

HIGHLIGHTS of the NTEP Policy Committee Meeting

February 11, 2011
Orlando, Florida

In attendance:

Warren Bell, Kevin Morris, Melodee Fraser, Jeff Nus, Scott Ebdon, Pat McClain, Paul Hedgpeth, Ken Diesburg, Doug Karcher, and David Kopec

Budget and Financial Discussion

NTEP recently transferred some funds from its investment reserves into cash reserves to prepare for next year's budget shortfall. One of the three certificates of deposit (CDs) will need to be cashed in for operating funds in 2011. NTEP is continuing to be very cautious about future assumptions regarding future trials due to the uncertainty of the economy.

2010 Perennial Ryegrass Trial

The trial contains 81 paid entries of which are 78 experimentals. Cooperators are to be paid a \$1,000 initial payment. The NTEP Policy Committee voted (10-0, McClain, Hedgpeth) to pay \$35 per entry for the perennial ryegrass salt tolerance greenhouse study at the University of Rhode Island with Dr. Rebecca Brown. The NTEP Policy Committee voted to pay cooperators in the perennial ryegrass trial \$4,000 total per trial. It was further decided that if a location has both standard and ancillary tests, \$4,000 would be paid for each trial only if those trials were separate plantings. If the data for the ancillary trials came from the standard trial and only the standard trial was planted at that site, that cooperator would be paid only \$4,000 even though both standard and ancillary data is being collected. The NTEP Policy Committee voted (10-0, Karcher, Nus) to supply Virginia Tech with \$3,000 for the construction of an additional rainout shelter for the drought tolerance testing of the perennial ryegrass entries.

2011 Kentucky Bluegrass Trial

NTEP is assuming 80-85 entries in this test. The NTEP Policy Committee voted to use the following fee structure for entries into the 2011 Kentucky Bluegrass Trial: (a) \$1,000 for experimentals initially entered but increased to \$2,000 per entry if/when the experimental becomes a named variety, (b) \$1,500 for commercial varieties that have been entered in previous NTEP trials. The NTEP Policy Committee voted to require "typing" of all Kentucky bluegrass entries in the 2011 trial. Kevin will direct the 2011 Kentucky Bluegrass Trial Advisory Committee to finalize the draft of this trial including the requirement of typing all entries. Much discussion ensued regarding sites for the 2011 Kentucky Bluegrass Trial. This issue will go back to the Advisory Committee and they will prioritize sites based on number of entries received.

Short- and Long-Term Funding Options for NTEP

- A. **NTEP/Lawn Institute Partnership Potential** This idea has been discussed with the TPI Research Committee. The research committee needs more details on how NTEP data would be used by the Lawn Institute. Warren noted that TPI will re-consider the idea of an NTEP/Lawn Institute partnership at their upcoming meeting in Reno, NV in July.
- B. **Online Database Opportunities/Proposals** Kevin outlined this idea as the creation of a database that consumers can get appropriate information regarding turf performance. NTEP would be available online to sort based on various traits. Kevin will develop a sub-group to move this issue along, and ideas from the sub-group will be presented and discussed at future meetings.

Open Discussion

The seed industry, in general, has an unfavorable opinion of the AMMI statistical method for analyzing performance data and subsequent report structure. It was noted that the point of AMMI is to gain accuracy in the analyses, which is why NTEP spent 10 years of research to improve the accuracy of data reported. The way in which AMMI groups are structured is the issue. Constituents prefer the previous report procedure where they could compare similar geographical locations for turfgrass performance rather than the AMMI procedure group locations into statistical grouping that may have little geographical relevance. Scott was asked if he would attend the OSTA meeting in Sunriver, OR in June to explain the AMMI procedure and how the information is improved using AMMI to OSTA members.

Other Business

The NTEP Policy Committee members elected the following officers for 2011:

Chair	Melodee Fraser
Vice-Chair	Jeff Nus
Secretary	Dave Kopec