

Vegetable AoE Meeting
February 1, 2007

Call to order 9:35am by Norm Myers

Those in attendance were Vicki Morrone, Amy Irish-Brown, Darryl Warncke, Norm Myers, Bill Steenwyck, Bernie Zandstra, Darryl Warncke, Ron Goldy, Beth Bishop, Dave Smith, Mathieu Nguagio, Roger Brook, Jim Breinling

Arriving late:

- Phil Tocco, Larry Olsen, Joy Landis, Mike Brewer, Jeff Andresen, Mark Trent, Tracy Aichele

Sustainable Vegetable position update:

- interviews conducted
- Dan Brainard accepted position; negotiating start-up package
- weed science PhD NY; Econ for BS/MS; international experience in Africa; organic farming operation in NE
- 3-way appt. T 15%/R 50%/E 35% starting August

GLVWG News:

- Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 (?)
- share rides from Lansing, leaving Feb. 27

New Positions:

- Bill Steenwyck:
 - new (muck emphasis) vegetable ICM agent;
 - office at Clarksville; started Feb. 1; partly funded from central and west region;
 - servicing nominally Kent Co. and adjoining; coordinate with Amy IB and Jim B
- Amy IB will serve dual crops while Bill S. emerges; will be returning to all fruit
- SE position:
 - advertised new position joint with se MI 60% & nw OH 40%;
 - 3 apps received to date; closes Feb. 19; interviews Mar. 13
 - based in Monroe Co.; evaluation through MSU with input from OH

Summer Tour:

- tours wrapped into national ag agent conference

PREF Program Report:

- good program; may not meet PREF tax (short fall contributed by Mary Hausbeck)
- 128 paying persons;

Leadership Program Ideas:

- producer and agent together to national conference
- potential match from MVC

Plans for MVC Meeting:

- being recheduled; tentatively Mar. 5

VGN News Articles

- sign up sheet passed by Ron Goldy
- Norm Myers sent in for Feb.
- Vicki M preparing on transition from traditional to organic production

CAT Reports 2007 (Joy Landis)

- online news posting (prior to weekly publication)

Larry Olsen (see handout)

- AoE competitive grants; information on Angel (campus AoE website?); includes matching?
- new field coverage (see above)
- GREEN proposals are in; 22 Extension proposals
- AoE annual report due April 1 (summary of Veg Info to Norm for inclusion)
- new operating budget mid-July

EXPO Review and Pre-Planning:

- distributed 2005 evaluation report; repeat in 5 years
- 3347 paying attendees; 2019 paying full registration; does not include 1000+ vendors;
- bulletins \$8,000+
- evaluation summary: gpexpo.com/evaluation/evaluation.php
- evaluation instrument sub-comm: Ron G, Mathieu N. (seek input from Hannah S; distribute to AoE)

Faculty Level Specialist Issue:

- Larry O:
 - 50% Extension funding as specialist;
 - issue is Extension specialist as faculty member; scholarship issue?
 - recommendation to have field related work done by academic specialists;
 - Tom Coon will not do away with specialist designation

Enviro-Weather Discussion:

- discussion led by Amy IB and Mike Brewer
- Mark Trent is new coordinator; Oklahoma peanut grower; plant disease model verification experience
- website:
 - plant models
 - pest models

- resource models (irrigation scheduling)
- weather summaries
- planning with workgroups:
 - self-identified staff and subject matter contacts
 - develop priorities
 - assign project staff commitments
 - strategize additional resources
- considering expansion to natural resources (forest, water management)
- developing a wish list for vegetable models and other tools

Organic Certification Program

Emily Reardon spoke with us from the Mott Group. The certificate program is a 1 yr program w/ external internship. It has a farm work component and classroom instruction. Rotations are every 4 weeks. Affiliated with Ag Tech (audience, MG's, hog producers, 20 something kids). Currently, classes run all day Tuesday and Thursday, education can be applied to BS or MS but concurrent education may be time prohibitive. Summer farm tours happen around the state every other week. Courses are open to all.

Grant Round Robin

Vickie Morrone gave us an update about two of her grants. The USDA Grant for having focus groups of agents and growers to determine barriers to develop an organic program (funded). As well, she is submitting a grant to create a list of resources or library of resources for organic growers.

Matthieu's AoE Competitive Grant: Matthieu gave us an update on the plasticulture bulletin, it is finished and is ready for the printer (20pg).

Matthieu gave us an overview of three GREEN proposals he submitted. They are Methyl Bromide Alternatives for melon and eggplant, replant in asparagus, and cover crops for nematode control in carrots.

Matthieu also just submitted a Ramp proposal (1.5 mil) to look at Phytophthora control in vine crops.

Darryl gave us an update on the AoE Competitive Grant he's working on a website for nutrient recommendations. The program will be put on the server (beta version) by the end of the month.

Beth is working on an aster leafhopper infectivity study funded through Central Region GREEN & a Ramp grant. A currently funded AoE Competitive Grant continues this on 10 sites (3 carrots, 3 celery). (1 site in central). 40 leafhoppers/sample. The grant includes money to pay for scouts, tests, etc.

General Comments

Jim suggested that we include a list of all RUP's in the pest management book w/ all EPA registration #'s.

An upcoming event is the Tri-state organic video conference (IL, IN, MI)

The Vegetable council may have money available to allocate to applied research with funds above their designated funds. \$5k may be leveraged w/ GREEN monies. How to allocate this money may start at the vegetable council level and once they decide how to use it, they will approach individual researchers.

2007-08 Budget

\$3534 is left in our main line

This does not include the Aster yellows bill from the Diagnostic lab. It was just posted (\$350) and is yet unpaid.

\$1200 – PREF extras are in a separate 21 account

Beth offered if ECB traps need to be fixed, bring them to campus. She will get them fixed.

Generally, we've spent down at least half of our budget and are in good shape to finish out the budget cycle.

Some EXPO deadlines to help us stay on track:

Sep 1: Preliminary Program must be roughed out by here

Oct 1: Final Program must be complete by here.

2007 Meeting Schedule:

Mar 28: Veg AoE Meeting (Crops Barn 9:30a – 3p)

Jun 25: Veg AoE Meeting (Crops Barn 9:30a – 3p)

Aug 28: Veg AoE Meeting (Crops Barn)