U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

DRAFT MINUTES

As of 6/8/06

USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 25, 200 9:00 AM – 4:15 PM
Wyndham O'Hare
Stephens Room 2
Chicago, IL

Members Present: Louis Arnold (North Dakota Barley Council), Stephen Baenziger (University of NE), Bob Bowden (USDA-ARS), Bill Bushnell (retired, USDA-ARS), Blake Cooper (Busch Agricultural Research, Inc.), Mike Davis (American Malting Barley Association), Erick De Wolf (Penn State University), Ruth Dill-Macky (University of MN), Marty Draper (SD State University), Ken Grafton (ND State University), Jim Hackbarth (Gambrinus Company), Winston Hagler (NC State University), Calvin Haile (Private Grower, VA), Rich Horsely (ND State University), Roger Kaiser (Bayer CropScience), David Kendra (USDA-ARS), Fred Kolb (University of IL), Laird Larson (SD Wheat Grower), CJ Lin (Mennel Milling Co, VA), Marcia McMullen (ND State University), Mohamed Mergoum (ND State University), Steven Neate (ND State University), Herb Ohm (Purdue University), Mike Pate (Bay State Milling Co.), Jim Pestka (MI State University), Ron Skadsen (USDA-ARS), Dave Torgerson (National Assoc. of Wheat Growers), Dave Van Sanford (University of KY), Les Wright (Busch Agricultural Research, Inc.), and Marv Zutz (Minnesota Barley Council)
Members participating via Teleconference (audio): Tom Anderson (Private Grower, MN), Char Hollingsworth (University of MN) and Larry Madden (OH State University)
USDA-ARS-NPS ADODR: Kay Simmons
Support Staff: Sue Canty

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM.

1. **Introductions and Opening Remarks.**

2. **Minutes from 12/11/05 Steering Committee (SC) Meeting.**
   A couple of changes were suggested by Mike Davis and Louis Arnold. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended. The SC approved the minutes.

3. **FY07 Funding Outlook.**
   - Mike Davis – Update on Federal Budget (see attached handout).
   - Kay Simmons – Update on USDA-ARS Issues.
     - USWBSI FY06 Funding - All recommended award agreements for FY06 funds have been distributed**.**

- FY07 Proposed Federal Budget - All add-ons to ARS' budget are targeted for cuts in FY07 including the USWBSI.
- ARS getting budget questions concerning the USWBSI
  - How long will funding for USWBSI be needed?
  - Can ARS redirect or consolidate funds with the Cereal Rust Initiative?
  - What progress has been made towards combating scab?
  - Are new strategies or outside reviews needed?
- ARS is moving to Performance Based Budgeting – All Federally funded projects are subject to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) PART (Program Assessment Rating Tool) Review.
  - Must document defined objectives.
  - Must document completion of milestones by year
  - Must document accomplishments and impacts.

4. Update on meeting with NAMA.

- Kay Simmons
  - Representatives from the North American Millers' Association (NAMA) met with USDA-ARS Administrators in March (?). One clear message taken from that meeting was that the Millers' need more tangible results from the USWBSI in reducing DON.
  - Recommendations from Kay Simmons: These questions needed to be considered:
  - What is working?
    - What will make a difference to solve DON and FHB?
    - Is the competitive grant system working:
      - Is it worthwhile to compete for grants when we could develop a team plan?
      - Are we wasting valuable time competing when we could be cooperating?
  - The USWBSI needs a STRATEGIC PLAN with measurable milestones.
- Mike Pate (Representing NAMA)
  NAMA has been passively dissatisfied with results so far from the money going to the USWBSI.
  - Recommending a team approach. – pooling resources.
  - Millers' want to see 50% reduction in DON within the next 3 years in order to continue supporting the USWBSI.

5. The Road Map to Reduced DON Levels – Brainstorming Sessions.

Goal: Identify 3 strategies or research accomplishments that could make a real difference in reducing DON.

