

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

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DRAFT MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday, September 10, 2009, 12:00p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST.

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Martin Massengale, Dr. Walt Armbruster, Mrs. Carol Keiser-Long, Dr. Ed Runge, Dr. Fred Cholick, Dr. Tom Rosol, Dr. Mary Wagner, Mr. Terry Wolf, Dr. Colien Hefferan (ex-officio)

Executive Committee Members Absent: Mrs. Jean-Mari Peltier

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. Massengale thanked everyone for taking the time to participate on the call. He expressed disappointment at not being able to arrange a common date/time to meet with the Under Secretary in August. Dr. Shah was not available to meet on August 24 when the majority of Executive Committee members were available because he was accompanying Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in New York, at her request. Dr. Massengale stated that the Board will invite Dr. Shah to the meeting in October to share his vision and expectations for the REE agencies and to interact with the Board members. Dr. Massengale has spoken with Sally Cluthe in the Secretary's office and learned that Secretary Vilsack's current schedule indicates that he will be out of town during the meeting dates. Massengale described several activities that have taken place including reports being submitted and invitations sent to the Secretary and Dr. Shah for participation in the October meeting. He invited Dr. Hefferan, administrator for CSREES, to make a few comments. She indicated that the mission area is moving forward with the transition and is staffing the mission area office. Dr. Massengale inquired about where the Department was in the selection process for the NIFA Director. Dr. Hefferan replied that the Department was waiting for the White House to make an official statement regarding the selection of the NIFA director. Massengale also asked Dr. Hefferan about the REE Roadmap—she responded that a draft was under internal review within REE. Dr. Massengale asked about the Board having the opportunity to review the document. The roadmap from REEO is

due to Congress September 15, 2009. It is uncertain if it will be completed by then. The Food, Energy and Conservation Act of 2008 indicated that the Board should “be involved” in the preparation of the roadmap. Karen will follow up with Maura and inquire about reviewing a draft.

III. Comments from Dr. Rajiv Shah

Dr. Shah was out of the office on travel and unable to participate in the call.

IV. Update on Committee Activities and/or Reports

Specialty Crop Committee Activities

Walt Armbruster stated that he would have a report ready for committee members to comment on, and a draft should be prepared for Executive Committee review by September 18.

Renewable Energy Committee Activities

Carol Keiser-Long shared that she will be attending the DOE BRDI-TAC meeting in DC next week. She contacted Maura O’Neill in the REE office last week for comments on the Renewable Energy Committee report. The Committee is planning to set up a conference call for early October (before the NAREEE meeting) and is still in the preliminary stages of setting up a face-to-face meeting with the BRDI-TAC and the Renewable Energy Committee. Carol noted that BRDI-TAC is currently finalizing their final report at the September meeting. The direction of the TAC is uncertain at this point, but Carol will know more next week.

V. Updates on Work Groups

Protocol

Carol Keiser-Long reported for Nancy Cox. The group is planning to meet tomorrow via conference call. She welcomes any suggestions for improving the granting process. John Cunningham will discuss what has been done in the past and pose the question: how can the Board provide feedback to the Administrators on the granting process or other protocol-related issues.

Extension

Fred Cholick described the work thus far. He has been working with various extension leaders to develop an agenda. The theme is responsiveness, innovation, and impact through a research-based, fully integrated national Cooperative Extension System. Topics will include innovation in agriculture, natural resource conservation and use, consumers and human well-being, sustainable communities, global reach, and future scientists. A teleconference is planned for the work group for next week to work on details. The agenda will likely need to be reduced in areas; it may be too broad in some topics. Carol asked if the program will address the benefits of extension. Fred elaborated and cited the military 4-H program as an example and also youth development as future scientists.

Nutrition/Youth

Mary Wagner reported on the progress made by the Nutrition Work Group (Childhood Nutrition and Obesity). The program consists of a broad overview of the issue—all aspects from nutrition, health, etc. David Klurfeld from ARS will give the keynote. The next activity is a panel of research/outreach experts from USDA and NIH. The panel will include Molly Kretsch (ARS), Dave Klurfeld (ARS), Judy St. John (ARS), Van Hubbard (NIH), Helen

Chipman (CSREES), and Janey Thornton (FNS). The second panel is a group of non-government speakers including Katie Brown (American Dietetic Association), Jean Ragalie (National Dairy Council), Joe Thompson (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), Eduardo Sanchez (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), and Joyce Roche (Girls, Inc.)(as an alternate). The goal is to showcase how others are doing outreach in the community on the topic. Dr. Massengale recommended checking with Mary Gray, the REEO Division Chief for Nutrition. Mary Wagner will moderate the session.

VI. Commodity Roundtable and Follow Up from Farm Foundation Meeting

Walt reported that he and Neil Conklin have a meeting set up with some key commodity people for September 28 to discuss the report from the Research Symposium in April. The report will be in draft form (but near final) by then.

VII. FY 2010 Nominations for the NAREEE Advisory Board

Karen Hunter reported that the nomination books have been sent to the Under Secretary's office and the nominee names have been submitted to the White House Liaison Office for vetting. It is anticipated that appointments will be made in advance of the October meeting so that new members may attend.

VIII. Fall Board Meeting

Dr. Massengale outlined the meeting agenda. Wednesday, October 28 will start with an orientation session for new members. The full Board will meet beginning at noon. It is hoped that Dr. Shah will be able to participate in the afternoon on the 28th. Wednesday afternoon will also be focused on a protocol discussion and general board business. Thursday morning is scheduled for the Extension program; Thursday afternoon is set aside for the Nutrition/Youth session. Friday morning the Board will have follow up discussions and begin drafting recommendations.

IX. Travel Comments

Shirley Morgan-Jordan commented on travel. She explained to the group that travel cannot be made until after October 1st, due to the changing of accounting codes and release of the new City Pair government airline contract fares. There will be a letter forthcoming to "save the date" and remind members to book their hotel.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

MARTIN MASSENGALE
Chair

Karen Hunter
Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD: _____
Date

Initials
Chair

Initials
Executive Director