Linda Kull, Curt Zehr, Matt Hughes, Dean Campbell, Laura Gentry, Dr. Robert Hoeft (NREC Research Advisor) and Jean Payne (NREC Administrator).

Chairman Hadden called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. He asked the new members of the Research Committee to introduce themselves, where they are from in the state and their background. He then stated that the purpose of the call is to determine which new proposals are suitable for referral to the NREC peer reviewers for research based projects, and that when the full committee meets in December, a more detailed discussion of each of the projects will take place.

Terry Pope asked Dr. Hoeft if the on-going projects are meeting their stated objectives to date, Bob replied that they are and that he has visited with all the research project investigators. Dale asked Bob to lead the discussion on the 35 projects received for consideration for the committee to discuss relative to the need for peer review.

Review of Projects Received

Dr. Hoeft directed the committee's attention to a spreadsheet listing the 35 projects received. He explained that the committee's task is to briefly discuss each projects in order and determine which research based projects should be sent for external review to determine if the proposed objectives and plan of work will achieve the desired results, and would the project deliver practical results that will benefit Illinois farmers. Projects that are education based would be indicated as such for referral to the NREC Education and Outreach Committee for review and recommendation.

For each project discussed, Dale Hadden asked for the committee to respond in agreement or disagreement on which projects merited external peer review.

After discussion, the committee selected ten research based new projects for external review:

- # 2015-5: Evaluating Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies: Longer Rotation with Cover Crops and Bioreactor (Lowell Gentry, UI)
- # 2015-7: Does Denitrification Explain the Missing Nitrogen in Cover Crop Nitrogen Budgets (Dr. William Perry, ISU) ***Need to determine peer reviewer with microbiology expertise for this project.**
- # 2015-12: Developing a Field Laboratory Network to Support Agricultural Research of BMPs across Illinois (Dr. Laura Gentry, Illinois Corn Growers Assoc)
- #2015-13:* Evaluating Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fate of Nitrogen in Multifunctional Perennial Buffers on Marginal Farmland (Dr. Yang and Taylor Lovell, UI) ***Need to find reviewer with microbiology expertise for this project.**

- # 2015-16: Tracking Soil Nitrogen & Availability (Dr. Emerson Nafziger, UI)
- # 2015-20 Connecting Agronomy & the Environment: Scaling N Leaching Losses to Corn Yield (Dr. Cameron Pittelkow, UI)
- # 2015-23: An Agronomic Assessment of Soil Nitrous Oxide Emissions in Illinois: Increasing Nutrient Utilization While Reducing Impacts on Air Quality (Dr. Cameron Pittelkow, UI)
- # 2015-26: Demonstration and Monitoring of Nutrient Removal Wetlands in Big Bureau Creek Watershed (North-Central Illinois) (Dr. Jill Kostel, The Wetlands Initiative)
- # 2015-27: Improving Nitrogen Efficiency and Utilization in Maize by Genetic Trait Identification for Optimized Microbe Recruitment (Dr. Angela Kent, UI)
- # 2015-34: Using Solar Energy to Enhance the Effectiveness of Subsurface Bioreactors (Dr. Richard Cooke, UI) ***Need to determine peer reviewer with engineering expertise**

***NOTE:** In reviewing the list after the meeting adjourned, Jean had in her notes (as did Dale and Bob) that project #8 entitled “Nutrient Reuse and Biofuel Production in Swine Manure Management Using Hydrothermal Conversion” was to be referred for peer review by a reviewer with a microbiology background. However, in reviewing the minutes afterwards, Jean consulted with Dr. Hoelt and with Dale Hadden and all three believe that it was actually project #13 listed above that was discussed and determined suitable for peer review by a reviewer with microbiology expertise. Project #8 is not a microbiology project and the committee’s discussion on that project was that it was of limited benefit to farmers. Dale asks that the committee members please reply if you are in agreement.

Projects 5, 12, 16, 20, 23 and 26 will be sent to the NREC external reviewers that NREC utilized in 2013 and 2014 who have extensive research backgrounds in soil fertility and soil/water/nutrient interactions. Project 7 and 13 are microbiology based and Jean and Bob will research potential reviews for that projects; project 34 is an engineering based project and a reviewer will also need to be identified for that project.

Chairman Hadden asked for a motion to approve this slate of projects to be sent for external review; motion made by Dean Campbell, seconded by Ed Corrigan, motion carried.

The next meeting of the NREC Research Committee is a face-to-face meeting on December 12, 2014 at the office of Brandt Consolidated in Springfield, IL at 10:00 a.m.

Having no further business, Chairman Hadden asked for a motion to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. Motion made by Terry Pope, seconded by Jim Larkin, motion carried.

POST MEETING NOTE: After the call ended, Dale contacted Jean to let her know that he felt it was also the intention of the committee to refer projects 1, 6, 10, 15 and 25 which are education based projects to the NREC Outreach & Education Committee chaired by Ed Corrigan, but that he forgot to ask for a motion on that action item. Dale asks for the committee’s consideration on this item; if the committee approves of this action, Jean will consult with Ed Corrigan, the NREC Outreach and Education Committee Chair, to establish a process to refer these projects to the Education committee for their review. The Education committee’s recommendation on these projects would then be considered by the Research Committee when it meets on December 12, 2014.

Minutes recorded by Jean Payne