

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board

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MEETING MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday, August 12, 2010, 12:00 (Noon) – 1:00 p.m. EST.

Executive Committee Members Present: Martin Massengale (Chair); Walter Armbruster (Vice Chair); Robin Douthitt; Dennis Heldman; Jean-Mari Peltier; and Edward Runge.

Executive Committee Members Absent: Nancy Cox; Marianne Smith-Edge; and Mary Wagner.

NAREEE Board Staff: Rob Burk (Executive Director); and Shirley Morgan Jordan (Program Support Coordinator)



I. Roll Call of Members and Invitees

- Rob Burk conducted a roll call of the Executive Committee and invited guests participating on the call.

II. Comments and Welcome

- Martin Massengale welcomed everyone, and also welcomed Shirley Morgan-Jordan back to the Board who had been serving on a detail with the Civil Rights Division.
- Martin Massengale stated that the Executive Committee along with the Work Group for the October meeting will be meeting in the USDA Whitten Building in Washington, DC on Wednesday, August 18, 2010. The work group has been active in planning the October meeting which will be held at the Hotel Palomar.
- He spoke briefly regarding the Specialty Crop Committee's (SCC) listening session held in Sacramento, California on July 21, 2010.
- The question was asked if there was any more information regarding the appointment of Catherine Woteki. Rob Burk reported that Catherine Woteki had not yet been confirmed

and her confirmation may be on hold until September or later. The Secretary is considering the implications of a recess appointment of the Under Secretary. There are other nominees from additional agencies that were also awaiting confirmation.

III. Comments from the Acting Under-Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics (if available)

- Acting Under Secretary Ann Bartuska was in flight and thus unable to attend the Executive Committee conference call.

IV. Updates on Committee Activities and/or Reports

- **Specialty Crops Committee**
 - Walter Armbruster stated that the SCC Listening Session in Sacramento, California was productive. A wide range of topics was addressed. The SCC members have received an electronic submission from Colette Wood which included the official comments from presenters at the meeting. Walter Armbruster reported that the goal is to complete the report by September. It was noted that (Jean Wells???) has some insight on the Specialty Committee Crop Grant Program. The issue on the review of the Relevancy and Adequacy was raised by some people inquiring about the distribution of money. A good observation was made on the subject by a representative of the University of California, related to the need to obtain more money for the program.
 - Walter Armbruster discussed the results of the American Agricultural Economists meeting, and Jean-Mari Peltier shared information on a recent meeting related to a regional specialty crops group held in Palm Springs, California.
- **Renewable Energy Committee**
 - The committee would like to have a meeting at the same location, and in conjunction with the Department of Energy's Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee.
 - Rob Burk reported that David Kelly, and Collette Wood notified him that the Renewable Energy Committee's most recent report has been sent to the Secretary of the USDA and Capitol Hill.

V. Update on Work Groups

- **October Meeting Work Group**
 - The group will follow up with Deborah Sheely from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) on the input process for the requests for applications to the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Rob Burk has been organizing the data and is discussing with Jean-Mari Peltier how to distribute the workload among the Work Group members.

- There was discussion of what the group wanted to discuss in the upcoming meeting on August 18, 2010. The group decided to speak about the budget for NIFA, AFRI, Competitive Funds/Capacity Funds and funding for programs.
 - They also wanted to discuss a subject for the focus topic of the October meeting. The group is trying to decide if they want to submit questions before the October meeting and have the agencies respond.
- **Sustainability in Support of Food Security**
 - Dennis Heldman (Co-Chair) developed a first draft of the Sustainability in Support of Food Security Report and it had been distributed to the Work Group for review. Rob Burk stated that a first round of edits on the report were due by August 23, 2010.

VI FY 2010 Nominations Status

- Rob Burk stated that the nomination packets, provided to him by David Kelly, have been forwarded to the White House Liaison's Office for vetting. Rob Burk reported that of the nine categories advertised as open for nomination in the Federal Register, there was one category for which no submissions were received.
- Rob Burk reported that Rick Borchelt had discussed the possibility of providing the NAREEE Advisory Board with a newsletter related to the Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area on a routine basis.

The next Executive Committee Conference Call is scheduled for September 8, 2010 at 12:00 Noon Eastern Standard Time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.

Martin Massengale
Chair

Rob Burk
Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD:

Date

Initials
Chair

Initials
Executive Director