

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board

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MINUTES

Executive Committee Conference Call

Friday, March 7, 2014

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT.

Executive Committee Members Present: Steve Hamburg (Co-Chair), Dr. Milo Shult (Co-Chair); Dr. Charles Boyer, Leo Holt, Dr. Mark McLellan, Agnes Mojica, Dr. Carrie Castille and Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen

Executive Committee Members Absent: Dr. Robert Taylor

NAREEE Board Staff: Michele Esch (Executive Director) and Shirley Morgan Jordan (Program Support Coordinator)

Others Present: Dr. Catherine Woteki, REE, Under Secretary, Caren Wilcox, Special Assistant, Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, NIFA, Tom Jerkins, Citrus Disease Subcommittee

1. Roll Call of Executive Committee Members and Other Attendees

Michele Esch conducted a roll call of the Executive Committee as members signed on to the conference call. Ms. Esch also provided a brief introduction.

2. Welcome from Co-Chair

Dr. Steven Hamburg welcomed everyone to the first Executive Committee conference call since the Farm Bill was passed. Dr. Hamburg spoke about how the Board needs to look forward and to collectively identify a way for our work to continue so that we can optimally serve USDA and the larger community.

3. Comments from the Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics

Dr. Catherine Woteki, REE, Under Secretary, greeted all of the Executive Committee Members and thanked them for allowing her to be a part of the call.

USDA and REE recently announced Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young as the new Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service.

We are actively implementing the Farm Bill in a deliberative and efficient manner. The top Farm Bill priorities for REE are:

- The implementation of the Citrus Disease Subcommittee.

- A huge list of NIFA programs, including but not limited to the definition of the Non Land Grant Colleges and Universities; procedures for the new Centers of Excellence; and notices for mandatory spending programs.
- The incorporation and standing up of the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research.

REE will be holding a listening session on March 12, 2014 at 2 pm on the Farm Bill.

The President's Budget for 2015 included \$75M for the three Innovation Institutes. Once the final budget is passed, NIFA would hold listening sessions and would run a competition process to establish the Innovation Institutes.

Dr. Woteki thanked the NAREEE Board for their work on the specific recommendations developed in response to the PCAST report. REE is currently implementing the Science Advisory Council. REE has taken the NAREEE Board's advice and have held several listening sessions on the establishment of the Innovation Institutes. The work of implementing the institutes now falls to NIFA through the development of the RFAs. We are also looking forward to receiving the recommendations from the NAREEE Advisory Board on the balance of major and minor crops.

Action Item: Develop the report and recommendations on the balance of major and minor crops.

Agnes Mojica: Are the Commodity/Promotion Boards for export? Collect money for research and marketing. Carrie Castille: Will the promotion boards be held at the state or national level? NIFA will be working out the details on how this will be implemented.

4. Discussion on the Agricultural Experiment Station Briefing, 2014 Spring Board Meeting

At the Fall Board meeting in September 2013, the Board discussed and approved that the spring meeting will be focused on the Agricultural Experiment Stations. Nancy Cox, former Board member and member of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy, proposed that the meeting be held at the University of Georgia in Athens. Due to communication limitations from the lapse of the Farm Bill, University of Georgia will not be able to host the NAREEE Advisory Board. Instead, ESCOP has offered to host the meeting at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster, Ohio. They have been very accommodating and helpful in the planning of the meeting. The Board will create a planning committee to assist with the development of the agenda and the program.

Mark McLellan: what happened with UGA? It was simple miscommunication. Since we were not allowed to perform any official board business when there was no Farm Bill, they did not continue to save the date for the meeting. Once we were back online, it became apparent that they would not be able to adequately accommodate our meeting.

Action Item: Establish planning committee.

5. Formal Establishment of the Citrus Disease Subcommittee

The Farm bill formally established the Citrus Disease Subcommittee and outlined the duties and membership balance of the committee. The draft charge was included in the meeting package for the Executive Committees review. Are there any questions regarding the charge?

Mark McLellan – it appears that there is no cross over with the NAREEE Advisory Board with the Citrus Disease Subcommittee. We need to ensure that the charge clearly identifies that all recommendations from the subcommittee is passed through the Board before it is considered official. Agnes Mojica indicated that clause (d) outlines the consultation responsibilities of the subcommittee.

Action item: Verify the Citrus charge (and the Science Advisory Council charge) outlines the relationship and required consultation with the NAREEE Advisory Board.

The Citrus Disease Subcommittee is officially established. A notice for nominations for the remaining three positions on the committee will be coming out shortly.

Dr. Woteki provided an overview of the potential ethics issues with the new duties of the Specialty Crop Committee and the Citrus Disease Subcommittee. Some of the duties are an executive function rather than an advisory function and we need to be aware of any conflict of interest issues from the consultations with the SCRI program.

Action Item: Review the ethics issues with the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Ethics. Keep the NAREEE Advisory Board Executive Committee apprised of the new responsibilities.

6. Executive Director's Report

Michele Esch provided a summary of the activities of the NAREEE Advisory Board in the teleconference package. The following updates were also presented:

- Nominations for the 8 vacant categories for the NAREEE Advisory Board have been appointed by the Secretary. A formal announcement will be issued shortly.
- The Federal Register Notice for the solicitation of members for the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council is slated to be published on March 12, 2014.

Ms. Esch and the Co-Chairs proposed holding more frequent conference calls prior to the spring meeting. The Executive Committee agreed to hold additional meetings. The Committee also agreed to continue to hold the meetings on the first Friday of the month at 11 am Eastern Time.

7. Other Business – None

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. EDT

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Esch

Dr. Steven Hamburg
Co-Chair

Dr. Milo Shult
Co-Chair

Michele Esch
Executive Director, NAREEE

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD:

Date