

NCPN-SP MEETING MINUTES

NCPN – Sweetpotatoes Tier 2 Governing Body Meeting
Scott Center, LSU AgCenter Macon Ridge Station, Winnsboro, LA
Wednesday, August 19, 2015

NCPN-SP Members present: Chris Clark, Scott Stoddard, Tad Hardy, Ann Gallagher, Jason Chandler, Bill Foote, Matthew Garber, Steve Meyers, David Souza, Brian Carter, Tara Smith, Sue Sim, Sixte Ntamatungiro, Satish Ponniah, Jeff Main, Dianne Coats

NCPN Coordinators Present: David Prokrym, Erich Rudyj

Those present by videoconference: Zvezdana Pesic Van Esbroeck (NC), Sue Leggett (NC), and Mike Melzer (HI),

9:00 am – Welcome & Opening Remarks - Tara welcomed everyone to LSU AgCenter for the Northeast region. This is one of three research stations in the region.

9:15 am – Introductions of group administrators, board members, NCPN team, and involved centers – everyone introduced themselves, told where they are from, and what they wanted from today's meeting

9:45 am – Overview – National Clean Plant Network – Erich Rudyj and Dave Prokrym's job is to assist us in this program – this is a non-regulatory, voluntary program. They are facilitators. Congress, in the 2008 Farm Bill established this program as a 'National Clean Plant Network' with a purpose - for pathogen and diagnostic elimination. The products - clean plant material made available to states for certification programs and to private nurseries and producers. This is not to be done alone - consult with State Departments of Agriculture, Industry, and Universities. Cooperation - to use existing Federal and State clean plant centers where possible (but we will upgrade facilities). Congress continues to recognize the importance of NCPN. The Farm Bill of 2014, Section 10007, reauthorizes the bill the same as in 2008 after recognizing its importance. The NCPN is included in the Plant Protection Act, assures autonomy and self-determination of its own traditions. The duration is to be FY 2014 - FY 2018 "and in every year thereafter" making the NCPN permanent. They provided for a base of not less than \$5 million program annually.

NCPN establishes, administers, and manages a network of collaborating clean plant centers and programs specializing in plant pathogen identification and therapy. To do this NCPN identified and supports a small but appropriate number of stakeholder focused, nationally oriented clean plant centers that serve as centralized, cost effective hubs to diagnose and 'clean' plant material and provide foundational services to industry and states.

Primary 'Core' activities – Importation or Introduction – bringing plant material from the hands of growers, researchers or explorers to clean plant centers. The purpose of the center is for diagnostics, for the purposes of therapeutics, and Foundations. Secondary 'Support' Activities – governance, facilities support, methods development, regulatory interests – he and Dave Prokrym may check on facilities to see if they need new equipment, education and outreach. NCPN 'Safeguarding Award' for FY 2013 - for effectively communicating with and soliciting project

suggestions from PPQ stakeholders. They extended a clean plant network to cover nearly 25 labs or programs at 20 locations in 15 states and promoted a greater understanding of these efforts through education and outreach. Erich Rudyj presented a 'thank you' gift - the Deputy Administrator's Safeguarding Award for 2013 to Chris Clark and Zvezdana Pesic-VanEsbroeck. They have been with this program since the beginning. Their names have been sent to Congress.

Erich Rudyj referred to a slide - the NCPN governing structures - only country in the world networking crops. Educational outreach, making sure resources come to our hands. 35 initiatives, 28 clean plant centers in 19 states – renowned – coming together at least once each year. Tier 2 governing body – 7 groups - Berries, Citrus, Fruit trees, Grapes, Hops, Roses, and Sweetpotatoes – all talking together and networking – the intent of Congress.

NCPN Education/Outreach Workshop met May 2015 – Establish tagline, Info content, Branding guidelines, Websites, Collaborative tools, Logos, Outreach materials

10:45 – Charter – discussion and adoption of the NCPN Sweetpotato charter

The group went through the Charter initially drafted at the organizational meeting held in Raleigh, NC in November, 2014 section by section. In Section 1, under Definitions, Item d which defined G1 was deleted. Tier 2 Governing Board was changed to Tier 2 Governing Body all through the Charter. Item 5 under the Mission was changed from pathogen-free status to pathogen-tested status and from nursery stock to clean stock. In Section 4, Item b, 2014 was changed to 2015. Item c, removed the word nursery and nurseries. In Item d, a 'selection committee' was changed to 'any member of the Tier 2 governing body'. Sue Sim questioned the administrative officer being the tie-breaking vote. After Chris Clark and Dianne Coats talked, they realized this was not an issue. In Section 6, Item g, changed 'on a site' to 'in a manner'. In Item h, change 'potentially' to 'may' and 'representative possessing similar qualifications' to 'someone to represent the same constituent group'. Scott Stoddard questioned the number of meetings in Section 6, Item b and Sue Sim said teleconferences count as meetings. Scott Stoddard also asked if under Item a, the group would meet with the National Sweetpotato meeting. Change 'Clean Plant Center' to 'Clean Plant Center and Programs' throughout the document. Quotes around clean plants (Section 2, top of page 2) can be removed, as can those around presence (Section 6, Item h).

