

WSU IBC Minutes
May 28, 2026

IBC Members Present

	Member	Affiliation/Role
1.	AG	School of Molecular Biosciences; Scientist; Chair
2.	SD	Crops and Soil Science; Plant Expert
3.	CG	Molecular Plant Sciences; Plant Expert
4.	AH *13:10	Department of Psychology; Scientist
5.	ML	Paul G. Allen School for Global Health; Scientist
6.	LO	Research Assurances; Biosafety Officer
7.	AS	Institute of Biological Chemistry; Plant Expert
8.	NDW	Pullman City Council; Community Member
9.	NW	Office of the Campus Veterinarian; Director
10.	RS	Research Assurances; Assistant BSO

IBC Invited Guests:

	Guest	Affiliation/Role
1.	CF	Biosafety Specialist
2.	SH	Research Assurances; IBC Coordinator

* Arrived after the Call To Order.

- I. **Call to Order:**
Meeting called to order at 13:00 with a quorum of 9/13 members.
- II. **Announcements:** none
- III. **Minutes – April 23, 2026**
Motion to approve minutes proposed by AS seconded by CG and approved by consensus.
AH enters meeting. Quorum is now 10/13 members.
- IV. **BSL-3 BAFs** none
- V. **BSL-2 BAFs**
 - A. **New Protocols:**
 1. **BAF Number: 1419-001**

Facilities: **Current**
BSM: **Current**

Primary Reviewer: **AG**
Secondary Reviewer: **ML**

Required changes following committee discussion:

- 2B Needs to re-address the inactivation of feces, rodent carcasses, and blood samples. For feces, 100% ethanol, freezing and/or 60° C heat are not appropriate or effective methods to inactivate fecal pathogens. Freezing rodent carcasses is also not a sufficient pathogen inactivation method. How will the frozen rodents be processed in order to ensure they are inactivated prior to performing experiments? While heating blood samples to 60° C for an hour inactivates viral pathogens, this method will not fully inactivate all pathogen types listed in the protocol (bacteria, fungal, protozoa). Some viruses like Hepatitis B Virus remain infectious even after 10 hours at 60 degrees and high titer SARS-CoV-2, while reduced by several logs, can still remain infectious after an hour at 60 degrees C.
- 2B Can all samples be processed and inactivated in the field with portable equipment (e.g., spin columns, portable centrifuge, collection tubes, portable homogenizer)? The concern is that samples

may be inadvertently brought onto campus if the samples are contaminated. Using inactivation buffers (e.g., lysis-based viral transport media, InActiv Blue, Qiagen lysis buffers, RNA later) in the field would ensure no samples are contaminated.

- 2B Whole carcasses pose a problem, as there is known high prevalence of hantavirus. Remove or justify the necessity of whole carcasses and the need for those to be frozen on campus.
- 3B3 Inactivation is listed as after the biological samples have tested in the lab as positive, this contradicts what is stated in 2B.
- 3B3 Describe your post exposure plan.
- 3B5 No storage of infectious materials in 3B5 contradicts the collection of blood and frozen rodents.

IBC Decision

Defer, to the satisfaction of the full committee following completion of the Required Changes at the next meeting of the IBC June 25, 2026.

Proposed by ML seconded by LO and motion carried (10-10).

B. Renewals:

1. *BAF Number:* **1063-012**

Facilities: **Current**

BSM: **Current**

Primary Reviewer: **LO**

Secondary Reviewer: **NN**

Required changes following committee discussion:

- None

IBC Decision

Approve.

Proposed by LO. seconded by NW. and motion carried (10-10).

2. *BAF Number:* **1379-003**

Facilities: **Current**

BSM: **Current**

Primary Reviewer: **ML**

Secondary Reviewer: **AG**

Required changes following committee discussion:

- None

IBC Decision

Approve.

Proposed by ML seconded by AG and motion carried (10-10).

C. Amendments: none

VI. **BSL-1 BAFs**

A. New Protocols:

1. *BAF Number:* **1417-001**

Facilities: **Current**

BSM: **Current**

Primary Reviewer: **CG**

Secondary Reviewer: **AG**

Required changes following committee discussion:

- None

IBC Decision

Approve.

Proposed by CG. seconded by AS and motion carried (10-10).

2. BAF Number: **1418-001**

Facilities: **NA**

BSM: **Current**

Primary Reviewer: **AS**

Secondary Reviewer: **SD**

Required changes following committee discussion:

- 2A Add more information for public on why this transgenic research is being done.
- 2A The second sentence was confusing and it's suggested to be revised. Sample revisions are provided here: "Upon trial completion, all potatoes will be removed from the field and storage *to be frozen for inactivation.*" Or Upon trial completion, all potatoes will be removed from the field/storage and will be frozen for inactivation.
- 2B List each of the commercial varieties and list how they are genetically modified. Explicitly describe reason for disposal protocol, how effective it is, and that it will be upheld and revised according to any new state regulations. Sample language is provided here: "Modified potatoes will be disposed of following the Washington State Organic Food Waste disposal guidelines as well as any recommendations from the Department of Ecology."
- 2B It's exceptionally important to reduce volunteers and this should be discussed in more detail how the site will be monitored.
- 2B The list of traits is helpful. How were the genes silenced? Did it result in a transgene being inserted including a selectable marker (i.e., transgenic or cisgenic)?
- 4C Do the potatoes have any selectable markers?
- 6A2f Need copy of APHIS permit.

IBC Decision

Defer, pending completion of the required changes to the satisfaction of the primary and secondary reviewers.

Proposed by AS seconded by SD and motion carried (10-10).

B. Renewals: none

C. Amendments: none

VII. BAFs Resolved in the Interim

A. Administrative Approvals:

1. BAF Number: **1415-003**

2. BAF Number: **1410-002**

3. BAF Number: **1388-005**

4. BAF Number: **1235-010**

B. Other Approvals:

1. *BAF Number: 1122-011*

2. *BAF Number: 1193-006*

C. Deactivations: none

VIII. Deferred BAFs none

IX. Biosafety Program Update none

X. Biosafety Incident Reports none

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by consensus 14:15.