



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

FINAL MINUTES

USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2008 1:00-4:30 pm
The Crowne Plaza Hotel
Indianapolis, IN

Co-Chairs: Art Brandli (Private Grower, MN) and Dave Van Sanford (University of KY)

Members Present: Louis Arnold (North Dakota Barley Council), Jim Bloomberg (Bayer CropSciences), Blake Cooper (BARI, Inc.), Daren Coppock (National Assoc. of Wheat Growers, DC), Mike Davis (American Malting Barley Association), Jane DeMarchi (NAMA), Erick DeWolf (Kansas State University), Ruth Dill-Macky (University of MN), Elias Elias (ND State University), Calvin Haile (Private Grower, VA), Rich Horsley (ND State University), David Kendra (USDA-ARS, IL), Fred Kolb (University of Illinois), Laird Larson (Grower, SD), Larry Lee (Grower, ND), CJ Lin (Mennel Milling Co.), Larry Madden (OH State University), Marcia McMullen (ND State University), Brad Miller (Dakota Pasta Growers), Ben Moreno-Sevilla (WestBred LLC), Paul Murphy (NC State University), Stephen Neate (ND State University), Steve Scofield (USDA-ARS), Linnea Skoglund (BARI, Inc.), Clay Sneller (OH State University), Frances Trail (MI State University) and Marv Zutz (MN Barley Council)

USDA-ARS-NPS ADODR: Kay Simmons

Guests: Jay Romsa, General Mills and Scott Swenson, Minnesota Wheat Growers

Staff: Sue Cauty and Don Lilleboe

Before the meeting was called to order, Art Brandli asked the SC if two individuals (Jay Romsa and Scott Swenson) could sit in on the meeting. The SC approved.

Meeting called to order at: 12:57 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Art Brandli welcomed everyone to the Steering Committee meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Approve 4-18-08 SC Meeting Minutes.

No discussion. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Update by Mike Davis on the status of the FY09 Federal Budget.

Mike Davis provided an update on the FY09 federal budget. He reported that the process of passing a FY09 budget, which began on October 1, stalled last year and instead Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) maintaining programs at FY08 levels until March. This continued all ARS funding but did not fund one-time items such as CSREES special research grants. With a new Administration and Congress, it is now expected that a catchall Omnibus Appropriations bill will be passed by February.

In FY08, many small grains programs that were proposed for elimination each year by the Administration were technically redirected to meet Administration priorities, and were no longer proposed for elimination for FY09. This included the \$1.065 million for the USWBSI that had been proposed for elimination in previous fiscal years. Thus the CR continues all USWBSI funding in FY09, as will any Omnibus Appropriations bill, unless there is an across the board rescission. For FY09, only three small grains research programs, including funding of \$308,823 for research at the Cereal Disease Laboratory, St. Paul, were proposed for elimination, and these will be maintained by Congress for FY09.

Neither the House nor Senate versions, which will form the basis for the final Agriculture Appropriations bill, provide any ARS funding for location specific line items requested by any group. However, thanks to the efforts of the National Barley and Wheat Improvement Committees, the Senate bill does have funding of \$1 million in the ARS budget for Ug99 stem rust research and hopefully the final bill will provide funding. The House and Senate bills provide partial funding for ARS pay increases and also contain funding for CSREES special research grants that benefit small grains.

4. Report from Kay Simmons, USDA-ARS, Designated Officer for the USWBSI.

Kay Simmons expressed gratitude to the Initiative leaders (Co-chairs, SC members, EC members, RACs) for making good progress in addressing and implementing the objectives in the new USWBSI Action Plan. She noted the initial progress coming from the cooperative projects. She also explained that USDA project budgets are being carefully reviewed. Continued project funding requires demonstrating progress in implementing the action plan and obtaining significant results in combating Fusarium head blight.

5. Presentation of EC's recommended FY09 Research Plan & Budget.

Dave Van Sanford brought to the SC's attention the slight reduction (1.25%) in the recommendation for FHB Management. The EC made the difficult decision, based upon discussions dating back to the spring 2007 Steering Committee meeting, to consolidate and downsize the number of uniform trials. The EC also had to address a USDA 'IT' reduction of .06% on the USWBSI's total FY08 amount. This reduction was taken out of the EC/HQ.

Discussion: Forecasting Models: - Growers are accessing and using the forecasting models. Anything over 50% probability of Scab, farmer will spend money and apply fungicides. The first generation of DON experimental test models look like they will be around 70-75% accuracy. Tracking users – total number of visits in 2008 was 7200 of which over 3700 were unique (i.e. one time visitors). MI and ND have local models that tap into the national model, so the tracking number is actually higher than the tracking number shows. About 2/3 of the users are farmers or farm advisors.

Motion: A motion was made by L. Arnold and seconded by L. Madden to approve the EC's recommended FY09 Research Plan & Budget as presented. The motion passed.

6. Report on Focused Group Discussions (written summaries submitted by discussion leaders will be made available through Scab web site).

MGMT – The group talked about contributing information to ScabSmart. There is a core group of people who work in extension that can contribute quite a bit to ScabSmart. The idea of submitting pre-proposals for outreach activities was discussed. The Initiative has included a request in the call for pre-proposals for the past couple of call for pre-proposals, but no good pre-proposals have been submitted to date.

