

Veg Crops AoE Meeting
June 25, 2007

Present: Ron Goldy, Roger Brook, Norm Myers, Darryl Warncke, Bill Steenwyk, Jim Breinling, Matthew Ngouajio, Mark Trent, Bernie Zandstra, Mary Hausbeck, Dave Smith, Chris Reisinger, Fred Springborn, Walt Pett, Beth Bishop, Vickie Morrone

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am

Budget:

Handling of the budget surplus-\$6K was listed under MVC in our account. This was money that Roger should have been paid from. Roger was actually paid out of the main account. After everything was changed we ended up with a surplus, part of which will be lost if we don't spend it (about \$1600). Beth bought ahead 2008 ECB testing (\$500) and 2007 ECB testing (\$500). Then we spent \$300 on Cruiser seed testing from the diagnostic lab. This still leaves us with \$387 to be lost if it does not get spent.

We also have an AoE competitive grant for 13K that is two-year.

AoE matching grant is 10K. 2007-2008 allocation is \$5000 + carry of \$2929.50. This does not include PREF (\$1700 in a 21 acct) from Ag labor plus 2005 workshop. Grand total in main account is \$7929.50

Mary's AoE matching grant: Mary has 10K 2007-2008 grant for extension component of methyl bromide alternatives (USDA) coupled with an AoE matching grant. Ron is a partner on the grant. Steve Lovejoy seems to be the only person who knows about the matching grant program. This doesn't even get dumped in until July 1st. We need to know whether the timetable for spending is the same as the grant (3 years), or whether we have 1 year to spend it. We will ask Larry Olsen first and hope it gets to the right spot. Ron wants to cover expenses for Joe Nowlin at Expo as part of this and cover crops workshop out of this money specifically with regards to oilseeds.

Activities Extension needs to do for Mbr grant:

Great Lakes Expo, Regular field meetings. The educators/growers may wish to attend national Methyl Bromide alternatives workshop. These participants would be covered under the grant.

The companies and the researchers are all there (early November in San Diego)

-Mary doesn't think that Joe Nowlin coming to Expo is a good use of grant funds. "Florida worked hard to cut us out of the granting process".

-Mary feels using funds from the grant to cover crops workshop is a good use of funds.

Daryl has prepaid plant tissue analysis for veggies needed at the plant diagnostic lab.

Update on positions:

- Dr. Brainard: There is no word on when he starts, but it will be before next school year (Aug 15).
- SE MI\NW OH Hort Agent: No word from anyone. There is significant discussion about percent allocation and where he will be located. There has been some concern expressed as to the success for this position.

- Hort Department Chair Candidates: Meryl B. and Randy B. are candidates for interim chair.

Jim circulated the veg AoE member list for additions and corrections.

Expo Discussion:

- Roger passed around the meeting room matrix and list of sessions.
- A discussion ensued about the progress for planning the Cucurbit IPM Sessions.
- Dave S. mentioned that we may wish to add a discussion on irrigation with help from Bruce MacKellar. Dave also suggested creating a program with Dr. Black and Chris S. about crops insurance adjusted gross revenue & AGR like Jim had proposed.
- Discussion on water use reporting ensued. Not necessarily legal issues or scheduling, but more about assessment. Lyndon Kelley was suggested to at least be involved, if not to plan it. Water use reporting.

Mary suggested putting an onion speaker within the celery track on spray technology.

Water Use: Norm volunteered Jim, Fred, Bruce, Lyndon Kelley, and Himself – Thursday A.M. Norm will moderate. 9a – 11a.

Insurance program: Some trepidation over speaking on one risk management tool that may appear to be an endorsement. Much discussion revolved around expending to include more risk management, or food-borne contamination and 3rd party audits.

For the rest of the speakers discussion look to Matthieu’s list of speakers.

With regards to what we offer speakers, all travel expenses are provided with up to three nights hotel stay. Mileage or transportation to and from is also covered.

AoE Competitive Grants:

-2 grants are being worked on. A letter of intent has been sent to Lovejoy’s office. The basic need is to make money on a program. One of the grants is to hold a cover crops/soil building program.

A fundamental discussion ensued as to who the cover crops/soil building program stemming from the AoE Competitive grant was directed at. It was decided that the audience SHOULD be growers.

Topics to be discussed were: Which ones, How to grow them. Benefits: Wind/Erosion, Nematodes/Disease, Rotational Systems/Nutrients, Beneficial insect habitat, Carbon Credits, Weed Control/Crop Control. Also sources and potential market for seed, as well as Options in cover crops.

Several options were presented in breaking the materials up. You could gear it specifically to niche folks or adopters, but not beginners. Or, you could break it up into afternoon tracks to appeal to everyone. We could cover two locations.

Matthieu will handle Conventional/Sustainable topics. Vickie Morrone will handle the organic stuff. The program will have concurrent sessions. The speakers don't have to be booked prior to submission of the grant. Norm's secretary will handle registrations.

Evaluations:

- RCAP does pre and post test with a 6-month follow-up.
- Talk to different seed suppliers about offering a percent discount and sponsorship.
- Work with grower who deals with plow down.

On the budget, include travel, but not necessarily an honorarium.

Both Vickie and Matthieu have a limit of two speakers from out of state, each.

It will be 1 place, 1 day at this point.

Peanut Gallery Comments:

- Ron wants to see a fruit and veg exploratory committee to change format of EXPO. There was much discussion on this. Some thought, "If it isn't broke...", some "Stir the pot...", some "If it breaks, be ready to fix it."
- Jim B. brought up info on Jim Krenek's program through MIFFS.
- Ron will have an open house 8/15 – 8/16.

The next meeting will be held on August 28