**NRSP Review Committee Meeting**

**Embassy Suites, Denver, CO**

**June 17, 2014**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:**

Bret Hess (Chair)

Eric Young

H. Michael Harrington

Tim Phipps

Clarence Watson

Don Latham

Doug Buhler

Sarah Lupis (Recording Secretary)

**Summary of Actions Taken**

Motion and second and unanimous approval of the following recommendation for substantive changes to the NRSP Guidelines:

* Section III. A. General: Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”
* Section IV. B Management and Business Plan: Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NRSP Project** | **Title** | **Request for FY15** | **NRSP Review Committee Action**  |
| **NRSP\_TEMP003** | The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) | $50,000 | Approve 5-year budget |
| **NRSP\_TEMP301** | A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs | $325,000 | Approve 1-year budget1 |
| **NRSP\_TEMP321** | Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research | $398,631 | Approve 5-year budget2 |

1 NRSP7 must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting another renewal proposal.

2 Pending formal response to NRSP-RC questions about database platform selection and communication with the National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP-8) database manager.

1. **NRSP\_TEMP321, “Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research”**

Bret Hess (Chair) gave a summary of the project objectives and budget.

There was discussion about intellectual property issues and how this project would handle them—all information will be public and shared except for what is protected by specific database users. Most information would be free and open to the public, including the database itself.

Dorrie Main (PI) will be attending the NE-NC Joint Summer meeting.

There was some discussion about how this group plans to coordinate with other databases that currently exist. There is hope that this database format (Triple) becomes the database of choice, and there was some interest in having this database become the new model. Many are converting already to this type of database (20+).

There was some discussion about if this group plans to expand to include specialty crops—during a presentation, the PI indicated that they would do this. Most of what is in there are specialty crops, but the group was approached by cotton and decided to take that on (the southern region helped to fund that effort).

There was some discussion on how this group could seek funding from the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. Included in this discussion was the notion of offering a smaller budget to this group and encouraging funding through that route. Some of the individual crops already have support under the SCRI. This group aims to serve as the platform for all of those specialty crops.

The database currently has 25,000 users. The project is considering user fees.

One RC member suggested that the proposal was a better fit to the mission of the NRSP program than anything he’d read in a long time. The three absent reviewers gave the proposal outstanding marks.

**Questions for formal response:**

* How and why was this database platform (Tripal/CHADO) selected over other options? How was it determined that this is the preferred platform by specialty crop users (i.e., the same questions asked by peer reviewer Steve Lommel)?
* Has the group communicated with Jim Reece (Animal Genome Project) and/or what are plans to do so?

*Motion and second to recommend approval of the NRSP\_TEMP321 proposal, subject to formal response to the questions above. Unanimously approved with one absention.*

1. **NRSP\_TEMP003, “The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)”**

Bret Hess provided a summary of the project. Doug Buhler, AA on the project, also provided some background on the development of the proposal.

Regions have overwhelming support for the project. The project is succeeding with minimal NRSP contributions.

Absent NRSP-RC members indicated support for this proposal.

*Motion and second to approve recommendation for approval of the NRSP\_TEMP003 proposal. Unanimously approved.*

1. **NRSP\_TEMP301, “A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs”**

Bret Hess provided a summary of the proposal and history of the project.

The group has struggled to leverage NRSP funds. Also fewer manufacturers/veterinarians are willing to take the research risk. As currently funded, there are insufficient funds to do their work. They intend to spend the year exploring alternative funding options and bolstering stakeholder support.

There was discussion about how to rally the minor animal stakeholders.

This proposal covers a one-year “extension” for this project to close out or re-group.

*Motion and second to approve recommendation for approval of the NRSP\_TEMP003 project proposal. Unanimously approved. A strong recommendation was made to enhance stakeholder engagement and to have this take place as soon as possible.*

1. **Mid-Term Review of NRSP001, “National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)”**

Bret Hess gave a summary of the project and mid-term review.

The Administrative Advisors reviewed the project. Major concerns of reviewers focused on how others utilize NIMSS and evaluating the true impact/reach of the impact writing effort. There was discussion about the positive feedback received for the impact writing effort. The impact writing effort has made significant contributions to the ESCOP/ECOP communications and marketing effort; providing a resource for that effort and also for institutions to use in developing further media attention.

There was some discussion about how the NIMSS is used by the general public.

There was some discussion about the necessity of having a functional database. There was widespread support for completely revamping NIMSS, and even for putting other things on hold to ensure that the NIMSS is functional.

1. **Budget Discussion**

A spreadsheet summarizing FY13, FY14, pending for FY15 and projected for FY16-18 (with assumptions) was distributed by Mike Harrington.

If all projects on the table are approved, and there in an increase in NRSP-1 funding to accommodate necessary upgrades to the database, the NRSP budget will exceed the $2M cap. This cap was set 2 years ago. There was never any discussion of having the cap be a percentage.

It was suggested that the AAs talk to the IR-4 (NRSP4) leadership about reducing their budget to a more maintenance level when they renew in 2015.

*Motion to approve pending funding for NRSP-1 in FY14 for up to an additional $200,000 (total budget = $275,000) to address the new proposal to fix; a higher proposed budget will necessitate a conference call of the NRSP-RC. Motion to approve pending funding for NRSP-1 in FY15 for up to an additional $75,000 (total budget = $150,000); a higher proposed budget will necessitate a conference call of the NRSP-RC.*

*Motion and second for recommendation to approve 5-year budget for NRSP\_TEMP003 (NRSP3). Unanimously approved.*

*Motion and second for recommendations to approve 1-year budget for NRSP\_TEMP301 (NRSP7). Unanimously approved. Motion and unanimous approval of recommendation that NRSP7 must demonstrate that they have secured 2x the funding requested from the NRSP from new (not in-kind) funds prior to initiating renewal.*

*Motion and second for recommendation to approve the NRSP\_TEMP321 5-year budget. Approved with one abstaining (wants to see PI’s presentation at Summer Meeting).*There was discussion about alternative funding. First alternate recommendation would be to recommend a 1-year exception to the cap. Second alternate recommendation would be to postpone the NRSP\_TEMP321 for one year.

1. **Changes to the NRSP Guidelines**

*Motion and second and unanimous approval of the following recommendation for substantive changes to the NRSP Guidelines:*

***Section III. A. General****: Change bullet four to delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to approve up to 1% of total Hatch Funding.*

***Section IV. B Management and Business Plan****: Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”*

A final, non-substantive, change was also approved:

**B. During Project Term (Years 2-4)** *Change “October—November (Year 2)” to* “March (Year 3)” *and “February—April”* to “February—May” (also changes in Appendix 2A)

C. Renewal of an Existing NRSP *add* “committee”

1. **NRSP-RC Term Limits**

There was discussion about NRSP-RC term limits for CARET representatives. The term is 4 years for CARET representatives and Don Latham has probably exceeded his term and could propose a change in representatives to the Chair of CARET.