



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

MINUTES

USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting
Saturday, December 11, 2004 8:30 AM – 12 PM
Wyndham Orlando Resort
Orlando, FL USA

Members Present: Tom Anderson (MN Wheat Growers), Louis Arnold (ND Barley Council), Jim Bloomberg (Bayer CropScience), Blake Cooper (BARI), Mike Davis (American Malting Barley Association), Ruth Dill-Macky (University of MN), Marty Draper (SD State University), Bev Durgan (University of MN), Elias Elias (ND State University), Len Francl (Penn State University), Char Hollingsworth (University of Minn.), Rich Horsley (ND State University), Shahryar Kianian (ND State University), Pat Lipps (Ohio State University), Marcia McMullen (ND State University), Brad Miller (Dakota Growers Pasta Co., Inc.), Ben Moreno-Sevilla (WestBred LLC), Paul Murphy (NC State University), Steven Neate (ND State University), Paul Schwarz (ND State University), Rick Ward (Mich. State University), HP Zhou (Syngenta) and Marv Zutz (MN Barley Council)
ADODR, USDA-ARS-NPS: Kay Simmons
Support Staff: Sue Canty

Meeting called to order at 8:38 AM.

- 1. Opening Remarks and Introductions.**
- 2. Review of 5-27-04 SC Meeting Minutes.**

After reviewing minutes, the SC approved 5-27-04 minutes as presented.

- 3. Updates on FY05 Federal Budget Update (Mike Davis) and ARS issues (Kay Simmons).**

- M. Davis, American Malting Barley Association
 - ✓ **Status of FY05 Federal Budget** - Congress passed a 'Consolidated Appropriation Act' which contained 9 separate appropriation bills including the FY05 budget for USDA-ARS. This Act contained a 0.8% rescission on all old and new spending. The number one priority of National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC), the National Wheat Improvement Committee (NWIC), the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), and the National Barley Growers Association (NBGA), was to advocate against the ARS small grain program terminations proposed by the Administration (totaling 11.2 million – encompasses all congressional 'Add-ons' since FY01) for FY05. The 11.2 million was maintained in the FY05 budget. Given the federal budget situation, maintaining current

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levels of funding will continue to be the top priority in the future, with less emphasis on securing new funding, which will be difficult to obtain.

✓ **New Funding for FY05**

- *ARS Research* - 100K for barley research at the Cereal Crop Research Unit in Madison, WI, 100K for the Regional Genotyping Center in Raleigh, NC, 25K for the Cereal Disease Laboratory in St. Paul, MN, and 125K for aquaculture research in Idaho to use barley and oats for fish food (this would be a new crop use to displace fish meal).
 - *ARS Building & Facilities* – The Administration is trying to complete the modernization of the National Center for Animal Health in Ames, IA. Total cost when finished approximately 0.5 billion dollars. Had been funded with supplemental appropriations related to Homeland Security. However, now funding must go through ARS budget. 122M approved in ARS' FY05 budget (still need about approximately 40M more to complete the project). Once completed, there may be extra funds in ARS budget for other research needs.
 - *Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) Special Research Grants* – Regional Barley Gene Mapping Project: \$688K which funds the U.S. Barley Genome project. Feed Barley for Rangeland Cattle (MT) funded at \$741K.
 - *CSREES National Research Initiative (NRI)* – Congress increased funding to NRI by 16.97M, bringing the total to 181 million. This could be a possible source for PIs involved in the Initiative to compete for extra funding available for Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP) in genomics. Several crop specific CAP conferences were held (including ones for wheat and barley) with financial support from the NRI; bringing scientists and stakeholders together to develop plans for these competitive projects (funded at 5 million each over 2 to 4 years).
- K. Simmons – ADODR, USDA-ARS National Program Staff
 - ✓ USWBSI unique program within ARS, perhaps receiving the most major amount of funding from Federal Government for wheat and barley. This partnership between all disciplines of science, plus partnership between Federal, University, Industry and Producers has become the model for which new programs within ARS are modeled after.
 - ✓ New funding in ARS budget for emphasis on Homeland, Defense and National Security aimed especially aimed at plant and animal diseases. There is new funding for soybean rust, and hope that the cereal crops can piggyback onto some of that research.
 - ✓ Federal programs are increasingly being asked to assess their performance. Each year being asked, “If the money is appropriated, what will you do that is new? What accomplishments will you make?” Each Scab Principal Investigator (PI) submits an annual performance report which is posted on ARS' website.
 - ✓ In the next 1-2 years, the National Program for ARS for Plant Health, includes Scab Initiative, will be assessed. Dr. Simmons will be asking Scab stakeholders for evidence of accomplishments, measures of progress, as well as asking SC members to attend some of the stake-holders meetings. ARS will also be asking USWBSI PIs to include such evidence in their next proposal preparation and annual reports.