Sue Sim made a motion to vote on changes to the Charter. Scott Stoddard seconded so we can go forward. Motion passed. Bill Foote made a motion to accept the new Charter as changed and any minor cosmetic changes to make it agreeable can be made. Seconded by Sue Sim. Motion passed.

12:45 – Listing and ranking of sweetpotato priorities

Dave Prokrym referred to the list of priorities from last fall and said we should move forward in phases, saying we are in the early phases now. Sue Sim said in Phase 1, centers have money to do what they've been doing, only doing it better. Tad said they are very prioritized/categorized. Erich Rudyj said he hopes eventually the funding will be approved for five years – allowing for multiple year proposals.

The meeting in September in Washington, DC – what do they want to know about viruses and what's the priority with them? Chris Clark said assuring the quality of plants is standard among all centers.

The list of 2016 priorities was discussed and prioritized by the group:

High Maintain existing clean plant material at involved NCPN Centers (i.e., nuclear stocks) including periodic retesting

High Perform pathogen-elimination therapy and testing on as many new and existing selections as possible

Medium Develop protocols for virus elimination, propagation and maintenance of nuclear stocks

Med/High Develop most appropriate methods for effective and rapid ~~elimination~~ detection and elimination. Change 'of NCPN-targeted pathogens. Validate tests, capturing virus diversity' to 'Establish target pathogens list'. High

High Compare new technologies (e.g., next generation sequencing) to current accepted screening methods (e.g., grafting, RT-PCR, qPCR) as additional or complementary methods of assaying nuclear stock plants using results based on a valid experimental design.

***** Develop outreach and extension programs (documents and publications for website and distribution) targeting growers and seed producers to explain the value of clean plant programs (including how to obtain and maintain clean plant material)

***** Assess and project staffing support needed for core Center activities: virus elimination, testing, retesting and maintenance of nuclear stocks

***** Assist Centers to obtain adequate supplies for diagnostics, therapeutics, and maintenance of nuclear stocks.

***** = combine these three items with the first item on the list and rank as High

High Assist Centers to obtain needed equipment for diagnostics, therapy and greenhouse operations.

Low Economic and baseline data.

The NCPN-SP Share Point site was mentioned; there is an article there by Gergerich et al., published earlier in 2015 and entitled "Safeguarding Fruit Crops in the Age of Agricultural Globalization, that provides some perspective on activities of NCPN. It was recommended as reading to help the members better understand the issues NCPN-SP faces.

Need to get information from each state and bring it together to see what's the same, similar, etc.

3:45 – Next actions

Meetings – face to face – at the National Council Meeting

Ad hoc committee – a powerful advisory committee– reviews proposals. The administrative officer gathers proposals together and forwards them to the ad hoc committee. The group agreed to meet Sunday afternoon at the National Council Meeting from 2-5 pm – January 24, 2016. Volunteering to serve on the ad hoc committee: Jason Chandler (FL), Sue Leggett (NC), Jim Jones (NC), Scott Stoddard (CA), Steven Bailey (MS) and Terris Matthews (AR). The administrative officer will gather the material to send to the ad hoc committee, set up a teleconference call and take notes, put the notes together with suggestions, write a letter of participation telling the centers their proposals were received and reviewed. A second letter with notes goes back to the proposer.

Strategic planning group – at the National meeting, the strategic planning group will be a big part of that meeting.

4:15 – Other Business

The brochure –

- Need more information from MS and AR
- Erich Rudyj said the logo needs to be voted on
- Tara Smith led a discussion of the draft NCPN-SP trifold — she needs pictures and information from other centers uploaded to the Share Point site so that all centers can be adequately represented. Other suggestions for the trifold included:
 - Zvezdana Pesic-VanEsbroeck – Two pictures of plants in greenhouse – changed to a picture of gel
 - Change the word ‘varieties’ to ‘cultivars’ all the way through the brochure
 - Sue Sim – the NCPN logo only needs to be here once, not multiple times
 - NCPN – participants
- Sue Sim made a motion to accept the logo as it is. Scott Stoddard seconded. Motion passed.

The NCPN website – Collaboration page – Share Point site – it’s a repository where they put things – info from last year, SOPs, folder for photos from each center.

5:00 pm – Closing – recap of the day

Chris Clark and Zvezdana Pesic-VanEsbroeck were acknowledged by NCPN

Sue Sim – will have Val Christ start on a website for SP NCPN; needs photos for the site

5:10 pm – Meeting Adjourned