



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 2004 9:15 AM – 4:30 PM
Holiday Inn O'Hare International
Chicago, IL

Members Present: Tom Anderson (MN Wheat Growers), Louis Arnold (ND Barley Council), Jim Bloomberg (Bayer CropScience), Blake Cooper (BARI), Mike Davis (American Malting Barley Association), Marty Draper (SD State University), Len Francl (Penn State University), Winston Hagler (NC State University), Char Hollingsworth (University of Minn.), Yue Jin (USDA-ARS, MN), Shahryar Kianian (ND State University), Pat Lipps (Ohio State University), Marcia McMullen (ND State University), Ben Moreno-Sevilla (WestBred LLC), Paul Murphy (NC State University), Steven Neate (ND State University), Mike Pate (Midstate Mills Co.), Paul Schwarz (ND State University), Rick Vallery (SD Wheat), Rick Ward (Mich. State University), Randy Woodsen (Purdue University), HP Zhou (Syngenta) and Marv Zutz (MN Barley Council)

Guests: John McCammon (Siemer Milling Co.)

Support Staff: Sue Canty (USWBSI/NFO, Mich. State University)

Meeting called to order at 9:17 AM

5. Opening Remarks/Introductions.

6. Review minutes from 12-13-03 Steering Committee (SC) Meeting.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made and second to accept the minutes as distributed to SC. Motion passed unanimously.

7. FY05 Funding Outlook.

Mike Davis reported that the National Barley and Wheat Improvement Committees and their allies received a very positive response concerning the funding allocated for the USWBSI when they visited Congress in March. All Congressional earmarked additions for the last four fiscal years in the ARS budget, including \$1.38 million that was added for the USWBSI, were proposed for elimination in the President's proposed FY2005 budget. It was the impression of those who visited Congress that they would maintain the current level of funding for the USWBSI in FY2005.

Mike Davis pointed out that in the NBIC's meeting with key staffers to the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, they had asked when the problem would be solved and the funding no longer needed. With the budget deficit, Congress is looking to eliminate programs that are no longer needed to free up funds for other uses. Mike Davis reported that he informed the staffers that much work needs to be done and all the funding is still needed. He told the Steering Committee that we need to keep this in mind so that we are prepared to provide Congress with justification to continue the funding, which is still needed, and to give some thought to the future, when it may no longer be needed for scab research.

4. Current Status of the USWBSI.

- Termination of 5-yr agreements – implications
Overall summary of history – remaining balances will have to be adjusted after the SC has approved the recommended amounts. Process will have to be developed.
- **Disposition of FY04 Funds**
 - ARS action on USWBSI' Funding Recommendation – ARS approved the USWBSI proposed FY04 funding recommendation. There was a slight rescission (congressionally mandated) of approximately .0012 % of the net to location. The total amount of the reduction (\$6,380) was applied to the NFO award.
 - Increased funding to SE Wheat Breeding Programs – Rick Ward reported that although it was a difficult process to determine the distribution of additional funding allocated by the SC to the SE Wheat Breeding Programs, the majority of the individuals involved were satisfied with the final outcome.
- **SE '03 Crop Study** – The NFO has contracted with Dr. Christina Cowger, USDA-ARS, GA to carry out a study documenting the circumstances of the FHB epidemic and resultant DON contamination in the SE U.S. Due to limited resources and time constraints, the study will focus on Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky.
- **Acceptable DON Levels** – Rick Ward reported that the Codex Alimentarius Commission (<http://www.codexalimentarius.net>), which was created in 1963 by FAO and WHO to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, is considering lowering the acceptable levels of DON. However, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is not supportive of dropping the current levels at this time. It was suggested that the Scab Initiative develop a working relationship with FDA. Mike Davis made a motion that the EC take a lead role on engaging in formal discussions regarding DON with the appropriate federal agencies. Motion was seconded by Marcia McMullen. Motion passed.
- **2nd International Symposium on Fusarium Head Blight.**

Call has gone out for the submission of Title-Summaries for the International Symposium. Selection of speakers for the research sessions will be based on submission of the 'Titles-Summaries' and suggestions by the International Organizing Committee (IOC), the USWBSI's Executive Committee (EC) and the RAC Chairs. The research sessions for the Symposium Program, approved by the International Organizing Committee, are listed below:

Session I (12/11 - Saturday afternoon): Plenary Session (three 40 minute talks) –
Suggested topics include wheat genome analysis, Fusarium genome analysis, and biology of Host-Pathogen interactions.

Session 2: Host Plant Resistance and Variety Development - Science and affiliated technologies focused on:

- *Discovery and/or characterization of naturally occurring host plant resistance genes in wheat, barley and related species (e.g., germplasm screening, conventional genetic analyses, QTL/gene discovery and/or mapping facilitated*

by DNA markers or genomic techniques, studies of resistance mechanisms, etc.)

- *Breeding strategies that maximize the rate of development and adoption of resistant varieties- either conventional or GM (e.g., DNA marker assisted selection, efficacy of screening/phenotyping techniques, breeding methods in general, etc.)*

Session 3: Genetic Engineering - Science and affiliated technologies focused on GMO approaches to host plant resistance.

