

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

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DRAFT MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call

Friday, March 5, 2010, 12:00 (Noon) – 1:00 p.m. EST.

Executive Committee Members Present: Martin Massengale, Chair; Dennis Heldman; Marianne Smith-Edge

Executive Committee Members Absent: Nancy Cox; Robin Douthitt; Ed Runge; Walt Armbruster

NAREEE Board Staff: Karen Hunter, Executive Director; Shirley Morgan Jordan
Program Support Coordinator

Others Present: Carol Keiser-Long, Renewable Energy Committee Chair; David Kelly, ARS



I. Roll Call of Members and Invitees

Karen Hunter called roll and introduced David Kelly, her interim replacement as NAREEE Director. He is currently the Director of Legislative Affairs for ARS. He previously worked in the Office of Congressional Relations. He was a political appointee in the Bush Administration. Has attended NAREEE meetings in the past and is familiar with Board and interactions with Capitol Hill. He was active during the Farm Bill process in 2008. Prior to coming to USDA, he worked for the Governor of Texas and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's office. He is a native of Texas with a moderate amount of agricultural background. His educational background is in political science and public relations. Karen has been briefing him and will be available as a resource when he takes over her duties.

II. Comments and Welcome

Martin Massengale indicated that the current teleconference was the rescheduled February Executive Committee meeting. He noted that members should have received the updated membership chart from Shirley Morgan-Jordan with the new members listed. He reminded members that the meeting will be held at the Washington Court, 525 New Jersey Ave. Martin commented that Dr. Beachy will not be able to attend the meeting, but that either Meryl Broussard or Ralph Otto will be in attendance and participating on his behalf. He will be updating subcommittee memberships following the March 29-31 meeting, after making the acquaintance of the new members. He will contact Ed Runge and Nancy Cox to discuss the 2010 Relevancy and Adequacy of Funding report development. Karen will contact the Director of the Office of Chief Scientist to see if she is available to participate in the March meeting to brief the Board members on the current status of the Office of the Chief Scientist.

III. Comments from Molly Jahn, Acting Under Secretary REE (if available)

Dr. Molly Jahn was on official travel and unable to join the Executive Committee conference call.

IV. Updates on Committee Activities and/or Reports

Specialty Crop Committee

Martin reported for Walt Armbruster. The committee is beginning to plan for an upcoming listening session later in the summer. Jean-Marie Peltier commented that the committee has decided on California as one location and Michigan or Texas for another session. She noted that it was important to include representatives from industry as well as research institutions at the listening sessions. Karen reminded Jean-Marie that the NAREEE office needs to be involved in the calls and the planning of any listening sessions. A conference call was planned for the following week.

Renewable Energy

Carol Keiser-Long reported that the Renewable Energy Committee was planning to hold a face-to-face meeting April 1-2 in conjunction with the Biomass Research and Development Initiative Technical Advisory Committee (BRDI-TAC). She is hoping to meet with Jeff Steiner on March 31 in the evening. Carol has been in contact with Laura McMann, the director of BRDI TAC, and will be participating in the public part of the meeting on April 1. Carol will be providing a briefing to BRDI-TAC on the REC activities. She is hoping to have a significant discussion (at least 2.5 hours) with the REC to discuss what the Committee currently knows, what they should know, and where to go from here. That will form the basis for the REC annual report. The REC will finish meeting by mid-day on April 2. The REC has had several members resign and needs to revitalize. Carol would like to see REC members be involved in more activities/conferences as budget lines permit.

V. Update on Work Groups

Protocol Committee Activities

Nancy Cox was unable to participate on the call.

Extension

Karen Hunter reported that the Extension Work Group report would be out for full Board review and submitted to the Secretary prior to the March meeting.

Nutrition and Health in Youth

The draft report is being worked on within the Work Group. Marianne Smith-Edge noted that the report has been initially drafted and is nearly ready for a final read by the Work Group and to the Executive Committee next week.

VI. FY 2010 Nominations Status

Karen reiterated what Martin stated earlier, that appointments were made by the Secretary last week. Most of the appointees will be able to participate in the March meeting.

VII. Spring Meeting

Shirley noted that she had been in contact with the staff at the Washington Court and will be confirming that the room setup is appropriate. Focus session co-chairs Dennis Heldman and Marianne Smith-Edge reported that there was a draft outline of potential speakers. Their goal is to have the speakers confirmed as soon as possible. Dennis and Marianne have spoken with most of the speakers to determine availability. Marianne stated that several other names have been suggested from University of California in Davis as potential speakers. Jean-Marie also asked about addressing the question of climate change and sustainability, particularly in regards to possible limitation of nitrogen fertilizer use.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

The next Executive Committee Conference Call will be April 8, 2010 at 12:00 Noon Eastern Daylight Time.

MARTIN MASSENGALE
Chair

Karen Hunter
Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD: _____
Date

Initials
Chair

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Executive Director