WSWS Officer and Committee Report (Portland Summer Meeting 2009)

Office or Committee Name: Research Section

Officer or Chairperson Name and Committee Members:
Ed Peachey
Vanelle Petersen, Chair-elect

Date of Preparation (include year): July 08, 2009

Activities during the Year:

- Outgoing chair Kirk Howatt collected reports from project chairs for discussion sessions and forwarded for inclusion in the proceedings.
- Project chairs have been encouraged to begin identifying discussion topics.
- Discussions in May and June with project chairs focused on reconfiguration of projects and project names.

Project chairs and chair elects for 2010

1. Weeds of Range and Forest

James Harbour
James.D.Harbour@usa.dupont.com
DuPont Field Development
429 NW 23rd St.
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402-219-3863 (m)

James Leary (Chair-elect of Projects 1 and 5 if combined)
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Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management
University of Hawaii at Manoa
1910 East West Road
Sherman 101
Honolulu, HI 96822
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2. Weeds of Horticulture Crops

Curtis Rainbolt
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Tech Service Rep
4763 N Pacific Ave
Fresno, CA 93705
559-430-4418 (m)

Brad Hanson (CE)
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USDA-ARS
San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center
9611 S. Riverbend Ave.
Parlier, CA 93648
559 596 2860 (office)
559 443 9235 (work cell)

3. Weeds of Agronomic Crops

Brian Olson
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Northwest Research and Extension Center
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Andrew Hulting (CE)
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Oregon State University
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Corvallis, OR 97331-3002
541-737-5098

4. Teaching and Technology Transfer

Andrew R. Kniss
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Department of Plant Sciences

Jamshid Ashigh (CE)
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Extension Weed Specialist/Assistant Professor

Agriculture C 1011
University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-3949

Department of Extension Plant Sciences
New Mexico State University
PO Box 30003- MSC 3AE
Las Cruces, NM 88003
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5. Wetlands and Wildlands

Cody Gray
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United Phosphorus Inc
11417 Cranston Drive
Peyton, CO 80831
(954) 5620254

None elected

6. Basic Sciences: Ecology, Biology, Physiology, Genetics

Kassim Al-Khatib
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Agronomy Department
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Manhattan, KS 66506
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Kevin Kelly (CE)
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Recommendations for Board Action:

Combining Projects 1 and 5. Research Project chairs for 2010 discussed changes to project names. The combined discussion sections of Projects 1 and 5 decided in Albuquerque that the two sections should be combined. Outgoing Project 1 chair Michael Moechnig coordinated an online vote in May among Project 1 and 5 participants, and after two voting iterations, Range and Natural Areas was proposed as the new name for the combined sections. Placing second was Range and Wildlands. Other names considered were: Invasive Plants; Invasive Plants in Natural Areas; Invasive and Non-Crop Weeds; and Invasive Plants of Wildlands.

Renaming Project 6. Kassim Al-Khatib, at the request of those attending the Project 6 discussion section in Albuquerque, submitted a proposal to change the name of Project 6 to Weed Biology and Ecology (see attachment below). The current name is 6. Basic Sciences: Ecology, Biology, Physiology, Genetics. Melissa Bridges (outgoing Grad Student Rep) introduced this topic at the March post-meeting of the Board. She suggested later that a half day symposium on Weed Biology and Ecology might be a good way to test the waters for this name change.

Budget Needs: None

Suggestions for the Future:

Proposal to change submission of presentations. PowerPoint presentations will be submitted to project chairs one week prior to the meeting **OR** at the registration desk the day prior to presentation. This should mitigate some of the last minute changes to slides (and blatant disregard for deadlines). Files can be dragged and dropped from a presenter's USB memory stick to a designated folder on a laptop(s) at a site or room near the registration desk until 6 PM one

day prior to the scheduled time slot. Files should be labeled with assigned paper number, presenter's name, and date of presentation (e.g. 106-Obama-Mar12.ppt). Project Chairs will be responsible for retrieving and testing presentations from the receiving computers prior to the scheduled session.

Suggested wording in Call for Papers: Two options are available for submission of presentations to Project Chairs: 1) presentations can be forwarded directly to the Project Chairs one-week prior to the meeting for preloading; **OR** 2) presenters can directly download their presentation from a USB memory stick to designated laptops near the registration desk until 6 PM one day prior to the day the presentation is scheduled.

Suggested Changes in Operating Guide:
None

Name of Person Preparing This Report:
Ed Peachey

Western Society of Weed Science

Proposal: Changing Basic Science Project Name to Weed Biology and Ecology

Request by: Kassim Al-Khatib, Basic Science Chair

Contact Information: khatib@ksu.edu, 785-532-5155

Background

The basic science project is an important part of WSWS annual meeting. However, over the years, the focus and directions of the basic science project has not been changed. The current focus of the project is herbicide and weed physiology. The project has not taken advantage of the change in current basic weed science status. Weed biology and ecology became central to weed science and today basic weed science involves diverse components, which include weed ecology, genetics, genomics, physiology, biochemistry, and ecology.

For the past several years, attendance and number of papers and posters submitted to basic science project have been declining. In addition, attendance for the basic science discussion session also has declined. This may be attributed in part to lack of adjustment in the project to the change in the status of basic weed science. In order for the basic science project to be vibrant and current, it needs to be more inclusive and diversified in focus.

Action

During 2009 annual meeting, attendees of the basic science session discussed different options to revive the basic science project. The group suggested the basic science project needs to be inclusive and reflect the current status of basic weed science. Weed biology and ecology need to be the center of the project. The project name may not encourage and attract WSWS members to be part of the project. I was asked by the group to submit a proposal to WSWS Board of Directors to change the name of the Basic Science Project to Weed Biology and Ecology Project. We expect that this action will encourage submission of more papers to the WSWS annual meeting because weed biologists and ecologists will find a home to present their research at WSWS. Weed biologists and ecologists drifted away from the WSWS meeting over the last few years to attend other meetings.

We do not expect to drain large number of papers from other projects since the focus of the Weed Biology and Ecology Project will be basic in nature.

Implementation

We would like to implement change as soon as the WSWS Board of Directors approves the measure and the process is completed.