Session 4: Chemical, Cultural and Biological Control

Session 5: Food Safety, Toxicology, and Utilization of Mycotoxin-contaminated Grain

Session 6: Pathogenesis, Epidemiology, and Disease Forecasting

Session 7: Taxonomy, Population Genetics, and Genomics of *Fusarium spp.*

- **VDUN Genotyping Workshops** – See attached update titled “Coordinating Genotyping Center Research to Combat Fusarium Head Blight.”

5. Research Areas (RA) Impact Reports.

RAC Chairs were given 10 minutes to present impact reports for their research area. Please see attached reports for complete detail.

6. Review FY05 Funding Recommendation Process.

- **Research Area (RA) Program Descriptions and Research Priorities (PD-RP):** A page will be added at the beginning of RA PD-RP summarizing the changes from the FY04 versions.
 - **BIO** – No changes to proposed Program Description or Research Priorities. Suggestion made to poll the SC on what percentage of BIO’s funding allocation should be directed to funding transformation projects. See ‘Allocation of Working Caps’ for result of SC’s action.
 - **CBC** - No changes to proposed Research Priorities. The first sentence in the proposed Program Description will be changed to the following (additional text in bold): “The Chemical and Biological Control research area supports research to develop effective and economical chemical and biological control practices that **reduce FHB severity and the level of DON in harvested grain** to meet the immediate and long-term needs of wheat and barley growers for managing FHB.”
 - **EDM** – add language to Program Description regarding Mycotoxin. No changes to proposed Research Priorities.
 - **FSTU** - No changes to proposed Program Description or Research Priorities.
 - **GIE** – No changes to proposed Program Description or Research Priorities. Suggestion was made that the GIE RAC begins looking at Type I resistance along with Type II.
 - **VDUN** – No changes to proposed Program Descriptions and Research Priorities. Rick Ward made the suggestion that the USWBSI encourage breeders/geneticists to submit pre-proposals for pilot projects collaborating with genotyping centers.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed FY05 Research Area Program Descriptions and Research Priorities, incorporating the suggestions (listed above) made during the discussion period. SC approved the motion.

- **Request for Pre-Proposals (RFPP):** The SC was asked to submit suggested changes to the NFO. Final draft of RFPP will be distributed to EC for final approval.
- **Process for reviewing Pre-Proposals:** Rick Vallery made a motion to adopt process as used in previous years. Motion was seconded by Pat Lipps. After much discussion, Vallery amended his motion to include that the SC review and approve action on all projects (funded and non-funded), and that the requested amount be included in the EC's funding recommendation include proposed action on all submitted pre-proposals (funded and non-funded), and also the amount requested. Lipps concurred with the amended motion. Motion passed.

There were no suggested changes to either the RAC or EC's review process. However it was suggested that the SC be given more time to look over the EC's funding recommendation.

- **Allocation of Working Caps:** The SC agreed informally to follow the process laid out in the USWBSI's Policy and Procedures for setting the Working Caps for the research areas. However, Mike Davis made the motion that SC also be polled regarding the percentage within the Biotechnology Research Area that should be directed towards transformation research. Rick Ward seconded the motion. Allow during the discussion the issued was raised regarding concern over micromanaging the research area, the SC approved the motion.

7. **Amendments to USWBSI Policies and Procedures.**

Mike Davis made a motion to adopt proposed changes to the current Policies & Procedures (P&P), including minor change discussed during SC meeting. Motion was seconded by Blake Cooper. Motion passed.

8. **Selection of dates and locations for the 2005 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum**

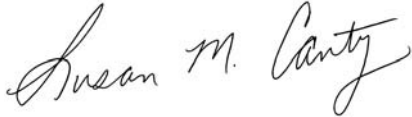
- Proposed Dates –12/3-5 or 12/10-12. Discussion revolved around moving the start of the Forum away from the weekend. However, concern was voiced that moving the Forum into the week would effect graduate students and teaching faculty, a large portion of Forum attendees. Jim Bloomberg made a motion to start the Forum on Sunday. The motion was seconded by HP Zhou. Motioned passed. The community at large will be polled for possible conflicts with the following dates: 12/4-6 and 12/11/-13. Final outcome of poll will be used to draft a proposal that will be voted on by the SC.
- The following cities were suggested as possible location for the 2005 NFHB Forum: Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Cleveland, St. Louis and Chicago. The NFO will compile a preliminary costs basis summary for each city, and distribute it to SC members to assist them with submitting their preferred location. Final outcome of SC preferred ranking will be used to draft a proposal that will be voted on by the SC.

9. Other Items.

Tom Anderson, acting on behalf of both Co-chairs, asked the Steering Committee to consider adding the North American Millers' Association as an organizational rep on the Steering Committee. Although no one at meeting voiced opposition to this request, there was not a quorum present to take an official vote. Motion will be sent to entire SC for consideration and action.

Meeting adjourned: 3:40 PM

Minutes recorded by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Canty".

Susan M. Canty, Manager
USWBSI/Networking & Facilitation Office

Attachments