

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

---

REE Advisory Board Office  
Room 344-A Whitten Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2255

Mailing Address:  
STOP 2255  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2255  
Telephone: 202-720-3684  
Fax: 202-720-6199

## DRAFT MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call Tuesday, June 19, 2007 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m., e.s.t.

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Martin Massengale, Chair; George Hoffman, Vice Chair, Marty Apple, Walter Armbruster, Carol Keiser, Daryl Lund, and Mary Wagner

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** David Thomassen, James Zuiches

**Others Present:** Dr. Gale Buchanan, REE, Under Secretary and (Ex-officio)

**Board Staff Participation:** Joseph Dunn, Executive Director, NAREEE Advisory Board, Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Support Coordinator.



### I. WELCOME AND UPDATE

Joseph Dunn called roll of the Executive Committee members.

Martin Massengale, Chair of the NAREEE Advisory Board provided some introductory remarks and welcomed Executive Committee members and others on the call. Martin briefly touched on the information he had on the Farm Bill and stated that the NAREEE Advisory Board is being reauthorized in the House version of the Farm Bill and sub-committee mark-ups have increased the Board's budget and added a Bioenergy Committee akin to the current Specialty Crop Committee.

Martin also stated that he will attend a special meeting of the ad hoc NAL Task Force on Friday, June 29, 2007 at the NAL Library.

Dr. Gale Buchanan welcomed the Executive Committee members to the conference call and stated that on Monday, June 25, 2007 he will be at the ARS Laboratory in Florida. On Thursday, June 28, 2007, he will be at the Quincy SE Conservation Station and the following Wednesday, he will be in Baton Rouge, LA with the 1890 Group.

Dr. Buchanan also stated that he will be answering the Board's recommendations one at a time. Martin Massengale thanked Dr. Buchanan again for offering to answer the recommendations in writing and asked if the response should be sent it to the various congressional sub-committees.

## **II. Update on Reports**

Joseph Dunn stated that the majority of the reports have been transmitted to Under Secretary Buchanan, Secretary Johanns and Congress. He stated that the remaining reports will be sent to the Executive Committee upon completion hopefully within the next two weeks. For example the Relevancy and Adequacy report is almost ready but he wanted to make sure all figures and tables were accurate before sending it out. The NAL report is expected to be ready by the end of this week. John Cunningham is working with the NAREEE Advisory Board Office to complete the Protocol and Review report.

A suggestion was made of sending a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture in order to inform him that the REE Office has been responding to the Boards recommendations. Daryl Lund commended Dr. Gale Buchanan for responding to the report. He also stated that he is happy that Dr. Buchanan thinks of the Board as a positive impact to USDA.

## **III. Appointment of Work Group Members for October Meeting**

Martin Massengale announced the following work group members for the two focus sessions to be conducted at the October meeting.

### **Rural Development**

**James Zuiches – Chair**  
**Alton Thompson – Co Chair**  
**Walter Armbruster**  
**James Clark**  
**Charles Coley**  
**Ricardo Chavez Rel**  
**John Salois**

### **Organic Agriculture**

**Mary Wagner – Chair**  
**Daryl Lund –Co Chair**  
**John Cunningham**  
**Marianne Smith-Edge**  
**Eric Hentges**  
**Dave Hilferty**  
**James Lugg**  
**Jean-Mari Peltier**  
**Janice Hogan-Shiltgen**  
**Laurian Unnevehr**

#### **IV. Update from Specialty Crop Meeting**

Walt Armbruster stated that he has begun polling members of the Specialty Crop committee for their availability to attend the meeting in Modesto, California around the third or fourth week of August. It appears that the best dates for most committee members are August 27 – 30, 2007. Walter also stated that he has some topics for discussion at the upcoming meeting and that he will begin planning the logistics for the meeting with Mary Wagner. Walt said it would be good to have one or more representatives, such as Tom Bewick from the REE agencies.

Martin suggested an Executive Committee meeting could follow the Specialty Crop Meeting since many on the Executive Committee members are also members of the Specialty Crop Committee.

#### **V. Farm Bill Update**

Dr. Buchanan stated what we are into the development process of the new Farm Bill. Many subcommittees have completed their markups already. He stated that the Secretary was encouraged to emphasize mandatory funding for the Specialty Crop and Bio Energy initiatives in the Research Title, and that the Secretary is preparing correspondence to strongly recommend this mandatory spending.

In subcommittee mark-up, Dr. Buchanan stated that there would be many changes but he did not know to what extent. Marty Apple said that in visiting members of the House & Senate on matters relating to research, the Senate has been very supportive. He further commented that he felt that the commodity groups do not hold research as one of their top priorities and they do not want to jeopardize their commodity support in favor of expanded research support. Marty emphasized that we need to get additional support for mandatory research funding in the new Farm Bill, and that the commodity groups should be more supportive since research conducted at or sponsored by USDA often benefits them. Marty requested the other committee members to contact representatives of commodity groups such as the live stock producers and encourage them to support additional research fund in the farm bill.

Marty concluded by stating that the House will be finished with it's version of the farm bill by July and then it will go to the Senate. He also stated that the DOHA Round is losing their fast trade authorization. Dr. Gale Buchanan stated the Secretary is aware of all the issues and represents USDA in Trade Negotiation.

#### **VI. Nominations/Re-appointments**

Joseph Dunn stated that we are still in the process of collecting nominations and to date, we have received about 40 applications for nominations. We will continue to process the nominations as they arrive.

**VII. Informational and Other Items**

**NONE**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOSEPH DUNN  
Acting, Executive Director

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

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

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