The intent of this meeting was to develop a roadmap for future activities for PRRS to include:
- Identify key areas of focus for PRRS
- Identify and outline current activities of stakeholders
- Create a roadmap to assist in filling gaps in our knowledge and management of the PRRS virus

The first main question posed to the group was “What should the overall objective be for PRRS?” The discussion focused on how best to deal with the disease. What should be done differently for PRRS than what has been done in the past? More specifically, the question was posed as to how do we better address the production impact and continue to make measured progress in the fight against PRRS?

Different strategies were discussed as to how to allocate resources and activities for PRRS for the future. One idea centered around the potential development of a nationally coordinated control program while another perspective considered managing PRRS within a marketing-driven model that focuses on elimination where feasible and control of PRRS when elimination is not feasible.

After continued discussion, the working group decided on the following statement as an agreed upon objective for dealing with PRRS and highlighted four key areas of focus:

The short-term objective (to accomplish in less than 3 years) is to reduce the impact PRRS has on producers, with a long-term objective to assess the feasibility and financial acceptability for elimination to producers. Key areas of focus include:
   a) Education & Outreach
   b) Manage immunity
   c) Manage exposure
   d) Measurement (metrics and methods)

The next topic was to discuss what the key questions remain to be answered within each of the respective focus areas. This included what are current gaps in knowledge or needs to be able to provide tools to deal with PRRS within the four key focus areas.

Education & Outreach: (can span both short and long-term objectives)
- Periodic informational webinars on current activities: what information is needed and what should interval be (monthly /quarterly?) Who is the intended audience?
- Focus on PRRS requires a paradigm shift on the efforts needed to deal with PRRS – it will not be easy or quick
- Educational tools needed guide and develop veterinarians into regional leaders
- Provide disease-specific meetings or forums to focus on all aspects of PRRS
• Need for a PRRS Champion
• Better promotion and publication of success stories
• Routine communication of both short and long-term goals for PRRS and status towards reaching those goals
• Consolidated disease management information that is easily accessible (FAQ’s; remain as a “living” set of information)
• Continue to focus on and promote the value & benefits of PADRAP
• Promote & provide information on available disease management tools recognizing some may be fee-for-service tools: PADRAP? Mapping? Other?
• Focus on the “golden rules” of PRRS:
  ✓ Bio-containment
  ✓ Bio-management
  ✓ Bio-exclusion (define all three and determine expected outcomes for each)

Manage Immunity: (primarily long-term research but can include short-term focus)
• Overall gap analysis of basic sciences for PRRS: immunology, virology, epidemiology
• DIVA capability
• Determine the economics of vaccine within a POSITIVE herd
  ▪ Mass vaccination strategies in a positive region – when and how to be cost effective?
  ▪ Is vaccination in a positive herd effective?
• What are the best timing strategies for vaccination in a recently infected herd? Does that vary between adult/breeding age animals and growing animals?
• Better define what is meant by heterology & heterologous protection
• Develop immunological tools for PRRS (monoclonal antibodies)
• What immune response can you stimulate early in an infection and how to best prevent adverse clinical signs?
• What is the immune response to PRRS infection?
  ▪ Adult breeding age animals
  ▪ Growing pigs
  ▪ Existing positive herds
• Are there serotypes of PRRS and commonalities between viruses?
• Focus on long-term application of research with the intent to start projects initially as “seed money” in order to gather the appropriate data in order to eventually look at application for larger grant

Measurement: (can encompass both short and long-term objectives)
• Outline the economics of regional control processes
• Provide periodic summary of PADRAP’s use in regional elimination projects
• Measure national prevalence for PRRS
• 1st – develop a more cost effective method for sequencing
• 2nd – Develop a method for sequencing interpretation
  ▪ How to differentiate between new, existing and heterologous isolates?
  ▪ How can we determine WHERE the virus originated and actual transmission information from sequence data?
  ▪ What do you sequence? (structural genes vs. other)
• ***Where, when, and under what conditions do new variants emerge?***
• The development of a standardized infrastructure (including surveillance and sampling strategies etc.) for characterization of the PRRS virus across all groups to be monitored.
  ▪ Surveillance is ACTIVE vs. passive
- Include how to manage sampling for vaccinated and unvaccinated herds

**Exposure:**
- Develop strategies for mass vaccination: when/how/effect on population or region
- WHEN does transmission happen? Likelihood? Contingency plan?
- How/what are the mechanisms to effectively contain the virus within a coordinated process?
- What is the attributable fraction that aerosolization can be linked to during an outbreak?
- What other options exist to decrease transmission via aerosol other than filtration?

