

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

---

REE Advisory Board Office  
South Building Room 3901  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2255

Mailing Address:  
STOP 0321  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2255  
Telephone: 202-720-3684  
Fax: 202-720-6199

## MINUTES Executive Committee Conference Call

Friday, May 4, 2012, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST.

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Jean-Mari Peltier (Chair), Dr Steven Hamburg (Vice Chair), Dr. Carrie Castille, Dr. Nancy Childs, Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen, and Dr. Milo Shult.

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Charles Boyer, Leo Holt, and Dr. Mary Wagner

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

**Others Present:** Carol Keiser-Long, and Dr. Cynthia Clark (NASS).



### I. Roll Call of Executive Committee Members and Other Attendees

Rob Burk recorded attendance as the Executive Committee members signed on to the conference call.

### II. Comments and Welcome

Jean-Mari Peltier welcomed everyone on the conference call. She stated that the REE Advisory Board Office had not yet received the minutes and highlights from the March 28-29, 2012 meeting of the Board from Paul Phelps, and she apologized to the board. She stated that the Executive Committee conference call may not go according to the agenda. She suggested that the R&A Committee report be discussed first.

### III. Updates from the Standing Committees Activities and/or Reports

## **Relevancy and Adequacy Committee**

### ***Adequacy Sub-Committee***

Dr. Carrie Castille stated that she had received notes from Paul Phelps for the Adequacy Sub-Committee meeting in Texas. She stated that she is currently editing them. She discussed holding a conference call during the first week of June.

Drs. Castille and Daley-Laursen suggest holding a face-to-face meeting so that the two sub-committees may work together to submit one cohesive report. They have requested that the REE Mission Area follow up on key information presented at the full meeting of the Board. Dr. Woteki has recommended that the Board utilize the staff of REE to help with the drafting of the reports along with any additional information that is needed. The Board needs to take advantage of this offer, but keep in mind that the recommendations must be developed by the Board itself. Jean-Mari Peltier will work with Rob Burk to identify key staff to help compile related information for the Board reports.

Dr. Castille requested an updated list of the members on the Relevancy and Adequacy Sub-committees. Rob Burk stated that he would send the list to her. Dr. Steven Hamburg and Jean-Mari Peltier requested a copy as well.

### ***Relevancy Sub-Committee***

Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen wants close the gaps in the report. He sent a set of condensed meeting notes memo on May 29<sup>th</sup> and received responses from four of the sub-committee members. The members' responses referred to programmatic gaps and information that needed to be added.

He noted that updates are need regarding:

- what exactly “first principles” refers to;
- a status update on the GAO report;
- the Presidents Council on Science and Technology Report;
- the Office of Science and Technology Policy report on China Trade & Production;
- the ARS Capital Investment Plan; and
- NIFA External Evaluation Report.

Dr. Daley-Laursen asked the Executive Committee members for input on any other topics that hadn't been discussed. A group discussion ensued and included comments related to technical efficiency on how to report success, international and national issues, and determination of the relevancy of measures within the Action Plan.

Jean-Mari Peltier asked what the Board can do to help to help in the compilation of the report. Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen stated that he didn't know how to rationally get through all of the material noted previously. He noted that the reports identified by the committee were brought up in Dr. Catherine Woteki's discussion with the Board during the meeting in Texas. Dr. Steven

Daley-Laursen stated that he needed more guidance on how to move to the next phase of the report. He stated that he needed to also discuss the current trajectory with the sub-committee to make sure we are going in the right direction. Jean-Mari questioned the status of the NIFA External Review and Rob Burk stated that he would provide and update on its status. Dr. Steve Daley-Laursen also noted that he will work with Rob Burk to obtain updates/information on the studies noted previously.

A question was posed by a member of the Executive Committee regarding what “was in the G-20 piece?”

