

# **Joint international meeting of the UK CEUG and North American NCR-101**

**9th - 12th September, 2001**

**The John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK**

## **Minutes of the NCR-101 Business Meeting - DRAFT**

### **Attendance (in no particular order)**

Joel Cuello, Reg Quiring, Alex Hoehn, Marty Winkler, Changhoo Chun, Yoshiaki Kitaya, Jonathan Frantz, Marc van Iersel, Susan Frantz, Conrad Bonsi, Steve Klassen, John Sager, Russ Fortson, Scott Weygandt, Dave Wilson, Marc Theroux, Peter Ling, Paul Austin, Bruce Bugbee, Alex Turkewitsch, A.J. Both, Mark Romer, Dennis Greer, Rob Kerslake, Robert Langhans, Erik Runkle, John Lea-Cox, David Tremmel, Ramesh Kanwar, Ted Tibbitts, Wade L. Berry, Ray Wheeler, Peter Vanderveer, Donald T. Krizek, Cary A. Mitchell, Desmond G. Mortley, Gary Stutte, Roy E. Young.

### **Executive Committee**

Dr. John Lea-Cox, Chair

Dr. A.J. Both, Vice-chair

Dr. David Tremmel, Secretary

Dr. Ray Wheeler, Past-chair

### **2001 NCR-101 Business Meeting**

Dr. John Lea-Cox opened the NCR-101 Business meeting at 9:37 PM on Monday, September 10.

#### 1. Minutes of the 2000 NCR-101 Meeting at Purdue University

As the minutes had been posted on the NCR-101 web site for members to read, a formal reading of the minutes was dispensed with. Dr. Lea-Cox moved that the minutes be accepted. Roy Young seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted by a general vote. Dr. Lea-Cox commended Dr. A.J. Both for his work on the year 2000 minutes.

#### 2. Introductions

Dr. Lea-Cox welcomed the 38 participants who filled out the attendance sheet, and asked that the attendees introduce themselves and indicate their affiliation

#### 3. Administrative Advisor's report

Dr. Ramesh Kanwar (Administrative Advisor to the NCR-101) commended both the CEUG and NCR-101 members who were involved in organizing the joint meeting for their efforts in creating what he viewed as a highly successful meeting. He also announced that he had resigned as station director and accepted the position of department chair, and was therefore not certain whether he would remain as the Administrative Advisor for the NCR-101 Committee. Dr. Kanwar encouraged the Committee to generate a thorough report of the Joint meeting, highlighting the benefits of participating in an international meeting, that could be presented to the NCR-101 directors. He felt this would show that the costs of this meeting were well justified and to make it easier to organize future international meetings. Dr. Kanwar strongly encouraged the Committee to pursue further international meetings, noting that it may be necessary to obtain funding from non-USDA sources to cover some of the associated costs.

Dr. Kanwar also noted that the USDA is continuing funding of the IFFS program - which provides support for the Committee - with \$1.2 billion over the next ten years.

Dr. Lea-Cox then thanked Dr. Kanwar for the tremendous support he gave us for this international meeting, including his efforts to convince the station directors to give their support to this endeavor.

#### 4. Election of New Officers

Dr. Lea-Cox nominated Reg Quiring to be incoming secretary for the Committee; Dr. Donald Krizek seconded the motion. Mr. Quiring accepted the nomination. Dr. Roy Young moved that his appointment be accepted by acclamation; Dr. Ted Tibbitts seconded this motion. The motion was approved unanimously by a general vote. Next year's executive committee will include Dr. A.J. Both, Chair, Dr. David Tremmel, Vice-chair, Mr. Reg Quiring, Secretary, and Dr. John Lea-Cox, Past-chair.

#### 5. 2002 Annual Meeting

Dr. Lea-Cox announced that the 2002 Annual Meeting would be held in North Carolina, sponsored jointly by the Phytotrons at Duke University (represented by Dr. David Tremmel) and North Carolina State University (represented by Dr. Judy Thomas). Dr. Tremmel noted that the tentative meeting dates would be April 6 -9, 2002, and asked if this presented any conflicts with other meetings that might involve members of the Committee. No conflicts were noted. Mr. Mark Romer suggested that the Committee plan an event to honor Dr. Jack Downs, as well as other long-time members of the Committee, as part of the meeting. Dr. Young moved that the proposed dates be accepted; Dr. Krizek seconded the motion. Dr. Kanwar indicated that he would authorize a meeting on those dates. The motion was accepted by general vote.

#### 6. 2003 Annual Meeting

Dr. Lea-Cox asked for volunteers to host the 2003 Annual Meeting. Dr. Ray Wheeler mentioned that the University of Guelph had indicated an interest in hosting in the past, though he noted that nobody from Guelph was present and that he was not speaking for them. He noted that they might have some new facilities on line by the time of the meeting. In the ensuing discussion, other suggestions for meeting sites, including Clemson University, Ohio State University and Michigan State University were mentioned, but no site was formally volunteered.