DUR-CP – about 10 people participated. By coordinating research efforts, there is much greater collaboration, and elimination of duplication in the future. Talked about ScabSmart and Breeders database and discussed what information needs to be provided to both projects. The group plans to meet again in March.

BAR-CP – First thing the group discussed was ScabSmart (which will be web-based), and wondered how will the key users get access to this information? Survey have shown that majority of farmers don't use the web to get their information, so need to find other forms of media (print materials) to distribute this information. Started planning for next year and talked about adding an outreach component.

HWW-CP – formed a subcommittee to put together info for ScabSmart. Reviewed their goals, and started to begin planning for next round of funding.

GDER – Began with presentation by Daren Coppock about what his organization is doing about transgenics in wheat. Group discussed finding balance between basic and applied research within their area. With limited funds, focus has been placed on the quickest payoffs. The group talked about moving toward a more coordinated approach to their research (i.e. a coordinated facility for producing transgenic plants). They also formed a subcommittee to pursue this idea and develop a white paper on how this coordinated project could be developed. Transgenic nursery is up and operational.

FSTU – Tim Norden and Gretchen Kuldau attended along with the PIs from the DON labs. The labs are maxed out. How can we streamline the process to make it more efficient? They are leaning to where the labs will be doing the grinding of the samples. The greatest variation is with the sub sampling rather than in the actually grinding, which is why the samples need to be very uniform. Labs will continue to work with 50 grams for the sample size. The FSTU RAC has requested a report be submitted at the end of the year indicating quality control between the labs with the aim of improving methods and standardization across all labs. Our [USWBSI DON Labs] protocols only analyze free DON. Bound mycotoxins are a hot topic, especially in Europe. If we continue to go at the current level will need to add another lab.

ELISA testing detects the mass (i.e. bound) DON, however research indicates it may be overestimating the amount of bound DON.

The PI's submitting samples to the labs are not giving an accurate estimate of the numbers of samples they will be submitting. PI's should use ELISA to do a pre-check before submitting samples, as many samples that come in have zero DON. By doing this pre-check would reduce the number of samples that actually need to be submitted for testing.

PBG – The group was charged with looking into re-wording one of their research priorities which was similar to one of MGMT's priorities, so they started out. The efficacy of different types of meetings (e.g. conference calls with other RACs or holding joint meetings at APS) was discussed. The group would like more face time with other RAs; feel it is extremely important and will help the PBG with integrating ideas and moving forward. Louis Arnold joined the group and discussed ways to make a priority list of their best candidate genes that could be moved into chemical or transgenic control. What criteria biologically should be used to make the selection and how it [developing a transgenic organism] will be funded (expensive process)?

VDHR-SPR – Focused on three topics: Nursery Database; queried the group on how likely they would use the database. The response was that it would not be their primary method for getting info. Shiaoman Chao agreed to expand the type of data that would go into the database to include traits beyond FHB for scab and regional performance nursery. ScabSmart: Concerned about the liability on recommendation for resistance varieties (include qualifying statement to avoid negative ramifications). Karl Glover (new Chair of VDHR-SPR CP committee) will contact Marcia McMullen regarding submitting their info.

VDHR-NWW and SWW – The two CPs met together and the first topic they discussed was the proposed changes to VDHR's action plan. Most people seemed to like the proposed changes. Discussed at length the first goal; plan to increase acreage of resistant varieties, and lowering

DON in the grain. Plan to integrate more coordinated projects for next year's proposal. The two groups plan to meet again in March in conjunction with the Soft Wheat Quality lab annual meeting. Discussed the database and a plan to have key people (Nursery leaders) travel to St. Paul, MN. The group designated individuals (plant pathologists) to provide data to Marcia McMullen for ScabSmart.

7. Appointments of Executive Committee and Coordinated Project Committee Members.

Executive Committee - A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominees (Dave Van Sanford, Winter Wheat; Ruth Dill-Macky, Spring Wheat and Mike Davis, Barley) for appointment to the Executive Committee. The motion was approved.

USWBSI Co-Chair - A motion was made and seconded to appoint Dave Van Sanford as the Co-Chair of the USWBSI Steering Committee. The motion was approved.

Coordinated Project Committees - A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominees for CP membership. The motion was approved.

8. Discussion of two-year model for FY10 Research Plan & Budget.

After much discussion, there was no clear consensus on whether the two-year model is working. For now, it seems that flexibility exists to allow for something new and exciting to be considered. Regarding the Coordinated Project (CP), there needs to be a mechanism in place for good exchange of information across CPs.

9. Spring '09 Steering Committee meeting.

It was recommended by the NFO that we hold the meeting in St. Paul again with the aim of utilizing the video conferencing capability of the UMN conference center. Mid-April was discussed for the timing, but we would wait and poll the SC after the election.

10. New items.

- MGMT – The MGMT RAC requests that the maintenance of the forecasting models be separated from projects that focus on the refinement and deployment. The maintenance should be treated as a service like the DON testing labs, rather than competitive research.

Review of Coordinated Projects – If the Coordinated Project Committees work the way they should and put together a quality proposal where each component has been scrutinized, then review can focus on the CP proposal as a whole.

- Daren Coppock raised the question of whether we could 'internationalize' the research (i.e. bring in other groups). We are just one part of the global research effort.

- Louis Arnold noted that private industry seems to be ahead of us. Is there some way we can partner with them (i.e. Monsanto)? A start may be with getting their help on the development of our VDHR database.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded and written by:



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