Format: Two 30 min. sessions of 5 groups per session.

Results: See attached documented titled "Results from DON Brainstorming Sessions."

SC Action: Motion made, seconded and approved by SC – Incorporate into FY07 call for pre-proposals integrated projects that will cross more than one research area for rapid mitigation of FHB and DON. The EC is empowered to develop the process for accepting and reviewing integrated research pre-proposals for FY07.

6. Research Area Committee (RAC) Updates.

Each RAC chair gave a brief presentation on the updates/progress that has been made in their respective RA over the past year. See attached written reports distributed prior to SC meeting.

7. NFO Update/New Co-Chair Report.

- **FY06 Funding Issues**
  - FY06 Summary of Funding – distributed in meeting packet.
    - EC Changes to 12-11-05 Recommended Research Plan and Budget:
      - **CIMMYT proposed research projects** - The SC approved all three (Bread Wheat, Durum Wheat and Barley) pre-proposals submitted by CIMMYT pending successful resubmission of revised pre-proposals. The Executive Committee asked Ruth Dill-Macky to meet with PIs at CIMMYT to review the current status of their research projects, as well as assist with revising their FY06 pre-proposals. The result of that visit, as well as the subsequent resubmission of revised pre-proposals resulted in the EC approving only the Barley proposed research project for funding in FY06.
        - The SC thanked Dill-Macky for all of her efforts regarding this matter.
      - **Change of PI for DON Testing Services and Fungicide Trial at Michigan State University (MSU) –** The EC learned in January that Pat Hart, PI for DON testing services at MSU, would be retiring at the end of May '06 (one month into FY06 award). The department chair of Plant Pathology (Pat Hart's department) suggested another scientist within the department who was willing and able to take over the DON testing lab. The EC approved the requested following the successful review of a pre-proposal submitted by the new PI (Dennis Fulbright). The EC chose not to fund the CBCC project originally submitted by Pat Hart as a similar project was already being funded at MSU.
  - **Enhancing DON-testing capacity** – with the money now available from not funding the two CIMMYT projects and the CBCC project at MSU (under P. Hart), the EC is recommending that the funds be used to enhance the DON testing capability by soliciting pre-proposals from the DON testing labs for the purchase of GC/MS equipment. One required item that must be included in submitted pre-proposals is evidence of matching funds needed for the purchase of the GC/MS equipment. The call for Proposals will go out soon with a submission date of early August. Funds must be dispersed prior to September 30, 2006.
- **Activities since December** - Dave Van Sanford attended the following meetings on behalf of the USWBSI:
  - North American Grain Congress
  - Illinois Wheat Association
  - Wheat Quality Council
  - North American Millers Assn
  - International FHB meeting - CIMMYT
- **Development of a Strategic Plan**
  - The USWBSI needs an action plan with defined goals against which progress can be measured. The most productive strategy includes a feedback mechanism that draws from the collective knowledge of USWBSI researchers and stakeholders and provides us with a basis for initiating, modifying and terminating research plans.
  - What we need to do?
    - Establish an Action Plan by doing the following
      - Focus on DON
      - Communicate and collaborate
      - Seek integrated solutions
      - Listen to stakeholders
      - Be flexible and opportunistic
      - Results over Process
    - Start Today: build into the RFP the ideas that came out of brainstorming sessions.

- Use the 2006 Forum to develop an Action Plan; Rather than formal scientific talks the program will consist of:
  - Stakeholder talks;
  - Brainstorming, breakout sessions within and among groups; and
  - Deliverable: Action Plan

8. Process for Developing FY07 Research Plan.

- **Overall Process (Review Process and Funding Recommendation).**
  D. Van Sanford gave a brief overview of the past process used to develop the USWBSI's Annual Research Plan and Budget (see attached diagram).
- **Process for setting the Research Area 'Working Caps'.**
  D. Van Sanford gave a brief overview of the process followed last year to set the RA 'Working Caps' for the review of pre-proposals (see attached).
  - Bill Bushnell requested that process be started earlier than last year (i.e. closer to the spring Steering Committee meeting.
  - There was discussion about polling the SC only one time (this had been normal practice until last year).
  - The Executive Committee will work to finalize a process during its next conference call (early June).
- **Review of the RAC proposed FY07 Research Priorities** – This item was tabled until the process for incorporating integrated projects into FY07 Request for Pre-Proposals has been finalized.