4. Presentation of Proposed FY05 Research Plan & Budget.

Rick Ward presented an overview of the Executive Committee's (EC) recommended research plan, and also the review process the EC and Research Area Committees (RAC) followed to arrive at the final recommendation. As requested by the SC last year, non-funded projects were also included in the funding recommendation materials. See attached summary of final budget plan and funding recommendation.

- **EC requests resubmission of pre-proposals** - There are a number of projects that the EC is recommending for funding, but final approval will be contingent upon a resubmission for either technical reasons, or because the EC is aware of issues with institutional staffing (e.g. CIMMYT is in the process of turnover of personnel). Once resolved, if the EC is satisfied with final staffing, those projects (staffing changes effect two ongoing projects) will receive the recommended funding. Proposals being resubmitted for technical reasons will be reviewed by the respective RAC who will then make a recommendation to EC for final approval.
- **5-year Limitation on ARS Extramural Agreements** – ARS External Agreements can last a maximum of five consecutive years. After which, the agreement must be closed and any remaining funds (i.e. 'Carry-over') may be transferred to a new agreement provided the project is continuing in the new agreement. If not, the money would revert to the U.S. Treasury. However, all USWBSI agreements which have reached the five year maximum do have new FY04 agreements with ongoing projects. ARS has agreed to transfer any remaining funds to the new awards, provided that the PI can justify the unspent funds. There are approximately a half dozen grants within the USWBSI, which have a large balance of funds in their agreements which closed at the end of FY03 (May-July, 2004), including the Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO). The NFO has significantly reduced its request for FY05, and will use a substantial amount of the 'carryover' (\$181k) to fund its operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The NFO will intentionally retain an annual reserve of \$45K to cover the 'penalty clause' in hotel contracts in the event there is a cancellation of the annual Forum. ARS will also ask the 4 or 5 scientists who have large balances from their closing agreements to spend down those funds before they receive new awards.
 - ✓ USWBSI could possibly fund additional projects depending on the 'carryover' funds from closing agreements. A motion was made to empower the EC to draft additional funding recommendations, if funds become available due to the 5-year agreement limitation. EC's priority would be to fund projects not formerly recommended for funding, over increasing funds to recommended projects. The SC would then be asked to endorse the EC's recommendation by e-mail vote. SC approved motion.
- Motion made to endorse the FY05 Budget Plant and Funding Recommendation. SC Discussion followed:
 - ✓ **Genotyping Pilot Projects** – Three projects are being recommended for funding that partner a breeder with one of three Genotyping Centers (Raleigh, Manhattan and Fargo). PIs will have to resubmit their pre-proposals to reflect the reduced budget (\$20K each). EC will review the resubmitted pre-proposals.
 - ✓ **Projects funded at level above requested amount:** Four projects recommended for funding at level above the amount the PI requested. Three are the Aerial application projects which the additional funds were provided to cover the cost of hiring a private

airplane for the aerial application portion of the project. Last year, the aerial was funded through a separate project, which is not being recommended funding in FY05. The fourth project to receive extra funding is for the DON Service in North Dakota for barley. The extra funding will be used to cover the deficit from the previous year. Progress in variety development for winter and spring wheat; varieties with FHB resistance have been released in Missouri, and Michigan has one ready to be released. Barley is behind wheat in developing varieties resistance to FHB. Len Francl indicated that EDM had several competitive proposals that were not recommended for funding

- Following the discussion, the SC approved the FY05 Budget Plant and Funding Recommendation as presented.

