



U.S. Wheat & Barley  
Scab Initiative

**MINUTES**  
**USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting**  
**December 13, 2003**  
**Holiday Inn Select, Bloomington, MN**

**Members Present:** Tom Anderson, Louis Arnold, Mark Birdsall, Jim Bloomberg, Pat Buschette, Blake Cooper, Mike Davis, Ruth Dill-Macky, Beverly Durgan, Elias Elias, Len Francl, Rich Horsley, Yue Jin, Shahryar Kianian, Steve Leath, Larry Lee, Bruce Lewallen, Marcia McMullen, Brad Miller, Gene Milus, Paul Murphy, Steven Neate, Mike Pate, Paul Schwarz, Greg Shaner, Rick Ward and Les Wright

**USDA-ARS-NPS ADODR:** Kay Simmons

**Invited Guest:** Betsy Faga, North American Millers' Association

**Support Staff:** Sue Canty

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Tom Anderson and Rick Ward (Co-Chairs) asked the Steering Committee (SC) to allow Betsy Faga, President of the North American Millers' Association, attend the closed SC meeting. The SC approved their request.

**2. Updates on FY04 Federal Budget Update (Mike Davis).**

Mike Davis gave an update on the FY04 Federal Budget. Attached is a summary of that update including those items in the Agricultural Appropriation Bill that includes wheat and barley research needs.

**3. Update on the 2004 International Symposium.**

Rick Ward gave an update on what has been accomplished to date in regards to the 2004 International Symposium. Summary is below:

**Approved by International Organizing Committee (IOC) and SC**

Dates: 12/11 – 15

Location: Orlando, FL, Wyndham Orlando Resort

**Approved by IOC:**

Title: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Fusarium Head Blight (*Incorporating the 8<sup>th</sup> European Fusarium Seminar – Approved by IOC and EC*).

**Approved by EC:**

Format: Same general format as NFHB Forums (Speakers/Invited Talks, Open Discussion, Poster Sessions)

Sessions (Draft – submitted papers/posters will determine final RA sessions)

- Biotechnology
- Chemical and Biological Control
- Epidemiology and Disease Management
- Food Safety, Toxicology and Utilization
- Host Plant Resistance and Variety Development
- Taxonomy and Genetics of Fusarium

**4. Presentation of Proposed FY04 Research Plan & Budget.**

Extensive discussion focused on the EC's proposal that \$29,623 be reserved for enhancement of rate of improvement of varieties with FHB resistance in the SE region (VA, NC, KY, GA, LA, AR, and MO). Louis Arnold indicated concern that this represented a departure from past practice. R. Ward explained the background in detail with specific reference to how this action would conform to the previous practice. A motion to endorse the proposed overall research plan and budget was made, seconded and passed.

**5. 2003 Wheat and Barley Crop.**

The Co-chairs asked Mike Pate to comment on the '03 wheat harvest in the SE region, which suffered substantial and widespread DON contamination in the context of relatively high yields and test weight. R. Ward reported on ongoing efforts to formally document this episode.

**6. Review of FY05 USWBSI Calendar of Activities.**

Time constraints limited this agenda item to a very brief look at the complexity of the annual calendar of events and activities managed undertaken by the USWBSI.

**7. Discussion of proposed changes to USWBSI Policy & Procedures.**

The Steering Committee approved section III,C,2,a-d (Research Area Committees – Election of Members and Filling of Vacancies). Action on the remaining proposed changes was tabled. The review and final vote on the proposed changes by the Steering Committee will take place via e-mail in early 2004.

**8. Discuss possible location and timing of 2004 Spring Steering Committee Meeting and 2005 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum.**

2004 Spring Steering Committee Meeting: There was general consensus by the Steering Committee to hold the spring meeting in Chicago, IL. The timing will be last week of May or first week of June. The final date will be selected by first polling the Executive

Committee for possible dates, and then submitting those dates to the SC for final consideration.

2005 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum: The suggestion was made by Sue Cauty, Networking & Facilitation Office, that the SC consider locations for the 2005 NFHB Forum based on States having tax-exempt agreements with Michigan State University. There was general consensus within the SC that the NFO compile a list of such states and distribute it by e-mail, along with possible dates, to the Steering Committee for consideration.

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 PM**