9. Enhancement of USWBSI's Website.

- **Website Makeover –** The NFO has spent the last few months developing a new design for the Initiative's Website, including incorporating a 'Scab Blog'. The plan is to use the Steering Committee as a 'Beta' test group for obtaining feedback on the form and function of the new design before 'going live'. S. Canty will send an e-mail to the SC sometime within the next week. That message will contain instructions and the URL for the test site.
- **Web-based Pre-Proposal Submission Process** – Feedback from PI's and reviewers indicate the need to develop a more streamlined, simpler process for submitting and reviewing pre-proposals. The NFO is working to develop an on-line pre-proposals process (submission and review) for FY06 using the Chemical, Biological and Cultural Control (CBCC) research area as a beta test group.

10. Other Items:

- **Planning of 2006 NFHB Forum –**
  - **Proposed Program for 2006 NFHB Forum** - No formal motion was made however the SC was supportive of the following proposed program:
    - Sun - Stakeholders address forum
      - Breakout sessions begin within discipline groups
    - Mon - Poster sessions
      - Tour Genotyping lab
      - More breakout sessions (mix discipline groups), begin writing action plans
    - Tues - Present action plans; appoint committee to produce final document
  - **Schedule of Administrative Meetings –** A motion was made, seconded, and approve by SC to follow the proposed schedule for the administrative meetings during the December 2006 Forum (below):
    1) EC meets with RAC chairs Sat. 12/9

2) EC meets Sun. AM 12/10 (Executive Session) to finalize recommendation for FY07 research plan and budget.
3) Forum begins Sun. at 1 pm
4) Forum ends Tues. at 12:00 PM
5) SC meets Tuesday afternoon following the Forum to consider recommended FY07 Research Plan and proposed budget.

- **2007 spring Steering Committee meeting: Web conference**? Motion was made, seconded and approved by the SC: Executive Committee and NFO investigate the possibility of facilitating the SC's spring 2007 meeting via Web Conference.
- **2007 National FHB Forum –** Suggested process for election of Dates and Location (no formal vote by SC).
  - **Selection of Location**
    1) EC select three possible locations (Kansas City and Cincinnati mentioned as viable locations).
    2) NFO will develop cost comparison for three locations.
    3) Poll Steering Committee for final selection of location (i.e. City, State).
  - **Selection of Dates**
    1) EC select two possible dates in early December.
    2) Request feedback from Scab Community regarding possible conflicts with other meetings/conferences.
    3) Poll Steering Committee for selection of final dates.

11. New Items

Eric DeWolf and Marty Draper addressed the steering committee about a new USDA-CSREES project called PIPE (Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education). PIPE is a new program that has grown out of the soybean rust tracking system. It has worked so well for that purpose that there was a realization that many diseases could be followed (or forecasted) through this reporting system. There have been some preliminary discussions of rolling the scab forecasting site into this website that is hosted by CSREES. De Wolf and Draper discussed integrating the PIPE concepts with the current disease forecasting effort. These concepts might include but are not limited to commentary and mapping tools for the state extension specialists. Although there was no longer a quorum, the remaining SC members indicated support of the continued investigation of a possible proposal by Draper and De Wolf, and requested further information on their proposed plans.

Meeting adjourned by 4:15 pm

Minutes recorded and written by:



Susan M. Canty, Manager
USWBSI's Networking & Facilitation Office