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**Summary of Management Team Meeting
October 23, 2003**

Present: Mark Whalon, Jim Laubach, Art Lister, Jr., Jim Nugent, Dave Epstein, Andrea Coombs, Don Gregory, George Sundin, Jean Haley

Conference Line: Jim Flore, Larry Gut, Amy Iezzoni, Suzanne Thornsburry, Phil Korson

1. Overview of the Tart Cherry RAMP Project
 - a. History and Inception of the RAMP Project (Whalon)
 - i. With the onset of FQPA we are losing effective pest management tools which leads to increased pest pressure in a crop that high processing standards.
 - ii. Many people from the industry have been at the table in Washington, D.C. to help retain uses of some key chemicals.
 - iii. The tart cherry industry put together a Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) to identify current pest management strategies and priorities necessary efforts to transition to alternative pest management strategies. Sweets and tarts were handled separately due to FQPA's fresh market residue assessment. The Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP) at USDA CSREES uses PMSPs to assure that funded research is meeting the industry-identified priorities for a particular commodity.
 - iv. The tart cherry RAMP project includes 4 states – Michigan, Wisconsin, Utah, and New York – and covers about 90% of the industry.
 - v. The original grant proposal asked for \$2.47 million but we were awarded \$1.60 a 35% reduction in the budget. In dealing with this large budget cut the participants knew that we could not cut the Project Coordinator position or the Outcome Evaluation. The Project Coordinator position is essential in such a large project with so many participants. The Outcome Evaluation is what makes this project innovative and meaningful and is what USDA and other granting institutions are requiring. Everyone else on the grant was cut from 25 to more than 50% and two objectives were eliminated. The borer portion of the pest management strategies and the Integrated Orchard Management Guide were removed but in the future, we will attempt to acquire additional funding.
 - b. Overview of the RAMP Grant (Coombs)
 - i. See Project Overview handout
2. Managing the Tart Cherry RAMP Grant
 - a. Role of the Management Team (Whalon)
 - i. The Management Team is the backbone of the project. We have once chance as a commodity at one of these projects. The

Management Team was included in order to get stakeholder input necessary for a meaningful results. The project is large in scope so feedback from a national team is also essential.

- ii. The Management Team will ‘provide guidance and oversight to all activities throughout the project’ including implementation research, extension and outreach activities, project evaluation, project budget. They will also have to hire and oversee the Project Coordinator.
 - iii. Management Team Members
 - Diane Alston, Utah State University
 - Dave Epstein, MSU
 - Mike Evans, MI Grower, Input Supplier
 - Don Gregory, MI Grower
 - Jean Haley, Haley Consulting Services
 - Phil Korson, Cherry Marketing Institute
 - Jim Laubach, MI Management Consultant
 - Art Lister, Jr., MI Grower
 - Patricia McManus, University of Wisconsin
 - Terry Morison, MI Food Processors Association
 - Jim Nugent, Northwest MI Hort Res Station
 - George Sundin, MSU
 - Suzanne Thornsby, MSU
 - Mark E. Whalon, MSU
 - iv. Management Team Meetings will be open to all project cooperators
 - v. We need a Utah grower and Wisconsin grower on board. Many mentioned Jim Sequist for the WI grower. Diane Alston said that Phil Rowley who agreed to participate on the Management Team when the grant was written is now unable. She will find another Utah grower. (Ray Rowley, Utah grower on board according to 12/8/03 email from Diane Alston).
- b. Management Team Timeline
 - i. Attend annual Management Team Meetings and quarterly conference calls.
3. Project Budget (see handout) (Coombs)
 4. Hiring a Project Coordinator (Epstein)
 - a. See Project Coordinator handout for an overview of Project Coordinator responsibilities
 - b. The Project Coordination position will be split 75:25 with 75% of the job being more administrative type of responsibilities and based on campus and 25% of the job more field-related and industry responsibilities and based at the Northwest Horticultural Research Station.
 - i. The 25% position will be part of the job responsibilities of the State Fruit IPM Agent position through MSU’s Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and the Integrated Pest Management Program. This position is currently not filled and

addition funding for the position is uncertain at this time. Jim Nugent is working with MAES and IPM and industry stakeholders to get this position filled.

- ii. Dave Epstein motioned for Andrea Coombs to be hired as the 75% project coordinator. Andrea Coombs was asked to leave the room while this was discussed. No notes are available on this discussion since Andrea was the official note taker. Andrea Coombs was elected as Projected Coordinator
 - c. Andrea Coombs will be paid 100% out of the Project Coordinator position and will work 75% for RAMP and 25% for Mark Whalon. Mark Whalon will owe back 25% of the Project Coordinator salary to the State Fruit IPM Agent salary.
5. Election of Management Team Chair (Epstein)
 - a. The Chair of the Management Team will run the management team meetings and be a go to person for not only the Management Team but also all project cooperators. This person needs to be a leader in the industry and available to work with all involved.
 - i. Art Lister, Jr. nominated Don Gregory, nomination seconded and Don Gregory unanimously voted as Chair of the Management Team
 - b. The group also suggested having a vice chair for times when the Chair was not available and also to have a more national scope for decision making. Although not present, Jim Seaquist was discussed and voted in as Vice Chair contingent on his agreement to serve. Patty McManus and Don Gregory said they would contact him. (Jim Seaquist on board according to 10/24/03 email from Patty McManus).
6. Appoint Executive Committee (Epstein)
 - a. The Executive Committee will be instated to handle emergency decisions when it is not possible to pull together the entire Management Team.
 - b. Executive Team members include:
 - Don Gregory, Chair
 - Jim Seaquist, Vice Chair
 - Mark Whalon, Project Director
 - Dave Epstein, Project Manager
 - Andrea Coombs, Project Coordinator
7. Outcome Evaluation (Haley)
 - a. Jean Haley has already visited Utah and Wisconsin and is currently in Michigan to conduct the pilot tests on the grower surveys.
 - b. Surveys will be mailed to the entire tart cherry industry in early January.
8. Economic Analysis (Thornsbery)
 - a. Economic analysis will be conducted for grower cooperators who will participate in the reduced-risk spray programs.
 - b. Pest management consultants will help collect spray records and other economic analysis.
 - c. The instrument will be developed and tested during the first field season.

9. Next Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2004 Northwest Orchard and Vineyard Show and CIAB meetings.

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