Rob Burk noted work being done by the AGree group, and Jean-Mari Peltier questioned the Executive Committee members on their awareness of the group? She stated that Dan Glickman is the Chair. She also noted additional members on that group. She stated that the purpose of the group is to bring a number of different groups together to formulate policy for the next Farm Bill. Jean-Mari Peltier stated that the Executive Committee may want to have some AGree representatives join in on a conference call in the future

Jean-Mari Peltier recommended that the Relevancy and Adequacy Sub-Committees not overstretch themselves on this report, refrain from duplicating work in other reports, and instead focus on what the members can feasibly complete given the time available outside of the members normal jobs. She stated that the Committee may be better served by focusing on one report such as the NIFA External Review. Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen stated that he will wait on information from Rob Burk and then approach the full group. Rob stated that he will try to get a status report by next week.

### **Renewable Energy Committee (REC)**

Carol Keiser-Long stated that the REC also held a very productive meeting in College Station, Texas. She was still waiting on the minutes from Paul Phelps. She suggested that the group hold a face-to-face meeting in July 2012 in Washington, D.C. She stated that it would be a good opportunity to bring the REC Members together at the same time as the Department of Energy Biomass 2012 Conference. Carol Keiser-Long stated that she has discussed other ideas with Rob Burk about some site visits as well but due to budget constraints they were determined to not be conducive.

Jean-Mari Peltier stated that she would like the REC Members to focus on Department and Agency overlaps and gaps. Rob Burk stated that the REC members have been discussing these two issues as well as “accountability”. The REC is planning to ask for expanded support in the development of their reports from USDA REE and the associated REE Agencies.

### **Specialty Crop Committee**

Jean-Mari Peltier noted that there are several new members on the SCC and that they will be meeting regularly.

## **IV. Updates from Work Groups/Ad Hoc Sub-Committees**

## **NASS Report Working Group**

Dr. Milo Shult stated that he has pulled all the minutes from November 2011 meeting and contacted Terry Wolf for additional information. He stated that he hasn't contacted Dr. Cynthia Clark, Director of NASS, as he wanted to collect all of the information to be prepared for that meeting. Dr. Shult stated that it was unclear on who the members of the working group would be. Jean-Mari Peltier identified Richard Schlosser as an additional member, as he is the plant producer's representative on the Board.

Jean-Mari Peltier discussed the proposal that one of the speakers at the meeting had made for NASS to eliminate the August Crop Production Report. Rob Burk attempted to clarify the discussion. Dr. Cynthia Clark had joined in on that call and asked whether Dr. Shult was referring to the October 2011 report or the 2010 Production report. Dr. Cynthia Clark stated that there seems to be some confusion over what the Board is interested in with regards to the NASS reports. Dr. Clark provided some clarity regarding what was discussed during the Board's Fall 2011 meeting.

Jean-Mari Peltier asked Dr. Milo Shult to work with Dr. Cynthia Clark to come together to talk about what's been addressed and what hasn't. The group needs to come up with a clear direct recommendation. Dr. Shult asked Dr. Clark to provide a list of topics of issue for NASS that she felt would be worthwhile for consideration by the Board.

## **V. Executive Director's Report**

Rob Burk gave an updated on budget for what has been spent to date.

Rob Burk reported that REE has been active regarding the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Morrill Act which founded the USDA, and the Land Grant University System. They will be participating in activities on the National Mall in cooperation with the Smithsonian throughout July.

Rob Burk noted that he has asked REE Senior Staff to help develop an agenda and speakers for the next meeting of the Board. The Board has indicated that it would like to discuss and learn about the international activities of REE.

Dr. Milo Shult asked if attendance was kept on those people that attended the meeting in College Station, TX via teleconference. He also suggested that identifying locations with video teleconferencing capabilities could be conducive to future Board meetings. Rob Burk stated that attendance was kept, and that it was feasible to identify video teleconferencing capable meeting locations in the future.

***The next Executive Committee conference call is scheduled for Friday, June 1, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Morgan-Jordan

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean-Mari Peltier  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Burk  
Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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