**NRSP-8 Aquaculture 2018 Business Meeting Minutes**

Time: Saturday January 13, 2018, 5:30-6:00 pm

Place: Pacific Salon 3/4, Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, CA

1. Call to order. Dr. Steven Roberts called the business meeting to order at 5:30 pm, following the Aquaculture Workshop.
2. Dr. John Liu has stepped down for his role as chair of the NRSP-8 Aquaculture section; he was thanked for his dedicated service in this role. For now, Dr. Eric Peatman will be stepping into that role in Dr. John Liu’s place.
3. Dr. Jim Reecy was going to give a presentation, however he had to present at another session since the aquaculture session ran late. [*He was planning to come back to present, however the business meeting was over before that point]*.
4. The Species Coordinator reports have been submitted electronically, with the exception of the catfish report. Dr. Sylvie Quiniou will be submitting the catfish report soon.
5. FAASG (Functional Annotation of All Salmonid Genomes) initiative kicked off with a meeting in Victoria, B.C., Canada and a white paper (Functional Annotation of All Salmonid Genomes (FAASG): an international initiative supporting future salmonid research, conservation and aquaculture; BMC Genomics. 2017 Jun 27;18(1):484. doi: 10.1186/s12864-017-3862-8.). They will be seeing what will happen with the E.U. efforts with annotation, and they are soliciting ideas for funding projects.
6. RFP Announcements: there may be small funding amounts available from NRSA research grants (available in spring?); these would be in the range of ~$10k.
7. PAG Aquaculture Workshop Chairs:
   1. Dr. Geoff Waldbieser was thanked for the wonderful job he did as chair of the 2018 Aquaculture session.
   2. Dr. Catherine Purcell will be chairing next year’s Aquaculture session.
   3. Dr. Tiago Hori (Center for Aquaculture Technologies) and Dr. Louis Plough (University of Maryland – Center for Environmental Science) were nominated to serve as Secretary (Chair-elect) for the 2019 workshop. As both Tiago and Louis were willing to serve in this role, the positions were decided for the following two years, as follows:
      1. Tiago Hori: Secretary (Chair-elect) 2019, Chair of the workshop in 2020
      2. Louis Plough: Secretary (Chair-elect) 2020, Chair of the workshop in 2021
8. Dr. Caird Rexroad III: Gave updates on the report-in-progress, Genomes to Phenomes: USDA Blueprint for Animal Production. He is trying to ensure that aquaculture is well represented in this report; if anyone would like to contribute to the draft, please contact him. In addition, anyone who wishes to be more involved in this report was invited to the writing workshop for this report on Sunday (January 14th) morning.
9. Dr. Yniv Palti and Mo Salem are currently working on the proposal for the re-approval of the NRSP8 5-year program plan. [*I don’t think I caught all of this item*]
10. Discussion on funding priorities: there is a need for groups to get together to collaborate and communicate, and start discussions with the NIFA leaders; aquaculture needs to speak up more to get funding and compete for larger funding amounts. Please share any feedback/experiences about what has/has not been successful.
    1. Dr. John Liu - There are several issues with the NIFA funding to be addressed.
       1. It is important to put pressure on to bring the applied genomics panel back to genomics, this will benefit aquaculture, or help to make sure that aquaculture has good representation.
       2. The CAP for animal genomics - when they have huge multi-million dollar proposals, it does not benefit aquaculture. It usually goes to other livestock species with little funding left over for other groups, including aquaculture.
11. General comment about coordinators for Aquaculture: USDA will nominate people for these positions. [*I didn’t catch all of this item*]
12. General comment about NRSP8: there needs to be greater detail about the awards, and better records of how the money is spent for the report.
13. The names of the six travel award recipients were announced [*most not present at the meeting, and instead it was planned that they would be announced later at the poster session*]: André L. S. Garcia, University of Georgia; Erin M. Roberts, University of Rhode Island; Huitong Shi, Auburn University; Melissa K. Holborn – University of Guelph; Rafael M.O. Silva, University of Georgia; Yujia Yang, Auburn University.
14. Meeting was adjourned.