Dr. Robert Langhans cautioned that we were expected to hold a meeting in the USDA North Central Region (NCR) once every few years, since we are a North Central Region committee. Dr. Kanwar stated that he didn't feel this was an important consideration any longer, since all committees are now multi-state instead of regional. Dr. Tibbitts noted that the NCR station directors still had to approve of the meeting site. Dr. Kanwar explained that, even though this was still true, station directors from all of the states were informed about membership in each committee, and that in practice all of the committees were really national, not regional entities. He therefore urged us not to limit our choice of meeting site to the NCR.

As no site was volunteered, discussion of this matter was tabled until the 2002 annual meeting.

#### 7. Report on the Membership List

Mr. Romer reported that the membership list contained 81 institutions and 130 members. The breakdown of the membership was as follows:

- 18 Industry members
- 12 Phytotrons
- 39 University Departments
- 12 Government Labs
- 1 Other

He noted that among the new members was the CSIRO Phytotron in Canberra, Australia, and Apogee Instruments.

#### 8. Renewal of the Committee's Charter

Dr. Lea-Cox thanked Dr. Wheeler for his work on the renewal of Committee's charter, which he was happy to report was successful. Dr. Kanwar informed us that the renewal had received a grade of excellent from

the reviewers. It was noted that there were difficulties in locating a copy of the Committee's previous charter. In order to avoid this problem in the future, Mr. Romer offered to archive an electronic copy of the charter for reference

#### 9. 2004 Annual Meeting

Drs. Rob Kerslake and Dennis Greer, on behalf of the Austral-Asian controlled environment users group, offered to host a joint international meeting with NCR-101 in 2004 in Brisbane, Australia. They felt that it would be an appropriate way to mark their group's tenth anniversary and to continue the globalization process begun at the current meeting. Dr. Kerslake indicated that he would like to include European groups in the meeting as well. He noted that there would be new glasshouses with GMO containment and a new laboratory building to complement the existing significant controlled environment facility in Brisbane, which would be available for touring. Dr. Krizek moved that this proposal be accepted; Mr. Marty Winkler seconded the motion.

Dr. Lea-Cox said that one issue that should be considered in planning such a meeting was the form that any proceedings from the meeting would take - noting that arrangements were not yet finalized for the proceedings of the current meeting.

There was a good deal of discussion of the preferred format for the meeting. Drs. Langhans and Young noted that there were benefits to the informal structure generally employed by the NCR-101 group. Dr. Tibbitts suggested that the format of the current meeting might work well, perhaps with sessions focusing on certain areas with a discussion session following a short formal presentation.

The motion passed unanimously by general vote. Dr. Kanwar asked the organizers to submit a formal invitation letter to the Committee.

#### 10. Other business

Dr. Krizek announced that the journal Biotronics may cease publication, and asked if the Committee or any of its members would be willing to take it over. Dr. Tibbitts raised the question of whether it was still serving its purpose. Dr. A.J. Both suggested we think about making it into a newsletter for the Committee. Mr. Romer said he felt that it would be useful for such a publication to provide a distillation of the status of current controlled environment thinking and technologies. Several members felt that the web might provide a better forum for such information exchange. Dr. Lea-Cox suggested that on-line asynchronous discussion boards would work well for this, and could be attached to the Committee's current website. Drs. Lea-Cox and Tremmel agreed to explore this option.

Dr. Tibbitts brought up the issue of the reporting guidelines for controlled environment research. He felt that the existing guidelines needed to be revised and more actively disseminated to the research community, and was willing to work with others involved in similar efforts, including Drs. Krizek, Both, and Lynton Incoll. Dr. Both noted that he was working on the ASAE guidelines, and offered to post a copy of the current draft proposal on the website.

Dr. Bruce Bugbee reported on the NCR-101 Instrument Package. He noted that the package had seen less use in the last year than in previous years. He indicated that the quantum sensor package was probably the most useful item, as it allowed users to calibrate their own sensors. This package can be circulated quickly, allowing many users access per year. Dr. Tibbitts suggested that Dr. Bugbee create a document outlining the importance of doing regular quantum sensor calibrations. Dr. Bugbee also noted that the StellarNet spectroradiometer was now available for purchase; the cost would be \$4,000, including the required laptop.

Dr. Kanwar asked the group to thank Dr. Lea-Cox for his work in helping to organize the meeting, and also acknowledged the British Controlled Environment Users Group for their efforts.

Dr. Lea-Cox put forward a motion to adjourn the 2001 NCR-101 Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Langhans and approved by general vote.

Respectfully submitted,

David Tremmel  
NCR-101 Secretary