

## **POTATO RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Purpose:**

In order to facilitate a high level of success for the potato industry in receiving funding from SCRI and other nationally focused grant programs the industry will support a Potato Research Advisory Committee (PRAC) to encourage national collaboration, identify common research objectives, solicit and evaluate research projects and support the submission of a limited number of nationally supported proposals.

### **Committee Membership and Time of Service:**

- Four Representatives from the Potatoes USA Research Committee including an individual from that committee to serve as Chair of the PRAC
- Four Grower Representatives from the NPC who also serve as the NPC Time Zone Representatives
- Four State Managers chosen by agreement of the State Potato Associations or Commissions
  - Where possible members of the PRAC would serve for four years. Initial composition of the Board would be staggered to allow one member from each of the four categories to rotate off in each of the first three years. The membership of the Committee should reflect a geographic balance.

### **Committee Staff Support:**

- The Potatoes USA Research Director will provide Staff support.

### **Science Advisory Panel:**

The PRAC will create a multidisciplinary science advisory panel to review proposals and provide scientific input on proposals. The executive leadership of the Potato Association of America (PAA) will nominate a minimum of six individuals to be members of the Science Advisory Panel (SAP). Individuals should be from diverse fields of science specialization. In recognition of the likelihood of conflicts of interest between members of the SAP and the proposals being reviewed, the PRAC will nominate additional scientists to serve on the SAP as needed.

### **Duties of the PRAC:**

- Each year the PRAC will solicit research topic suggestions from the state potato organizations, state potato organization research committees, national potato organizations and other industry partners. The PRAC will prioritize the submissions to a small number of broad research focus areas that are nationally relevant. The focus area would be made widely available to the research community and to the industry.
- The PRAC will monitor research funding options that are focused on or compatible with the priority research focus areas.
- As a particular funding opportunity is identified the PRAC, through communications with state potato organizations and research committees, national potato organizations, PAA and researchers will indicate their intention to identify and support a limited number of high priority, high quality, and nationally relevant research proposals addressing the industry identified research focus areas. Researchers will be encouraged to submit proposals for review and possible endorsement by the PRAC.
- The PRAC will evaluate proposals submitted for review and select a limited number of superior proposals for scientific review by the SAP.
- Using the input, where appropriate of the SAP, and on the consensus opinion of the PRAC no more than two projects will be designated as industry priorities for that particular grant opportunity.