Further discussion was held within the group to outline each respective organizations focus and future activities.

**PRRS CAP** – will officially end as of June 2013 and current activities for CAP will cease
  - Activities and tools utilized for PRRS CAP will need to be assessed:
    - Mapping (Bob M.)
    - Future of [www.prrs.org](http://www.prrs.org) (content and layout) – summaries of project; PRRS specific information
    - Regional project coordinator education/meetings

**NC229** – will perform a re-write of group objectives and goals for 2013
  - still highly research focused and university driven
  - can provide summary of actions and focus areas on a periodic basis
  - potential to focus on other key swine diseases in addition to PRRS

**Zoetis (Pfizer Animal Health)** – focused on targeted and field research;
  - potential to support meetings/educational information

**Boehringer-Ingelheim** – continue to support the activities already support for PRRS
  - ARC&E projects (20+)
  - Targeted research calls
  - Regional project coordinator and veterinary meetings: IPRRS; individual group meetings etc.

**American Association of Swine Veterinarians** – focus on the continued education of their membership
  - PRRS Task Force meetings and engagement
  - Promotion of disease-specific meetings/education (annual meeting)
  - Support of webinars for disease information/education

**Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians/Canadian Swine Health Board**
- Funding is still yet to be determined
- Continue to develop and promote educational materials for elimination and progress of projects
- Continue to develop and expand Certification programs for PRRS Regional control
  - promote update of CASV tools developed to evaluate project feasibility
  - establish new project
  - promote update of Canadian tools developed for ongoing regions
    - CASV, OSHAB, CDQP
- Mandate is not to start new regions but to help those that are starting to be more effective and efficient.

**Evidence based interventions**
- Expand from current focus on tools to evidence of regional and farm interventions
- Promoting use of national database with mapping and reporting
- Promote project integration with national surveillance and traceability

**Communication / Relationship / Leadership**
- interprovincial - promote and organize meetings and presentations of novel approaches or expertise
- quarterly regional leader conference calls
- Establish / continue Canadian working groups
- represent Canada at AASV Task Force, PRRS-CAP working groups, BIVI Meetings etc.
- Manage website, deliver quarterly newsletters,

National Pork Board – (Swine Health Committee – producer-driven direction/priorities)
- Currently support IT infrastructure for www.prrs.org and www.prrssymposium.org
- For 2012, supported a June, pre-Expo PRRS Regional Coordinator meeting
  - Focus on review of various projects
  - Outlined success, challenges, needs, for ongoing projects and provide resource for coordinators
- Provide funding for targeted research
- Promotion and development of educational materials from Checkoff funded research
- Work with key stakeholders for PRRS and other disease management needs

Next steps:
1) Working group to review the meeting notes and edit as needed – return by Feb. 14th
2) Then share notes to others in the PRRS arena for comment
   - Compiled comments from the respective groups and submit to Lisa Becton for final incorporation in the notes
   - Request for comments to be returned by February 28th
3) Present information from working group to the AASV PRRS Task Force in March
4) If acceptable within the industry, look at the feasibility of creating a core group to work on targeting critical needs and how to address them, i.e. development of infrastructure standards…etc.
5) NPB staff will continue to work on activities for PRRS as directed by the Swine Health Committee and by funding availability, however, many additional gaps, including the development of specific educational materials, development of targeted infrastructure and economic impacts etc., will need to be assessed and potentially accomplished by others within the working group and/or through a coordinated effort
   - Note: NPB PRRS call for proposals will be posted online as of April 10th, 2013