

**Northeast Region Technical Committee on Integrated Pest Management (NEERA-1604)
Meeting Minutes
Baltimore, MD
March 19, 2018**

Donna Ellis, Chair, 2017–2018
Kelly Hamby, Chair Elect, 2018–2019
Ed Rajotte, Past Chair 2016–2017

The NEERA-1604 (formerly NEERA-1004) Regional IPM meeting was held in conjunction with the 9th International IPM Symposium. The National IPM Coordinator meeting convened prior to the four Regional IPM meetings. A summary of the NEERA Regional meeting appears below.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting opened with a welcome from the Chair and introductions by the attendees. IPM Coordinators and other representatives from the Northeast included CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NY, PA, RI, VT, and WV. Several members participated via remote conferencing, with thanks to Nancy Cusumano at the Northeastern IPM Center (NEIPMC).

NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management Information Session

Herb Bolton, NIFA National Program Leader for Entomology, presented an overview of the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP) and Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP). Rubella Goswami, NIFA National Program Leader for Plant Pathology, discussed the Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP) during the National IPM Coordinator meeting. The CPPM overview presented during the National IPM Coordinator meeting is available for viewing as a PowerPoint presentation.

Herb provided additional updates to the NEERA group regarding the CPPM EIP. Indirect costs for EIP funds were mentioned. NIFA is neutral on negotiating for indirects, and the decision is based on actions from stakeholders in agricultural areas as well as directives from Congress. ARDP and RCP recipients do pay indirects, and the exemption only applies to EIP funds. The group talked about the importance of communicating information on major pests and telling an innovative story. It is vital to synchronize efforts in the region to target major pests such as brown marmorated stink bug and spotted lanternfly. The story must be relevant and reach the right people.

Update from the NEERA-1604 Administrative Advisor

Dr. Michael O'Neill, NEERA-1604 Administrative Advisor and Associate Dean & Associate Director for UConn Extension, talked about the importance of stakeholders in each state who will contact congressional leaders regarding key pests. Citizens and businesses are needed to become involved and make a case. Dr. O'Neill informed the group about a management company, the Lighthouse Consulting Group, that was hired to support the Northeast Extension Directors and will redesign the website. Ali Mitchell will start in April as the new Northeast Executive Director. It is hoped that interactions and communication will increase between the Extension Directors, the new management team, and the NEIPMC.

While the Northeastern region is not the greatest production region in the US, there are 65 million consumers with a high level of purchase power, and we need to take advantage of this. Dr. O'Neill asked how our science can connect better to these consumers. NIFA has announced new Science Initiatives, including Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems and Workforce Development, which provide opportunities to work more with multi-state groups. We need to focus more on students to connect campus programs with Extension, raise visibility on campus, and increase the number of Extension faculty.

New Director for the Northeastern IPM Center

Mike Hoffmann, Interim Director for the NEIPMC, provided an update on the search for the new Director to replace Steve Young. An offer was extended to one of the candidates, but the candidate declined and will remain in their current position. The second candidate will be offered the position, and it is hoped that the new Director will be on board within several months. Mike will continue to serve as the NEIPMC Interim Director. The group discussed the Project Director (PD) Workshop and the requirement that EIP and ARDP recipients present a seminar during the 3-year award period. Herb Bolton mentioned that other regions offer webinars where PDs can present project results and updates, and this may be an option for the Northeastern PDs. The webinars are recorded, providing opportunities to view presentations online in the future.

The group also discussed plans for the new Director and the NEIPMC. Jennifer Grant suggested that the Director and the NEIPMC should take the lead with NEERA activities (which had occurred with some of the previous Directors), continue with regional visits to states, and assist with NEERA Chair duties. The NEIPMC budget should include travel for the NEERA Chair to participate in required meetings.

Mike suggested that invasive species should be coordinated more across the centers, and Herb agreed. One of the NEIPMC Signature Programs is Climate Change and Pests, but there are other emerging and invasive pests being introduced into the region that need to be addressed, such as spotted lanternfly. Ed Rajotte commented that the NEIPMC and the Northeastern IPM Coordinators need to be involved in the process as new pests are detected and strategies developed. Dr. O'Neill suggested that we should broaden our programs to include Sustainable Ag Systems, where federal funds are available.

IPM Priorities for the Northeast

A discussion was held on updating the [2014 Priorities](#) developed by NEERA-1004 members during the 2014 annual meeting. The group revised and updated the list and created a new draft of 2018 Priorities, which tie in with the NEIPMC's five Signature Program areas: IPM and Organic Systems; Climate Change and Pests; Rural and Urban IPM; Next Generation Education; and Advanced Production Systems. The Priorities are used primarily for grant-writing but are also applicable for regional Working Groups and other purposes. The group reached consensus that additional focus is needed for emerging and invasive pests. While there are many emerging and invasive pests of concern, it was decided that one insect, disease, and weed example would be included in the list. The group also thought that a brief background for the priorities should be added and that the list be clarified to state that "pests" include insects, diseases, and weeds. Lisa Tewksbury typed up the draft list during the meeting, which will be updated by the Chair and

shared with NEERA members and NEIPMC staff for comments. The final 2018 Priorities will be posted on the NEIPMC website.

Special Discussion Topics

Spotted Lanternfly. Ed Rajotte led a discussion on spotted lanternfly (SLF), which was first detected in PA in 2014 and has since spread to over 3,000 square miles in their state. Recent specimens have also been confirmed in DE, NY, and VA. The group watched an informative webinar on SLF that was presented by Emelie Swackhamer (Penn State Extension) and Shannon Herbst (Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements). Ed commented that thresholds need to be set for this emerging pest.

Update on Weather Monitoring and Pest Forecasting Systems. Jennifer Grant introduced Dan Olmstead as the new Coordinator for the Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA). There are 611 grower-owned weather stations operating in 13 eastern states and 40 models to assist with pest management decision making for apples, grapes, cabbage, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, and turfgrass. Betsy Lamb, Ornamentals IPM Coordinator at Cornell, will be adding models for ornamentals. The website is being rebuilt with ARDP funding. The group talked about data sharing with other programs, such as SkyBit's Ag-Radar.

Ticks and Mosquitoes – Diseases They Vector. Jennifer Grant discussed the four Centers for Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases, which are funded by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cornell recently formed the Northeast Regional Center to study arthropod-vector-borne diseases. Other specialists and programs in the region are based in PA (new veterinary entomologist recently hired to look at Lyme disease in schools), MA (two tick specialists), and RI (TickEncounter Resource Center and RI Mosquito Abatement Coordinator).

NEERA Chair Schedule and Duties

The Chair shared a list of duties for the current NEERA Chair. The duties were reviewed and revised during group discussion. Printed copies of state reports will no longer be required for the NEERA Regional meeting, and all state reports will be available on the NEIPMC website.

Kelly Hamby (MD) will be the new Chair and talked about potential sites and dates for the 2019 NEERA Regional IPM meeting.

Upcoming national and regional IPM meeting locations and dates were discussed, including the National IPM Coordinating Committee Meeting in Washington, DC (October 23–24, 2018) and the Northeastern IPM Center Advisory Council Meeting (October 2018).

State Reports and Discussion

Northeastern IPM Coordinators provided updates on state activities and shared 2017–2018 state reports. All state reports will be posted on the [Northeastern IPM Center](#) website.

*Submitted by Donna Ellis, NEERA Chair 2017–2018
April 4, 2018*