

March 3, 1998
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
National Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative
Steering Committee Meeting
Chicago O'Hare Airport
Chicago, IL

Tom Anderson welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of the project, referred to gray document resulting from the previous meeting in Chicago. The Fusarium problem started in 1993 in Minnesota and the Dakotas and has since spread throughout the Midwest, economic losses have been estimated at \$2.6 billion, not including 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to firm up several components in the proposal and most importantly to formalize the steering committee and the budget.

Bob Busch stated that the \$500,000 for FY98 has been deposited into an account for him to disperse. He will distribute the money next week. ARS will take a 10% overhead amount so the \$450,000 will be available next week according to the budget agreed to (see attached budget). Requests above \$10,000 will be handled as grants or cooperative agreements with the appropriate CRIS forms. Requests less than \$10,000 will be simply billed to him. Politically speaking better for everyone to complete a CRIS form so when they are asked if a certain state received money they can easily access the information and sum given to the state as well as the intended use of the money. This led to the discussion about grant overhead. ARS's limitation of 5% for overhead was discussed.

Mike Davis discussed the Congressional budget and how this project survived a budget line item elimination process. Explained President's proposal for \$2.6 million for infectious diseases. Scab is mentioned in the budget at \$1.6 million, \$600,000 new to be split between Peoria and St. Paul. He emphasized that we must complete a budget that is accurate, accountable and justifiable to ask Congress and the President to change what has already been proposed. Next week NAWG and the National Barley Improvement Committee are lobbying at the Capital and he wants to take our budget request with him to lobby for it on the hill and inform these two groups what is going on. Davis explained that the National Science Foundation has received \$40 million for competitive grants and the Food Genome Initiative are both possible sources of money but, said the chances are slim to get \$ for our work from these sources.

Tom Anderson and Rick Ward led discussion to refine the language for the group's objective. Discussion about the current objective: it does not contain anything about quality; date certain not a good idea; stress integrated approach. Overall idea: convey the gravity of the problem to Congress because we need \$ to solve this problem with current people and resources in land grant universities. Discussion included changing the phasing of elimination to control or complete control. Complete control would include epidemiology, pathology, etc. Trying to minimize the threat of scab as quickly as possible in order to maximize consumer safety. No language was agreed to. Tabled and if time permits we will come back to the discussion.

Discussion then moved to the composition of the Steering Committee. Rick Ward showed the committee makeup on the screen and added a Pasta rep. ARS discussion followed as to whether they need to be on the Steering Committee or the technical committee because ARS cannot be on a political body. Is this a political body? Answer yes, then ARS cannot be on the committee. Others felt ARS needed to be on committee but not participate in political activity. The possible solution was to create a technical committee and put ARS on that committee. There was also a suggestion to add a consumer group that is friendly to our cause and not a radical group. National Wheat Foods Council will be asked to recommend somebody for participation on the steering

committee. Also added an Extension Service and Consultant. To keep the size of the committee smaller, one person can represent two or more groups. Seven Area Leaders are needed to lead the following research areas:

- Fungicide (discussion changed this name to Crop Management)
- Germplasm Introduction
- Breeding
- Epidemiology/Pathology
- Information hub/Communication
- Transformation
- Food Safety/Toxicology

Term of Steering Committee members will be two years and be staggered. Group could not agree on this so decided to come up with names for committee and let committee decide how to perpetuate itself.

Members elected to Steering Committee are listed below:

- Wheat Miller (soft and hard)(1): the Art Loeffler, MI
- Wheat Growers (3) Mike Ellis, KY; Rick Vallery, SD; Tom Anderson, MN
- Barley Growers (2) Doyle Lentz ND; Gerald Lacey, MN
- Durum Growers (2) Elias Elias, SD (will contact Durum growers for rep.)
- Seed Industry Scientist (2) Bill Lasker, Pioneer; Jack Berg, Monsanto
- Fungicide (1) Novartis will provide
- Wheat Breeder (1) Rick Ward, MI
- Pasta (1) Ask Pasta or SD or durum wheat association for representative (Elias Elias to do)
- Consultant (1) Chris Bowley, KY
- Barley Breeder (1) Richard Horsley, ND
- Barley Pathologist (1) Ruth Dill-Macky MN
- Wheat Pathologist (1) Greg Shaner, IN
- Toxicology/Food Science (1) Steering Committee will decide who to ask
- Brewers (2) Mike Davis, AMBA and Gary Hanning, Anheuser-Busch
- Agriculture Experiment Station Director (1) Ian Gray, MI

Rick Ward and Tom Anderson will continue as Co-Chairs until the forum in October.

