



## **U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative**

# **MINUTES**

**USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting  
Saturday, December 8, 2001, 10:00 am – 12 Noon  
Holiday Inn Cincinnati-Airport  
Erlanger, KY**

Members Present: Tom Anderson, Louis Arnold, Chris Bowley, Lynn Dahleen, Mike Davis, Ruth Dill-Macky, Elias Elias, Pat Hart, Rich Horsley, Lawson Jones, Bill Laskar, Steven Leath, Larry Lee, Gary Lemme, Pat Lipps, Art Loeffler, Brad Miller, Anne McKendry, Marcia McMullen, Gene Milus, Herb Ohm, Mike Pate, Jackie Rudd, Greg Shaner, and Rick Ward

Guests: Kay Simmons, USDA-ARS-NPS

Additional Support: Sue Canty

### **1. Kay Simmons – ARS perspective on the USWBSI.**

Kay Simmons, ARS National Program Leader, Grain Crops, stated that she was pleased to be at the Forum and to be working with the USWBSI. On behalf of ARS, she expressed the ir satisfaction with the USWBSI and the role of the Networking and Facilitation Office (NFO) in administering the grant program. She indicated that the FY2002 Agriculture Appropriations Bill contained important funding increases for barley and wheat research, including the four ARS wheat quality laboratories and establishment of an ARS Small Grains Genotyping Center at Fargo, ND.

### **2. FY02 Federal Funding & Farm Bill**

Mike Davis reported that the events of September 11 disrupted the process of developing a final House/Senate Conference bill and raised doubts that many small grains research increases in the House and/or Senate bills would be funded due to increased demand on the federal budget for items related to the "War on Terrorism." However, it appears that the new financial demands on the federal budget have instead resulted in increased federal funding in many appropriation bills not related to the War, with efforts to maintain federal surpluses and a "lock box" for Social Security funding, falling by the wayside.

Subsequently, the shutdown of many Congressional offices due to the anthrax letters, coupled with substantial unfinished business by Congress, resulted in a situation where there was no time for a deliberative House/Senate Conference to resolve the differences in the bills. Instead, they did it by formula in the Conference bill, which resulted in a very favorable outcome for small grains research.

With respect to additional funding for research activities, as specified in either the House or Senate reports, the conference agreement provided eighty percent of the increase provided. Where increased funding was provided by both the House and Senate for the same research activity, the conference agreement provided funding at eighty percent of the higher level. Mike detailed funding obtained, including \$600,000 for an ARS Small Grains Genotyping Center at Fargo, ND; \$800,000 for the four ARS wheat quality laboratories; design funds for building additions at the ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory, St. Paul, MN, ARS National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility, Aberdeen, ID, and ARS Cereal Crops Research Unit, Madison, WI; and \$760,000 for the CSREES North American Barley Genome Project.

In their FY2002 budget proposal, the Bush Administration, as with other recent Presidents, asked Congress to eliminate most of the add-ons that it had made the previous fiscal year in its bill, including the \$800,000 added to the Scab Initiative in FY2001, and \$250,000 for an ARS Small Grains Genotyping Center at Manhattan, KS. As usual, crop groups, including barley and wheat, lobbied to have the FY2001 increases maintained in the FY2002 budget and were successful. Congress continued the fiscal year 2001 level of funding for all research projects proposed to be terminated in the President's budget.

Regarding the new Farm Bill being developed by Congress, Mike Davis reported that the language from the last Farm Bill that authorized the Scab Initiative was expanded to include Karnal Bunt research in the House version, which was passed in October. The Senate version, which has not passed, keeps the same original language. There is concern that if the House language prevails in the final Farm Bill it may dilute the efforts of the Scab Initiative. Rick Ward has determined that the House language came about through the efforts of Representative Charles Stenholm, Ranking Minority Member, House Agriculture Committee. Rick has discussed this issue with Andy Johnson, the research staffer on the Committee, and he appeared to be agreeable to separating Karnal Bunt research into its own authorizing section. Mike and Rick reported that they would also work with 7 appropriate Senators to bring this about in the final Farm Bill.

### **3. Election of Spring Wheat Representative to the Executive Committee.**

Spring wheat group adjourned to discuss their nomination of a representative. Marcia McMullen was nominated and approved by the SC. The election of Marcia McMullen to the EC has left a vacancy on the Chemical & Biological Control (CBC) research area committee.

### **4. Presentation of Proposed FY02 Research Plan & Budget.**

Rick Ward reviewed the USWBSI process of developing a FY02 budget recommendation to ARS. He then presented the recommendations of the USWBSI Executive Committee. The SC approved the FY02 recommended budget.

### **5. Policies and Procedures Updates - Priorities**

Tabled to Spring Steering Committee. However, it was noted that genomics research needs more funding than the Epidemiology and Disease Management (EDM) research area can provide in its funding cap. Also, consider increasing the funding for VDUN for the southern states.

**6. 2002 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum**

Tentative dates of December 7-9, 2002 have been set. The SC approved returning to Cincinnati for one more year. The NFO will send an e-mail out to the list server asking for feedback regarding any possible conflicts with the tentative dates.

**7. 2002 Spring Steering Committee Meeting.**

Two possible locations for the spring steering committee meeting are Chicago, IL and St. Louis, MO. Although the SC agreed to meeting at the end of May, no date was finalized. The SC will be polled by e-mail for final location and dates.

**8. 2003 International Symposium on Fusarium Head Blight**

Discussion of the 2003 Int'l Symposium on FHB was tabled until the spring SC meeting, when the NFO will have more information from Dr. Rajaram, CIMMYT, regarding the role of the USWBSI assisting with the facilitation of the Symposium. The SC did agree that the International Symposium would take the place of the NFHB Forum in 2003, and that the administrative meeting would be separated from the Forum during that year if necessary.

**9. Other**

Gene Milus, chair of the CBC research area committee (RAC) indicated the committee's disappointment with the number of pre-proposals submitted to their area (particularly pertaining to fungicide trials). The CBC committee will try to develop a strategy to solicit more interest in submitting pre-proposals associated with the CBC.