5. Possible changes to Research Areas

- Purpose of Reorganization - Clarify the objectives of the Initiative.
 - ✓ Ward – If the Initiative continues with current research areas, the ability to direct effectively the research priorities will be diminished; and the SC will be forced to expand the size of committees which will ultimately make them less efficient.
 - ✓ Timetable – Reorganization must be completed before February, so as to allow sufficient time for the RAC elections, and the development of RA program descriptions and Research Priorities (should be completed before the spring SC meeting). Involve RA committees. Draft proposal to SC.
- Motion was made and seconded to empower the EC, in cooperation with the RACs, to draft a proposal for consideration by the SC. Discussion followed:
 - ✓ **General Discussion** – Reorganization should be based on the Initiative’s primary goal: “To develop as quickly as possible effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium Head Blight (Scab) to the producers, processors, and consumers of wheat and barley.”
 - ✓ **SC Discussion on each Research Area**
 - *Biotechnology (BIO)* - Although the SC set the working cap for ‘Transformation’ research at 17.5% within BIO’s total working cap (down from 40% for previous), the EC informed the research area committee (RAC) that this was to be taken as a suggestion and not a fixed cap for FY05. The reason for this is that the PIs working in the area of transformation were not given sufficient notification to adjust their proposed research.
 - ❖ R. Ward suggested the program developed for the 2nd International Symposium for Fusarium Head Blight (2ISFHB) could be used as a possible template (i.e. starting point) for the reorganization of this search area (see attached 2ISFHB program – Sessions 2 and 3).
 - ❖ Suggestion made of setting two separate working caps within one committee. However, as it is difficult to find scientists open to both Marker-Assisted Selection and Transgenic approaches for the purpose of unbiased review, general consensus was to split into two separate areas (i.e. committees).

- *Chemical and Biological Control (CBC)* – EC recommended moving cultural practices from Epidemiology & Disease Management (EDM) to CBC. M. Draper (CBC Chair) indicated agreement with suggested change.
- *Epidemiology and Disease Management (EDM)* – L. Francl (EDM Chair) indicated agreement with moving cultural practices out of EDM. Francl also suggested splitting Fungal Biology from Epidemiology and Disease Practices.
- *Food Safety, Toxicology and Utilization (FSTU)* – Suggestion made to set two separate working caps with the FSTU RA: 1) Commissioned Research (i.e. DON Analysis Services; and 2) Competitive Research Projects. Competitive research has been taking second place to the DON testing services. P. Schwarz (FSTU Chair) suggested that the scientist running the Diagnostic services meet with PIs (Breeders) submitting samples to strategize on best cost method for testing.
- *Germplasm Introduction and Enhancement (GIE)* – Suggestion was made to split up GIE by moving part of research (mapping/QTL) to BIO, and the Germplasm Centers (Barley, Durum, Spring Wheat and Winter Wheat) to the Variety Development and Uniform Nursery (VDUN) research area. General consensus among the SC was that no changes were needed for either GIE or VDUN at this time.

✓ **Closing Discussion**

- T. Anderson reminded SC members how important it is to participate in the processes of developing the research area (RA) program descriptions and research priorities, and the setting of the RA working caps. It is in these two processes where the SC influences the research focus of the USWBSI.
 - R. Ward indicated that the level of confidence USDA-ARS has in following the USWBSI's annual funding recommendation is a function of how much they believe the Steering Committee represents the body politic at large in the wheat and barley communities.
- SC approved motion for EC to draft proposed reorganization of USWBSI research areas and submit to SC for final consideration.

6. Location and Dates of next Steering Committee meeting.

- Location: Chicago – near O'Hare International Airport.
- Possible Dates: May 26 or June 2

The SC will be polled for selection of the final date.

7. 2005 NFHB Forum – Forum will take place December 11-13, 2005 in Milwaukee, WI.

Meeting adjourned: 11:35 AM