



U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative

MINUTES USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting Thursday, May 30, 2002 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM Holiday Inn O'Hare Kennedy, Chicago, IL

Members Present: Tom Anderson (*MN Wheat Grower*), Louis Arnold (*North Dakota Barley Council*), Daren Coppock (*National Assoc. of Wheat Growers*), Mike Davis (*American Malting Barley Association*), Ruth Dill-Macky (*University of Minnesota*), Len Francl (*North Dakota State University*), Tom Hohn (*Syngenta*), Rich Horsley (*North Dakota State University*), Yue Jin (*South Dakota State University*), Shahryar, Kianian (*North Dakota State University*), Bill Lasker (*Pioneer Seeds*), Steven Leath (*North Carolina State University*), Gary Lemme (*Michigan State University*), Marcia McMullen (*North Dakota State University*), Brad Miller (*Dakota Growers Pasta Co.*), Gene Milus (*University of Arkansas*), Herb Ohm (*Purdue University*), Greg Shaner (*Purdue University*), Rick Siemer (*Siemer Milling Co.*), Paul Schwarz (*North Dakota State University*), Rick Vallery (*S.D. Wheat, Inc.*), Rick Ward (*Michigan State University*), Les Wright (*Busch Ag. Resources*)

Additional Support/Guests: Kay Simmons (*USDA-ARS*) and Sue Canty (*USWBSI/NFO*)

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM

Steering Committee approved the 12-8-01 minutes.

State of the Initiative

➤ Status of Recommended Projects

- Rick Ward and Kay Simmons gave a brief update on the status of the USWBSI's FY02 recommended research plan and budget. USDA-ARS did adopt the Initiative's proposed research plan and budget. All of the grants have been awarded with the exception of five new grants that are being set up as Specific Cooperative Agreements (SCAs), which take more time to set up initially.

- Gene Milus gave an update on the status of Folicur.

The registration process for Folicur is currently off the EPA work plan pending completion of a risk assessment and an oversight review of the three principal break-down products (3-triazole, triazole acetic acid,

and triazole alanine) of all triazole fungicides. The current schedule is for the risk assessment and oversight review to be completed by October and December 2002, respectively. At the end of this process, EPA should make a decision as to which of the break-down products need to be regulated and the threshold level for each of the products. Folicur may be granted a conditional Section 3 registration by spring of 2003 or EPA could ask for more data on one or more of the break-down products. Bayer, the manufacturer of Folicur, is in the process of forming the US Triazole Task Force in collaboration with other manufacturers of triazole fungicides. The purpose of the task force is to share the expenses of generating data on the generic break-down products that EPA decides to regulate. Existing Section 18 registrations for Folicur will be renewed, additional states may request a Section 18 for existing uses, but no Section 18 registrations for Folicur will be granted for new uses. Bayer has decided that wheat and barley will be the priority crops once the registration process for Folicur gets moving again.

➤ Update on Congressional Funding – Mike Davis

The National Barley Improvement Committee, National Wheat Improvement Committee, and other wheat and barley groups have continued their coordinated Congressional lobbying efforts. Congress was asked to maintain its FY01 funding increase of \$798,200 for the Scab Initiative and funding for other items that the President's proposed FY2003 budget targets for elimination. It is expected that Congress will maintain funding for almost all of these proposed cuts. In addition, Congress was asked to approve increases in the FY2003 ARS program budget of \$600,000 for the Scab Initiative, \$2.15 million for ARS Regional Small Grains Molecular Genotyping Laboratories and \$300,000 for the Cereal Disease Laboratory. Congress was also asked to provide funding in the ARS building and facilities budget of \$3.2 million and \$4.6 million for additions to the Cereal Disease Laboratory and National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility, respectively. Congress has not yet acted on the FY2003 budget, but it is expected that the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees will pass their versions of the FY2003 Agriculture budget before the August Congressional recess.

