Research Subcommittee Meeting
4/1/20 at 2:30 pm
Via WebEx

Attendees: Katie Buckley, Dave Hunter, Alison Walston, Taylor Cotten, Brandon Hopkins, Tim Hiatt, Adeline Rang, Leah Doyle, Elizabeth Murray, Steve Sheppard, Heather Hanson, Laura Lavine

After introductions for Elizabeth who is new, we also went over the basic rules of editing so we were all on the same page.

5.1 There are some pollinator tracking programs, but they are piecemeal. We might be oversaturating the market or reinventing the wheel here. This recommendation may need to be narrowed down as we figure out exactly what and why we need to do this. Taylor, Elizabeth and Steve will work on this. Brandon will write the follow up recommendation on what we will do once we have the results.

5.2 From Dave, more of an observation. Once we do research, the results need to be disseminated. Katie will add an Evaluation/Dissemination section to each other research recommendation.

5.3 Steve wants to make a point that most of our crops aren’t native, and ‘native’ bees may not be the best pollinators for them. Dave pointed out that we have generalist native bees that will pollinate our crops, and may at least do better in our climate. Dave and Katie will rewrite this without the discover phase (since that’s 5.1 now.)

5.4 Dave again. He wants to know if there is a return on investment with higher bee diversity on farms.

5.5 Brandon wants to know if these recommendations (all of them) could be linked to what the task force has been asked to do. We added in the list of what the task force has been asked to accomplish at the end of the Google Doc.

5.3-5.8 We decided all of these had to do with funding on alternate pollinators besides or in addition to honey bees. How do we safely manage alternate pollinators? What pollinators can be used to pollinate what crops? Dave and Katie will rewrite these.

5.9 Katie will rewrite to not have the economic aspect, and instead ask if they actually increase pollinator abundance and diversity (which is our actual end goal.)

5.10 Dave and Katie will expand this one to include more pollinators.

5.11 Dust blowing of seeds during planting was causing problems in the Midwest. We are starting to not think that we have similar problems here.

5.12 This is about a new class of neonics (which aren’t true neonics.) May be revised after pesticide registration presentation & Q&A session. We will try to get someone to do that in our next task force meeting.

5.13 An easy way to answer this question might be to ask ag industries that cover the most acreage what their most common tank mixes are.
5.14 This one is Tim’s. Good job Tim. Brandon will add in language about it being a joint venture on pathogens in other pollinators as well. Cross funding!

5.15 Laura found research on this already. Habitat on roadsides helps more than it hurts. We deleted it since Laura found the answer.

Katie will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting.