



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

MEETING MINUTES

USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 8:30 AM – 4:15 PM CDT

Crowne Plaza Aire

Room: The Wright Suite (Orville-Wilbur)

Co-Chairs: Doyle Lentz (Private Grower, ND) and Dave Van Sanford (Univ. of Kentucky)

Members Present: Alyssa Collins (Pennsylvania State Univ.), Mike Davis (American Malting Barley Association), Ruth Dill-Macky (Univ. of Minnesota), Andrew Friskop (North Dakota State Univ.), Rich Horsley (North Dakota State Univ.), Steve Joehl (National Wheat Growers Assoc.), Dave Kendra (BASF, NC), Corby Kistler (USDA-ARS, MN), Fred Kolb (Univ. of Illinois), Louis Kuster (ND Wheat Commission), Esten Mason (Univ. of Arkansas), Jolanta Menert (ABInBev, CO), Don Mennel (Mennel Milling Co., OH), Gary Muehlbauer (Univ. of Minnesota), Dale Nellor (North American Millers' Assoc.), Eric Olson (Michigan State Univ.), Pierce Paul (Ohio State Univ.), John Pitkin (Monsanto Co.), Joel Ransom (North Dakota State Univ., attending in place of Steven Xu, Chair of the DUR-CP), Paul Sadosky (MillerCoors, WI), Jon Rich (Agripro-Syngenta, KS), Paul Schwarz (North Dakota State Univ.), Steve Scofield (USDA-ARS, IN), Carl Schwinke (Siemer Milling Co., IL), Kevin Smith (Univ. of Minnesota), Kevin Thorsness (Bayer CropScience, ND), Jochum Wiersma (Univ. of Minnesota), and Marv Zutz (Minnesota Barley Council)

Members not present: Doug Buehler (Michigan State Univ., NCRA rep), Xiwen Cai (North Dakota State Univ.), Bruce Freitag (ND Wheat Commission), Laird Larson (SD Wheat Commission), Randy Raper (Oklahoma State Univ., SAAESD rep), Mark Seastrand (North Dakota Barley Council), and Andrea Stanley (Valley Malt)

USDA-ARS: Jose Costa (ADODR for the USWBSI)

NFO Staff: Sue Canty (USWBSI-NFO, MI), Dave Hane (USWBSI-NFO, CA) and Don Lilleboe (Lilleboe Communications LTD., ND)

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion was approved.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from 12/06/16 SC Meeting

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion was approved.

4. Federal Funding and ARS Updates

Mike Davis – FY17 and FY18 Budgets

- FY17 – National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC) visited Washington DC March 6-8th, and the National Wheat Improvement Committee (NWIC) visited March 20-21st. Senator Hoeven of North Dakota is now the Chairman of the Ag. Approps Sub-committee. The Senate’s proposed FY17 budget included a \$2M increase for Scab research. If the increase makes into the final budget, \$1M would go to the USWBSI and \$1M would go directly to ARS for Scab research.
- FY2018 – The Trump Administration released a “Skinny Budget” outline in March, proposing substantial increases for defense, a wall with Mexico, and homeland security, with cuts for most all other discretionary spending. That budget called for a \$4.7 billion or 21% reduction in USDA discretionary spending. Details are to come out in May. Some specific program and agency cuts have been identified, such as to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, but to date, ARS has not been identified for cuts.
- Mike ended by pointing out the adage that has held up over many years – “President’s propose, Congress disposes.”

Dave Van Sanford gave a brief update on the NWIC’s visit to Washington. Both the visits with ARS and Congress went very well. Everyone they met with on the ‘Hill’ was very familiar with the USWBSI. The USWBSI Impact Statement that now includes return on investment (from Initiative’s commissioned Economic Study) was a real selling point.

Jose Costa – USDA-ARS Issues

- Dr. Sonny Perdue is expected to be confirmed on April 24 as the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Current undersecretary is Ann Bartuska (hold over from Obama administration); she will be replaced when Dr. Perdue takes over.
- Budget: Under continuing resolution (CR) until April 28.
- We are expecting a CR for FY17 until end of the FY.
- “Skinny” budget proposes a 21% cut for USDA for FY18. It is not clear how ARS will be affected.
- Scab account: we are not allowed to assign funds until the budget situation is solved.
- Hiring freeze has been lifted but no recruitments are allowed.
- Internal hires are allowed.

5. Updates from the NFO and EC

- **Steering Committee Member Appointment by the Executive Committee.** The EC approved the appointment of Paul Sadosky with MillerCoors to the Steering Committee for the area of Malting Barley Industry. The USWBSI has a long-standing relationship with MillerCoors, and felt it important to have a representative directly involved.
- **Update on Economic Study** – Dave Van Sanford gave an update on the Economic study.

Summary and Outlook: All of the analysis for this project has been completed, and the NDSU research group is in the process of creating the research report (it is in the final stages and you have an early draft), and relevant journal articles. The results have been summarized

previously in a 3-pager, and reviewed/distributed concurrent with the presentation at the SCAB meeting in December.

Looking forward:

- Return on investment (primary returns) in the SCAB Initiative: This analysis has been completed, and in the process of being integrated into the report. These are unchanged from that presented in December;
- The secondary impacts have been completed and Dr. Nganje is in the process of drafting text for inclusion into the final report;
- In-Kind estimates: As indicated to us, the goal is to provide this information by May 15 at which time they will be sent to us. Assuming that date is adhered to, the next steps would be to refine the returns analysis, and incorporate the results in the Final Report, and in the Summary document. Plan would be to have these done by June 30 at which time it would be submitted for final review.

