

HIGHLIGHTS

NTEP Policy Committee Meeting February 24-25, 2007 Anaheim, California

Committee Members Present –

Chris McDowell (representing ASTA, Lawn Seed Division)
Jeff Nus (representing USGA)
David Williams (representing SERA-IEG-25; southern region universities)
Steve Johnson (representing Turfgrass Breeders Association)
Duane Klundt (representing OSTA, PSA and other allied seed associations)
Warren Bell (representing Turfgrass Producers International)
Bernd Leinauer (representing WRCC-11; western region universities)
Kevin Morris (NTEP Executive Director)
Jim Murphy (representing northeast region universities)
Clark Throssell (representing GCSAA)
Brian Horgan (representing NCR-192; north central universities, on Sunday February 25 only).

2002 WARM-SEASON GRASS TRIALS

The committee will request that cooperators submit winterkill data from spring 2007 for all warm season trials to be included in the final report. No additional funding will be provided for this data.

2007 WARM-SEASON GRASS TRIALS

The committee discussed the trials in general and costs associated with the trials. Due to budget constraints and a new policy requiring each trial's revenue to cover its expenses, the committee decided to limit the number of trial locations, in comparison to past trials. Also, the committee reduced the annual payments to cooperators. Official trial locations are now called 'standard' trial locations.

2007 BERMUDAGRASS TEST

The committee approved the following bermudagrass trial parameters:

1. There will be 16 standard test locations. Funding will be \$2,000 per year per location.
2. The two separate ancillary trials will be funded at \$2,000 per year per location.
3. There will be three locations (Fayetteville, AR, Gainesville, FL, Stillwater, OK) that will conduct additional tests on the standard test plots for an additional \$1,000 per year per location.
4. Standard entries – Midlawn, Tifway, Premier, Princess 77, Riviera, Numex-Sahara

2007 ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS TEST

The committee approved the following St. Augustinegrass trial parameters:

1. There will be five standard test locations. Funding will be \$1,500 per year per location.
2. Standard entries – Mercedes, Floratam and Raleigh

2007 SEASHORE PASPALUM

The committee voted to approve the seashore paspalum trial with the following parameters:

1. Fund six standard trial locations and two ancillary trial locations (Las Cruces, NM – salinity; Fayetteville, AR – cold tolerance). Funding is \$1,500 per year per location.
2. Standard entries – Salam, SeaIsle 1

2007 ZOYSIAGRASS TEST

The committee discussed the zoysiagrass test parameters and made the following decisions:

1. Fund six standard tests locations to be funded at \$1,500 per year per location. If there are more than six paid entries fund the Las Cruces, NM site at \$1,500 per year per site.
2. Standard entries – Meyer, Zorro, Zenith

2007 BUFFALOGRASS TEST

Due to an insufficient number of entries, the committee voted to postpone the buffalograss trial until 2008.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL DISCUSSION

The 2006-07 budget was approved as presented (Income \$1,0444,000, expense \$1,080,064). Six year budget projections were accepted as a planning document to be reviewed and updated regularly.

Other items from the budget discussion included:

1. \$400,000 will be invested in the “rainy-day” fund. To be used only in emergencies and invested with a long-term time frame and strategy. \$150,000 will be used for day-to-day operations and invested with a short-term time frame and strategy. The remainder of the current monetary assets will be considered the reserve and be used to buffer the operating fund.
2. Increasing revenue – NTEP needs to look at new services it can provide. A subcommittee of Duane, Chris, Steve and Kevin was appointed to investigate ideas on new trials and develops proposals to be presented at the June meeting.

3. Data Collection methodology – The committee felt Jeff Krans has identified shortcomings in data collection that need to be addressed. A subcommittee of Brian, Jeff Krans, Jim and Kevin was appointed to review Jeff’s findings and develop a plan, with a timeline, to act on Jeff’s findings.

STANDARD TRIAL COOPERATORS

A discussion was held on whether university turfgrass breeders should be allowed to be standard trial evaluators. It was noted that TBA, ASTA, OSTA and PSA did not offer an official opinion on the matter. TPI is in favor of prohibiting university turfgrass breeders from serving as official raters. **A resolution was passed stating ‘It is the goal of NTEP to provide the best information possible and to achieve that goal NTEP may include university breeders as NTEP cooperators’.** At the June meeting the committee will discuss if ancillary trials should be conducted by university breeders who have a financial interest in the cultivars in the trial.

Correlations of turfgrass quality ratings collected at all locations for each of the most recent trials were presented. Kevin will thoroughly review the data and provide a written report to determine if NTEP locations with a breeding program are providing data that are consistent with ratings at other locations. Data from two cool season grass and one warm season grass trials will be reviewed and included in the report.

NEXT MEETING

The summer meeting will be held in Lexington, KY on June 22 and 23.