

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

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## DRAFT MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday, November 12, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST.

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Jean-Mari Peltier (Chair), Dr. Mary Wagner (Vice-Chair), Dr. Carrie Castille, Dr. Nancy Childs, Dr. Nancy Cox, Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen, Dr. Dennis Heldman, and Terry Wolf.

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** Leo Holt.

**NAREEE Board Staff:** Rob Burk (Executive Director), and Shirley Morgan-Jordan (Program Support Coordinator).

**Others Present:** Carol Keiser-Long.



### I. Roll Call of Members and Invitees

- Rob Burk, Executive Director conducted a roll call of the Executive Committee.

### II. Comments and Welcome

- Rob Burk briefly discussed the agenda for the conference call.
- Jean-Mari Peltier provided welcoming remarks to the Board stating that the overall objective for the NAREEE Advisory Board should be to figure out how to double the funding for USDA REE programs.

### III. Comments from Under Secretary of REE (if available)

- Dr. Catherine Woteki was unable to attend the Executive Committee Conference Call.

### IV. Roadmap for REE Review Discussion

- Rob Burk conferred with the Under Secretary, on how she expects the Board to assist REE with the evaluation of the REE Roadmap.
- Dr. Woteki has requested the Board to:
  - Review and comment on the REE Roadmap; and
  - Specifically, identify if any important elements are missing.
- The deadline for the Roadmap review with Cathy Woteki is in the first week of December 2010.
- The Executive Committee decided that they would like to have a face-to-face meeting with Dr. Woteki once their review of the Roadmap is complete. The committee will plan to meet with Dr. Woteki on, or around, December 16, 2010. Members that were suggested as possible attendees included: Jean-Mari Peltier, Dr. Mary Wagner, Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen, Dr. Dennis Heldman, Dr. Nancy Childs, Dr. Nancy Cox, Dr. Carrie Castille, and Terry Wolf.
- The Executive Committee will review the Roadmap to make sure it represents the constituency represented by each of the NAREEE Advisory Board members.
- Jean-Mari Peltier discussed her opinion that Dr. Roger Beachy has been clear in his message on how grant funds, namely competitive grants, are to be distributed.
- The Roadmap can be viewed more as a vision statement as opposed to a Roadmap which was first mandated through the Farm Bill. Dr. Woteki would like to further develop the original Roadmap into a defined set of goals, and strategies.
- A Work Group of the Executive Committee including; Dr. Dennis Heldman, Dr. Nancy Childs, and Dr. Nancy Cox will develop a draft one page white paper on the topic. They will try to finalize and initial draft by December 3, 2010.
- USDA REE will provide the Board with a draft of the action plan related to the Roadmap in December for review and comment.
- It was determined that the audience for the roadmap was the general public, and interested stakeholders.

## **V. Updates on Committee Activities and/or Reports**

### **Renewable Energy**

- There was discussion related to whether a meeting of the full committee should be held in December. Rob Burk related that some members preferred to have more advance notice

prior to the meetings, and as such a full meeting of the committee should be scheduled in 2011.

- Carol Keiser-Long updated the group on recent Renewable Energy Committee (REC) activities. The REC tried to plan a face-to-face meeting in September but it didn't work out due to committee member scheduling conflicts. The REC will work on scheduling a meeting in proximity to the Biomass Research and Development Initiative Technical Advisory Committee (BRDI TAC) meeting, so that the committee members may also attend the BRDI TAC meeting. The BRDI TAC is planning to meet on December 15, 2010 in the Washington, DC area. No further agenda information was available.
- After input from Carol Keiser-Long the Executive Committee opted to allow the full meeting to take place in December.
- The members of the REC are: Carol Keiser-Long, John Starkey, Dr. Ira Levine, Terry Wolf, Dr. Paul Bloom, Bill Horan, Dr. Steve Hamburg, Fred Vogel, and Dr. Carrie Castille. Rob has been unable to reach Ralph Paige to determine if he is interested in serving on the committee.

### **Specialty Crop Committee**

- Dr. Walter Armbruster sent a draft outline of the Specialty Crop Committee (SCC) annual report to the committee for review. Both Rob Burk, and Jean-Mari Peltier sent personal requests to the SCC members for input.
- Dr. Walter Armbruster discussed several points of interest including:
  - A Specialty Crop Farm Bill Group is looking at the following topics as they relate to Specialty Crop Initiatives; Formation of panels,
    - Priorities of CSRI,
    - Application process, and
    - Matching funds.
  - Membership on the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Working Group
    - National Program Leader Tom Buick is in the process of forming a seven person advisory group.

## **VI. Update from Work Groups/Subcommittees**

### **Competitive Grants**

- Jean-Mari Peltier reiterated her opinion/statement that NIFA has had difficulty in trying to establish peer review panels with expertise in the areas they are tasked to review during the grant process. She would like this work group to address that point.

### **October Meeting Report**

- Paul Phelps has sent the draft highlights and Rob Burk has distributed the draft to the committee for review. Dr. Charles Perrings has begun to work on the first draft of the report.

**Relevancy and Adequacy**

- Members discussed the point that one objective of the Relevancy and Adequacy Committee should be to try and double the funding for REE. Some members expressed reservations regarding trying to double the funding. The most basic option for the Board is to provide REE with support and ideas to use to achieve the doubling of the funds for research. When the committee presents the one page paper related to the Roadmap they will make this a part of the discussion with the Under Secretary.

**VII. Executive Director’s Report**

**Budget**

- Rob Burk stated that an update on the status of funds of the NAREEE budget would not be provided to his office until December 25, 2010 by the budget office.

**Future Meetings**

- A discussion took place regarding the scheduling of future Executive Committee meetings. Jean-Mari Peltier felt that an adjustment to the start time of the meeting may be necessary.
- Rob Burk is currently in the process of determining all of the NAREEE Advisory Board member’s availability for a full Board meeting in March.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

***The next Executive Committee Conference Call will be December 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.***

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Jean-Mari Peltier  
Chair

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Rob Burk  
Executive Director

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

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Initials  
Chair

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Initials  
Executive Director