The President signed the new Farm Bill (Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) on May 13. In most cases, Farm Bills, which are written by the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, only provide authority for research spending, with the actual funding being determined by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Thus most of our lobbying efforts for research funding are directed at the Appropriations Committees not the Agriculture Committees, since most programs do not require authorization to be funded by the Appropriations Committees, although it is helpful. Numerous new programs were authorized, and many old programs were reauthorized in the Farm Bill. Our primary focus was the reauthorization of the US Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative.

The Senate version of the bill reauthorized the Scab Initiative with no changes in the authorization language. However, the House version added research on Karnal Bunt (KB) to the authorizing language. Barley and wheat interests were concerned that if the House version made it into the final bill, it had the potential to divert

funding from scab to KB. Therefore, members of the House/Senate Farm Bill Conference Committee were lobbied to not include KB research in the final Scab Initiative authorizing language, with separate authorizing language for KB research suggested.

The final bill contained the House language, and added KB research to the Scab Initiative authorization. However, we did get what we wanted in the Managers Report, which provides clarifications and Congressional intent to the bill. The language stated: “The Managers do not intend that any future funds made available for *Tilletia indica* (commonly referred to as Karnal Bunt) research would be taken from the amount presently made available for research related to *Fusarium graminearum* (commonly referred to as Wheat Scab).” Though not binding as law, the Managers report is followed by USDA.

➤ Overview of Annual Calendar of Activities

Rick Ward presented a newly developed Calendar of Activities for the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.

Steering Committee Action Items

➤ Structure/Composition of USWBSI Committees

- Update on recent changes
The BIO and EDM Research Area Committees (RAC) increased from four to six members, so as to better cover different aspects of their research areas. The GIE RAC also increased by one additional member.
- Implementation of SC and EC members', and new RAC chairs' term rotation.
 - ❖ RAC Chairs – The SC authorized the EC approaching two of the newly appointed chairs and asking them to serve a three-year rather than a two-year term.
 - ❖ SC and EC Member rotation – The SC authorized the EC to develop a process for setting individual term rotations for current members on the steering and the executive committees.

➤ Review Request for Pre-proposal (RFP) Process, including status of Research Area (RA) Program Descriptions and Research Priorities (PD-RP).

- RFP Process – The SC raised no objections to the RFP process as laid out in the current Policies and Procedures
- RA PD-RP – Although some changes were recommended, approval of the research area program descriptions and research priorities was tabled to give the scientific community adequate time to review them. A final vote by the SC will take place before the end of June via e-mail.
 - ❖ GIE – Distribution of Germplasm
There was much discussion the process for distributing germplasm received from CIMMYT. Rick Ward will contact Dr. Sanjaya Rajaram

regarding CIMMYT's standard agreement for Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)

- ❖ Small Business Grants Program – During a discussion regarding developing spray application equipment, Kay Simmons informed the SC that the Initiative should encourage it's scientist to consider submitting proposals to the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program. The NFO will gather more information regarding this program and then send a notice out to the Scab listserver.
- Item 5 in the 12-8-01 SC minutes:
 - ❖ **“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.”

No action was taken, but SC members should keep this information in mind when they submit their recommendations for allocation of resources to the different research areas.

➤ Discuss process for setting Agenda of 2002 Forum

The SC approved the same format/structure for the Forum. The EC and RAC chairs will develop the final details (i.e. speakers) for research area sessions.

➤ Future Forums

- 2003 Forum – national FHB Forum – Approved
 - ❖ Timing of Forum was discussed. No decision on dates or location finalized.
 - ❖ To better enable the dissemination of research results to growers and producers, the USWBSI discussed sending a delegation of USWBSI scientists to the annual meeting of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG).
- International FHB Symposium
 - ❖ Rick will follow-up with Int'l organizing committee for guidance regarding timing of the International Symposium and report back to the SC.

II. New Business

Gary Lemme informed the SC that he will be rotating off as the representative of the NC Regional ESCOP. The new representative will be Dr. Beverly Durgan, University of Minnesota.

Meeting Adjourned 3:15 PM