Budget for Research

5 year budget should be in place by April 15, 1998

Identify research leaders to achieve maximum progress. Need to ensure we have process in place before we ask Congress for money. Discussion about the President's \$1.6 million and \$600,000 should not diminish the amount of money the Steering Committee asks Congress for because both groups can work in parallel.

Ward asked several people previously to be area leaders and they presented their outlines for use of the money.

- Epidemiology: Pat Lipps Ohio State
- Germplasm: Anne McKendry ND
- Marsha McMullen SDSU: Fungicide (represented by Jim Venette)
- Food Safety: Pat Hart
- Transformation: Olin Anderson

Information Network: Rick Ward

At this point the conference call with Congresswoman Debbie Stabenow took place. She discussed the history of the current \$500,000 and the dollars in the President's budget. She told of her commitment for additional money for this project and its importance. She discussed the Ag Research authorization bill currently in conference and the importance of writing letters of support to the conferees very quickly but she did not think the bill would pass for several months. Congresswoman Stabenow discussed that she wants to increase the current \$1.6M to the needed \$5.2 million so we must focus on Ag Appropriations Committee. We must create a broad coalition of producers, land grants, and businesses to contact their congressmen and the members of the Ag Appropriations Committee. The Steering Committee must have its budget request completed by the end of March not April 15 because this process will go quickly.

Kim Love commented that each budget chair has moved up the dates for budget requests and that the House will not take personal testimony, all testimony must be written. Stabenow discussed differences in the House and Senate Ag Research Authorization bills and said they are not substantially different and we should not focus on them unless somebody can find a major difference in the bills. Kim Love will provide a list of committee members for our group to contact. Kaptur and Blunt have been very helpful please continue to work with them. Jane Shey, lobbyist; Roger Szemraj, Barcia's Office; Marv Zutz (MN Barley), Gary Allan (Kraft food) Congressman's Peterson's (MN) staff, all also listened/participated in call. She said to broaden coalition she wants to bring in bankers and Szemraj said to bring in Senator Livingston from LA because scab may reduce the volume of wheat exported from New Orleans. Davis listed Congressmen the group needs to target: Obey WI, Dickey, ARK; Sheen, NM; Sanders Chief of Staff for Ag Committee; Walsh, NY; Bonita, TX; McConnell, KY; Cole WI; Burns, MT; Gordon WA; Cochran MS; Spector PA; Bumerps Ark; Bond, MO;

The universities must get their supporters to write these targeted members and their own Congressman to let them know how much money this will bring to their state. Letters should be done state by state and should go as soon as possible. Davis will list on e-mail members and a model letter and he wants to take this proposal to DC next week when AMBA is there. She asked for a list of all the members of the coalition to ask them to start writing their congressmen letters. Twelve states must have producers, processors, farm bureaus, bankers, coalition members, etc.

The group assigned a person to start letter writing campaign in each state; New York Gary Bergstrom; MI Rick Ward; OH Pat Lipps; IN Herb Ohm; Ill Fred Kolb; MO Anne McKendry; Kansas Rollie Sears; Neb Rollie Sears; SD Rick Vallery; ND Jim Venette; MN Torgerson; WI Mike Davis; KY Mike Ellis; Ark Torgerson; MT Mike Davis; Pacific NW Mike Davis; CA Calvin Qualset.

Dates for a National Scab Forum were discussed. Monday October 25 and Tuesday 26 were suggested. Discussion followed about the final budget to ask Congress for. Area leaders will send in budgets; the area leaders are:

Fungicide Marsha McMullen
Transformation, Olin Anderson
Food Safety, Pat Hart
Germplasm Introduction, TBA
Epidemiology, Pat Lipps
Breeding, TBA
Information, RickWard

Budget that Ward will reduce to get to \$5.2 million and distribute for comment:

Food Safety \$1,000,000
Plant Breeding \$2,500,000
Uniform Nurseries \$112,500
Fungicide \$375,000
Germplasm \$200,000
Crop Management \$800,000
Communication \$137,500
Transformation \$500,000? Or some amount
Total \$5,625,000

Meeting Adjourned.