NCERA 59

Annual Meeting: July 17 & 18, 2014  
Period: 10/2013 – 9/2014

Participants: Will Horwath, UC-Davis (Chair); Matt Ruark, UW-Madison (Secretary); Mike Castellano, Iowa State; Rhae Drijber, Univ. Nebraska; Larry Cihachek, NDSU; Ann-Marie Fortuna, NDSU (via phone); and Ron Turco, Purdue Univ. (Advisor)
Location: University of California-Davis, Davis, CA

Meeting agenda/notes
Thursday, July 17th
8:30-10:15: Opening comments & state reports
• Horwath – Review of Brazilian research on organic C increases through restoration with iron biosolids.
• General discussion on manure management to discuss GHG emissions.
• Castellano – C and N building or loss with long term N rates.
• Ruark – POM and aggregate fractions across cropping systems.
• Larry – reviewing concepts of SOC sequestration and soil C change
10:30-12:00: Business meeting & Administrators’s report
• Elections: Matt Ruark was elected incoming chair
• Discussion on finding new members for the committee
• Future meetings: Ames, IA in 2015; Madison, WI in 2016
1:00-5:00: Field trips
Lodi winery – presentation from Matt X, on Lodi Rules and whatever it is that Will Horwath chairs
Field visit – Vineyard GHG study
Field visit – Delta wetlands agriculture and water reclamation project – chemical treatment of water before returning to
Field visit – Carbon and N cycling in rice and natural wetlands and soil subsidence
Field visit – Drip vs. flood irrigation and GHG losses in California agriculture
Friday, July 18th
9:00-12:00: Discussion of methods book
• Reviewed current outline and status of authors
• Deadline of January 1st for first drafts

Accomplishments
Publications (NCERA 59 members in bold)


Grants Managed


Wander, M.M. 2014 Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program – ASAP Scholars Initiative, $50,000, Gift (100%).


Sustainabledairy.org - $10 million USDA CAP grant (2013-2018) M. Ruark

Greatplainsgrazing.org - $10 million USDA CAP grant (2013-2018) C. Rice

Outreach and Presentations

**Wander, M.M.** Growing corn for Wall-mart: Emerging sustainability standards. 10/2013. Chicago Farmers Group, Chicago IL.

**Wander, M.M.** Emerging Sustainable Agriculture Standards: Leo 4000. New Modes of Agriculture. 11/2013. INRA, Dijon, France.


**Wander, M.M.,** Ugarte, C., and E. Phillips. Workshop Beg, Borrow, or Steal to Improve Soil Stewardship: Will Segmenting Midwest Row Crop Actors Improve Management? 7/2014. National SWCS Meeting, Chicago, IL. Panelists: Sarah Brown of Oregon Tilth’s Organic Conservation Program (OCP) which partners with NRCS; Nick Paulson, Associate Professor of Agriculture and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, on farm policy and lease agreements; Dave Miller, CEO of Iroquois Valley Farms, a B Corporation generating positive returns to social, environmental and financial impacts through secure farm leases for small and mid-size family farmers, and Jeff Schahczenski, Agriculture Policy; Funding Research Director NCAT.


**Impact Statements:**

1. Research was published that enhanced our understanding of carbon and nitrogen cycling and storage in soils.
2. Research grants were awarded to conduct cutting edge research into soil carbon formation and speciation.
3. Outreach was planned to educate farmers, crop consultants, government agencies, and extension staff on concepts of soil organic matter and the relationship between crop management practices and soil organic matter.