

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

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MINUTES

Executive Committee Conference Call

July 14, 2005

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., eastern daylight time

Executive Committee members present today: Martin Massengale, Chair; George Hoffman, Vice Chair; Walter Armbruster; Cornelia Flora; Tom Fretz; Carol Keiser; John Suttie; and Joseph Jen, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) (ex-officio).

Executive Committee members unable to attend were: Tonya Antle; Jeff Armstrong.

USDA Officials and Staff present were: Meryl Pierson, new Deputy Under Secretary for REE; Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director and Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Support Coordinator, of the NAREEE Advisory Board, USDA; and Lindsay Nall, REE, USDA.

Guests present included: Kathryn Reed, Michigan State University.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: Advisory Board Chair, Martin Massengale, acknowledged Dr. Walt Armbruster for the excellent job he is doing as chair of the Specialty Crop Committee. Also, he said that Advisory Board member John Cunningham has agreed to chair a group to work with CSREES on issues that the Board is mandated to address, such as the process for State Plans of Work for 1890 institutions to address critical research and extension issues and use of protocols to measure the success of Plans.

Dr. Tom Fretz added that July 7, 2005 was the due date for the Plans of Work. Some of the issues heard from the institutions have included increased time and resources necessary to do the type of reporting; CRIS system could include annual abstracts; an integrated Plan of Work might be a solution; and that NSF has a contract to do less reporting than before.

Dr. Joseph Jen, Under Secretary for REE, introduced Dr. Merle Pierson, the new Deputy Under Secretary for REE (effective immediately). He is a food microbiologist,

was former Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety for four years. Dr. Fretz commented that Dr. Pierson is a very capable extraordinary scientist; Dr. Elsa Morano was his former student.

PLANNING UPDATE: AUGUST 10-12, 2005 STAKEHOLDER LISTENING SESSION OF THE SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE (HOSTED BY MSU IN EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN):

Walter Armbruster, Chair, Specialty Crop Committee, said that his committee has finalized panelists for the five panels that will make up the Listening Session; four participants will be in each panel. More than 100 specialty crop groups and individuals received letters of invitation for written and/or stakeholder input from the Advisory Board Office (supplied w/ a list from Dan Botts). Dr. Jeff Armstrong will be identifying Michigan attendees. Dr. Jen will be the luncheon presenter on August 11th.

In addition to the written input, the five panels will each have 1 ½ hours followed by a Q&A period. The afternoon will invite comments from the floor. Michigan State University is hosting a tour and reception on Wednesday evening, with attendees having an option to attend with a registration fee for MSU to recoup costs. Friday afternoon will be general discussion with open committee dialog for one hour.

Walt said that the REE agencies have been asked to provide input to each of 10-12 points in the 2004 legislation by Congress. Panel chairs will be looking at this material prior to the Listening Session.

INITIAL PLANS FOR FULL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 18-20, 2005 IN WASHINGTON, DC: Carol Keiser, Chair of the Program Planning for this meeting, said that a timeline has been set up to work from. The meeting in October will consist of mini-focus sessions. Responsibility has been delegated to the members of the Planning Committee on various topics, and each focus leader will develop Objective(s) by July 29. A conference call is expected to take place the first week of August.

In brief, the Advisory Board Meeting will begin around 1:30 on Tuesday, October 18, after the morning Orientation Session for new Advisory Board members. A reception is planned for the evening to kick-off the focus sessions.

Focus Topic 1 is on Emerging Diseases w/ regard to life cycle, animal to human transmission, and projected impacts. Avian influenza and BSE will be covered issues. The National Academy of Sciences Report should be completed by then and also available for reference. Dr. Joe DiPietro is the Focus Leader. Each focus topic is planned to be approximately 2 hours.

Focus Topic 2 is on Changes in Rural Development & Links to REE, chaired by Dr. Cornelia Flora. Rather than discuss what is going on, the group wants the major thrusts of activities – what is needed to address place-based research vs. just sector?; what are the gaps within USDA that could be filled by REE?; and what are the linkages between research and extension on place-based rural development? It was decided that not all of the Regional Directors for Rural Development would be needed as speakers. A working

lunch meeting would look at interactions among agencies.

Focus Topic 3 is on Strengthening Partnerships, chaired by Dr. Tom Fretz.

The Specialty Crop Committee may meet during the Board meeting.

Martin invited Secretary Johanns to attend and meet with the Board members, if his schedule permits.

John Goldberg, Professional Staff Member of the House Agriculture Committee of U.S. Congress may also be able to attend the meeting and provide some brief remarks.

Ideas were discussed for the last day, Thursday, October 20, which would also include the discussion of recommendations heard during the meeting and provide a wrap-up.

UPDATE ON ADVISORY BOARD NOMINATIONS FOR FY 2006 (OCT. 1, 2005): Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, Advisory Board, noted that the deadline was approaching – July 29, 2005 is the date for all nominations to be received in her office for review and processing.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Martin Massengale, Chair

Deborah T. Hanfman, Executive Director

<p>_____</p> <p>Initials following Advisory Board Approval</p> <p>_____</p> <p>DATE APPROVED BY BOARD</p>