- **Status of FY17 Funding Recommendation**

We've been in holding pattern in regards to notifying PIs. However, the NFO has proceeded with preparing the final grant documents for all PIs based on the SC's final recommendation. EC's recommendation if the Initiative received an increase in funding is first query the DON Labs about replacing equipment, and then fund new research. The SC endorsed the EC's recommendation of making the DON Labs the top priority.

6. Research Leaders' Presentations – SC members will have access to the presentations via the web as an aid in the setting of the FY18-19 working caps.

- VDHR - Spring Wheat Region Coordinated Project – Jochum Wiersma
- Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project – Jon Rich
- Durum Coordinated Project – Joel Ransom
- Barley Coordinated Project – Brian Steffenson
- VDHR - Northern Soft Winter Wheat Coordinated Projects – Eric Olson
- VDHR - Southern Soft Winter Wheat Coordinated Projects – Esten Mason
- FHB Management – Andrew Friskop/Pierce Paul
- Food Safety and Toxicology – Paul Schwarz
- Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance – Steve Scofield
- Pathogen Biology and Genetics – Corby Kistler

7. FY18-19 Request for Pre-Proposals and Review Process

- Process and Timetable for Setting FY18-19 Working Caps – the proposed plan is to follow a new process. Instead of polling the SC twice, the EC will provide a baseline and SC members will base their individual recommendation using that baseline. The EC will then take the results from SC Poll and Discussion and make a final recommendation for SC to vote on.
- Overview of FY18-19 Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP) – Submission and Review: We don't foresee any major changes to the RFP submission and review process. The NFO does plan to hold a conference call with the Coordinated Project chairs prior to the deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and with Research Area chairs prior to the start of their review process.

8. **Presentation by Ali Moghimi, University of Minnesota**

Development of a high throughput phenotyping platform for assessing FHB severity in wheat and barley using RGB/hyper-spectral imaging

9. **Review Proposed Changes to Policies & Procedures**

Motion: Motion made and seconded to approve P&P as amended

Discussion: None

Action: Approved

10. **2017 National FHB Forum, 12/3-12/5, Milwaukee, WI**

- Program Format

Combination of General Sessions, Flash & Dash Sessions followed by Poster Sessions, and Breakouts.

- Schedule of Administrative Meetings

- Forum – 12/3, 1:00 PM – 12/5, 12:00 PM

- EC meets 12/1 PM, 12/2, 12/3 AM, 12/4 PM and 12/5 following the SC meeting

- Research leaders meet with the EC on 12/2

- SC meeting is on 12/5

- National Wheat Improvement Committee – will meet on 12/6 (day after the Forum ends).

11. **Small Discussion Groups**

Goal: SC broke-up into small groups for discussions as indicated below.

Part 1: Discuss position descriptions

Part 2: Review Research Priorities for FY18-19

Small Discussion Follow-up: Groups report on their discussions.

Part 1: Reports by Leaders on new NFO staff positions – Key points summarized below:

Suggestions for hiring and responsibilities of Technical Director.

- Review DON QC
- Should be an independent contractor who reports to the Executive Director of the NFO; stakeholders should be involved in the interview process.
- Hired before communications as they would be providing the information to be disseminated.
- Should be tied to extension programs; full or part-time position?
- Review CPs and select a model for other groups to follow.

Suggestions for hiring and responsibilities of Communications Specialist

- Extension could take this role on; potential breakout at Forum.
- Could contract with public relations firms or a consultant group; first need to decide on time commitment (part-time, full-time etc.)
- Before searching for individual, need determine who the target audience is (i.e. end users).
- Who would supervise this person?

For both positions, need to develop performance criteria.

Part 2: Reports by Leaders – Research Priorities

FST – Second research priority: rework to reflect toxicology research; critical to our view on safety limits on DON.

Discussion: Some companies claim they can detect DON with NIR. DON labs may possibly look to validate this claim. Also European Union looking to lower DON limits; CODEX has already lowered levels; pushing it down to the farm level (i.e. versus elevator level).

MGMT – No changes suggested. The IM-CP plans to test new product in FY18-19 research period. Discussed incorporating biologicals into integrated trials; first need proof the biological does what is claimed.

GDER – Support developing high throughput approaches to identify genes that could confer resistance. Validate that genes work in a transgenic plant. Finally, newly identify genes go into germplasm collections and used as targets to identify variance that might be useful.

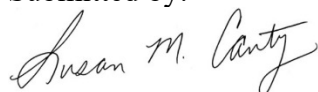
PBG – Add research that looks at blocking initial infection. Consider revisiting biologicals controls now that there are better genomics. Identify microbes that would be antagonistic to infection.

VDHR – Discussion focused around two questions: 1) What aren't we doing that we should be doing; and 2) What is limiting us? Concerning the first question, better coordination and cooperation is needed among breeding programs. Also, should require breeders to upload data to the Breeders Datafarm to make it available as a community resource (i.e. help with genomic selection). We should think about research questions that need to be addressed beyond specific market classes and geographic areas (i.e. developing high throughput phenotypic methods, theoretical approaches to genomic selection). Regarding second question, navigating the constantly changing environment for obtaining phenotypic data (i.e. costs, turnaround time). This area (and the relevant CPs) needs to pay more attention to the education component and how breeders can participate. Breeders need to get information to the right people so it can be implemented.

- 12. Approving Proposed Changes to Research Priorities** – individual research groups will review and approve the proposed changes. The final drafts will then will be sent to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:23 PM CDT

Submitted by:



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