Present: Rose Gergerich, Bill Howell, Olivia Pisano, Erich Rudyj, Vicky Scharlau, Bill Shane, Sue Sim, Keith Striegler, Debbie Woodbury

Agenda Items:

Approval of Agenda – Keith Striegler
  Vicky Scharlau motioned for the approval of the agenda. Bill Howell gave a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Keith Striegler
  Debbie Woodbury motioned for the approval of the minutes from June 18, 2013. Bill Shane gave a second and the motion passed unanimously.

NCPN General Program Update – Erich Rudyj
  Erich Rudyj reported that USDA is beginning to view NCPN as a sentinel program, as NCPN centers are working on many pests 2-3 years before they move into the national spotlight. An example would be Grapevine Red Blotch – when USDA made a call for information, NCPN was the only program to offer any. The National Wine and Grape Initiative is gathering a small team to find out which questions on Grapevine Red Blotch are of concern to the industry. USDA will be forming a working group to find answers to those questions.

  Erich also reported that the NCPN Tier 1 Governing Board has 2 vacancies – the National Plant Board representative positions from the central and western United States.

  Erich also reported that the NCPN Operations Team has concluded work on a working draft of an NCPN glossary. The next issue the Operations Team will tackle is the program’s position on how to treat proprietary material and the use of public funds. Erich is currently gathering questions to circumscribe the issue and a discussion will begin at the next Operations Team teleconference taking place next month.

Farm Bill 2013 Update – Erich Rudyj
  Erich Rudyj reported that the House passed a bifurcated version of the Farm Bill, separating out all Food and Nutrition programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). NCPN was captured in the passed version as section 9011. The next step is for House and Senate members to take their respective passed version to conference to hammer out the details. The conferencing process is where many of the questions about how and what the money is used for
will be sorted through. As of the call, the House had not yet moved their version over. Sources say there could be a new bill in early Fiscal Year 2014, between October and December.

If there is no new Farm Bill, a continuing resolution could be passed to extend the current Farm Bill – this would not be beneficial to NCPN, as NCPN was written into the previous Farm Bill as a terminal program. Erich will be talking to APHIS leadership on August 2 to discuss the possibility of bridge funding to support NCPN programs until a new Farm Bill is passed. There is currently $200,000 in the NCPN account, but a total of close to $1 million is needed to provide bare bones support to programs for 3 months.

Erich reported that they are currently processing requests for extensions of cooperative agreements. He hopes that should a Farm Bill get passed by December, the NCPN Governing Board might vote to let money to programs immediately based on the pre-proposals he has been receiving and use a more competitive process for the next year.

**Outreach Efforts by Crop Networks –**

*Berries*
Rose Gergerich reported on the 2nd Harmonization Meeting which brought together participants from all of the specialty crops to discuss certification standards. At the meeting, the NCPN glossary was reviewed, as were plans for a disease/pest database and a feature article for Plant Disease. Rose also reported that after the meeting, Berry Network leaders met with nurseries in Oregon and Washington. She also reported that Bob Martin has been very busy with grower meetings, including one for Blueberry Viruses and one for Grapevine Red Blotch, NCPN was discussed at both.

*Citrus*
There was no one on the call from the Citrus Network.

*Grapes*
Sue Sim reported on the operational activities of the grape centers. She also reported that Violeta Colova at Florida A & M held 2 field days for South Carolina and Florida growers and Deborah Golino and Nancy Sweet attended the Harmonization Meeting. Sue also reported that NCPN was represented at both the American Society for Enology and Viticulture National and Eastern Section Meetings. There was an NCPN table at both meetings and a poster on Grapevine Vein Clearing Virus at the Eastern Section. A Grapevine Vein Clearing Virus fact sheet is also being finalized.

*Hops/Fruit Trees*
Debbie Woodbury reported that the Hops tri-fold and Fruit Trees flyer have been printed and she has worked with Valerie Krist to update the information on both the Hops and Fruit Trees pages on the National Stakeholder website. Debbie was calling in from a Hops Tier 2 meeting, and would be bringing the glossary to the participants attention. She reported that Fruit Trees was having a Tier 2 meeting on August 6 and while she would also be sharing the glossary there, the main topic of the meeting would be the issue of proprietary material. Prosser has also been discussing having an annual meeting.
Education/Outreach Materials – Keith Striegler

Update on Publications
Keith Striegler reported that the coordinators had discussed the available NCPN publications and he was encouraged by the materials and their success at getting the word out about NCPN. He reported that having the information available on tables at meetings and conferences provides an opportunity for greater understanding of the mission and services of NCPN.

Update on “White Paper” Subcommittee Efforts
Keith Striegler reported that the template and top portion of the “White Paper” is complete, but there is still a need for testimonials and success stories to complete the portfolio. **Action Item:** Keith proposed to have the testimonials we have sent out to Crop Coordinators (to provide examples) so the gaps could be filled in. He would like to have a completed portfolio of testimonials and success stories by **Friday, July 26.**

Other Business
The next meeting of the Working Group will be **Tuesday, August 20, 2013.** Draft minutes to be approved and a proposed agenda will be sent out the week before the meeting.

The call was adjourned at 11:09 am Pacific/2:09 pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Pisano
NCPN Outreach Support Staff