



MINUTES
CDS Conference Call
Friday, June 19, 2020, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

Executive Committee Members Present: Justin Brown, (Chair), Harold Browning, Gregory Galloway, John Gless, Justin Golding, David Howard, Julia Inestroza, Matt McLean, William “Gee” Roe III, Mari Skari, and James Sniveley

Ex Officio: Richard De Los Santos

Citrus Disease Committee Members Absent: None

NAREEE Board Staff: Ms. Michele Esch, Executive Director, Ms. Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Support Coordinator, and Mr. Niklas Spitnale

Others Present: Michael Fitzner, Ann Lichens-Park, and Robert Nowierski,

I. Welcome and Roll Call of the Executive Committee Members and Other Attendees

Ms. Michele Esch welcomed everyone on the call.

II. Welcome from Chair

Justin Brown welcomed everyone on the call.

III. Update from NIFA on the ECDRE Relevancy Review Process

It was stated that there were 2 reviewers from Texas and 6 invited. One was a returning reviewer and there was also one new person. They received 20 applications from Florida and 22 from California.

One of the Board members said that during the review process, a lot of time was spent on the CAP proposal. There was one network proposal and it was turned down because the panel did not know how to rank it. The Board felt like the panel was missing out on the proposal because there wasn't enough researched information on network. There was also a therapeutics and breeding proposal but there were other breeding proposals that looked promising on the outcome. The panel felt that the therapeutics proposal would take longer than 5 years to be completed. A question was proposed if there was a coordinating network tool available? They didn't think they had the infrastructure and wondered if this was a good proposal. More experience is what is the right proposal needs to be thought out. Then a question was asked, “what is the right network proposal?” It was believed that they didn't receive all the comments and felt a lot of members wasn't separating the network proposal from a CAP. The members on the

panel that did understand the network proposal did not think it was good. It takes time to understand a network proposal and only one was submitted. One of the Board members that served on the panel would like to see everyone go back to the variations and evaluate. The 3 Texas proposals that was submitted scored low and one scored in the 80's and that was in the lower half. One of the Board members stated that the proposals are not just about numbers and it should be about the topic of the proposals.

◦ During the conversation, it was encouraged that everyone on the subcommittee send an email on improving the process and how to make it better. It was also agreed that the CDS should be able to make recommendations on review process. This recommendation will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The timeline for CDS response follows the announcement of the award and the CDS shouldn't wait to give the response. The process is confidential and all information is confidential and shouldn't be discussed outside the CDS.

IV. Other Business

- Confirm July meeting date with members.
 - Michele Esch told the CDS members that she has accepted a job with another Agency and the NAREEEAB will not be reassigned to the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)
 - The NAREEEAB Office is soliciting new members for all Boards. The deadline for application submission is July 30, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Tentative: Next meeting will be Friday, August 13, 2020 at 2 p.m. EST