

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

---

REE Advisory Board Office  
Room 321-A Whitten Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2255

Mailing Address:  
STOP 0321  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0321  
Telephone: 202-720-3684  
Fax: 202-720-6199

## DRAFT MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday, May 14, 2009, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST.

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Dr. Martin Massengale, Dr. Walt Armbruster, Dr. Fred Cholick, Mrs. Carol Keiser-Long, Dr. Ed Runge, Dr. Tom Rosol, Mrs. Jean-Mari Peltier.

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Mary Wagner, Mr. Terry Wolf, Dr. Katherine Smith, Acting REE Under Secretary (ex-officio)

**Invited Attendees Present:** Dr. Dennis Heldman

**NAREEE Board Staff:** Mrs. Karen Hunter, Executive Director, Mrs. Shirley Morgan-Jordan Program Support Coordinator



### I. Roll Call of Members and Invitees

Karen Hunter, Executive Director called roll of the Executive Committee members.

### II. Comments and Welcome

Dr. Martin Massengale stated that a few things have occurred since the Board meeting in April. He visited with Bob Dickey relative to commodity crops and the potential for planning a meeting between NAREEE and the commodity crops roundtable. He also noted that the invasive species and commodity crops reports need to be finished. Karen Hunter provided a brief update on the REEO roadmap. Fred Cholick indicated that the REEO division chiefs have divided up some aspects of the roadmap to share the workload and gather information in a more efficient manner. The REE mission area and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will be included in the roadmap; it will not be strictly research-focused. The REEO division chiefs also plan to suggest potential topics for next NAREEE Advisory Board meeting. Dr. Massengale further stated that he will soon appoint a work group to begin program planning for the fall Board meeting.

### III. Comments from Dr. Katherine Smith

Dr. Smith was unable to attend the call.

#### **IV. Update on Committee Activities and/or Reports**

##### **Specialty Crop Committee Activities**

Dr. Walt Armbruster indicated that he had nothing new to report relative to the Specialty Crops Committee.

##### **Renewable Energy Committee Activities**

Carol Keiser-Long reported on Renewable Energy Committee (REC) activities. She is working with Karen Hunter to draft an email with minutes and information pertaining to the Biomass Research and Development Initiative's Technical Advisory Committee (BRDI TAC) and the possibility of a co- or joint meeting in September (REC and BRDI TAC) with a goal of informing and engaging both committees in discussion. Other objectives for the Renewable Energy Committee meeting include determining whether a stakeholder or other summit is necessary and useful. Carol also noted that she is looking forward to meeting with new Under Secretary after he's settled and discussing the direction and goals of the REC.

##### **NAREEE-Farm Foundation Planning Committee**

Dr. Armbruster provided a brief follow up to the NAREEE-Farm Foundation joint meeting. Meeting minutes are expected from Paul Phelps for use in drafting a report. Dr. Armbruster mentioned one outcome as the opportunity to interact with the leaders of the commodity roundtable. The roundtable of commodity leaders meets in DC and dialogues about various pertinent topics, including issues related to research, extension, and education, with an emphasis on research. Drs. Massengale and Armbruster will continue to discuss the potential for a NAREEE meeting with commodity leaders and will inform the executive committee of any progress.

Dr. Fred Cholick updated the committee on a letter being sent from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) to Congress requesting an increase for the major competitive research funding source within NIFA over the next five years. The letter includes data regarding percent of funding going to food systems, competitive grant application successes, etc.

#### **V. Updates on Work Groups**

##### **Invasive Species**

Karen Hunter reported that she is working on a draft report for the Invasive Species Work Group and would be circulating it to the group via Tom Rosol as soon as it was completed.

##### **Commodity Crops**

Karen Hunter reported that per the April Board meeting, she forwarded the draft of the Commodity Crop Work Group report to Joe Layton upon his agreement to review the document and add any insight. She is working with Joe and Jean-Mari Peltier to prepare a final draft for Executive Committee and Board approval.

##### **Climate Change**

Dr. Dennis Heldman reported on the climate change session from the April meeting. Following the meeting, the group summarized the discussion and provided feedback. Initially there was some interest at the meeting in

additional discussion and analysis of the issue of climate change. Climate change research is evident as a priority in the Secretary's office; it is prudent to be more aggressive with moving forward with some recommendations. Three broad areas were identified for recommendations: 1) mitigation of impacts associated with climate change, 2) adaptation of agriculture and food systems to current trends and changes, and 3) research focused on areas needed to support policies (such as carbon offsets). The Work Group feels confident that they can develop recommendations on the three broad areas with the current information. Carol Keiser-Long commented that she was impressed with the detail of the current research taking place in climate change but also stated that efforts need to be focused on enhancing USDA's overall emphasis on climate change. Fred Cholick recommended putting emphasis on integrated activities between agencies. Dr. Massengale restated the Board's stance on encouraging cooperation within the REE mission area and among other USDA mission areas. Jean-Mari Peltier also requested that the role of agriculture in carbon sequestration, as well as evaluation of options for development of markets for carbon credits be highlighted as researchable topics. She pointed out that research on both the science behind sequestration, as well as economic questions are necessary to determine how agriculture might best be positioned to respond to policies related to climate change.

**VII. Future Meeting Dates for Committee and Full Board Meetings**

Shirley Morgan-Jordan reminded the Executive Committee that the fall Board meeting will be held October 28-30, 2009 at the Madison Hotel.

**VIII. Other**

Fred Cholick recommended making a strong statement as a Board on the importance of integration and the benefit of the REEO office as an additional layer of integration potential. He described the need to improve upon the relationship between the REEO division chiefs and the agency administrators. It is questionable how much influence the REEO division chiefs have over the future of the agencies and the REE mission area.

Carol Keiser-Long also noted that it would be important to include the meat animal commodity producers as well as the crop commodity producers in the potential August meeting between NAREEE and the commodity crops leaders. Walt Armbruster noted that the Commodity Roundtable includes major commodity and livestock organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARTIN MASSENGALE  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Hunter  
Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials  
Executive Director