



Research, Education, and Economics (REE)
National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board

Executive Committee Conference Call – January 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Vice Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Ms. Liz Hobart, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, Dr. Edmund Buckner (Chair), Donnell Brown – (3), Mr. Richard De Los Santos; Ms. Tandra Stevenson— (9)

Members Absent: none

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Ms. Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Ms. Danielle Farley, Program Analyst, Michele Simons, Program Support Assistant

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Quorum Check, and approval of December 2022 meeting minutes. Call for a motion to approve meeting minutes from December by Michele Simmons, moved, and all in favor. No opposes.

Ms. Farley provided an announcement regarding Agriculture Innovation Mission (AIM) for Climate, May 8-10, 2023 <https://www.aimforclimate.org/summit/>

II. Remarks from Chair and Vice Chair.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed the members on the call and voiced her excitement to work more with the board in the next year. Dr. Buckner is stepping down as role as chair and Dr. Jefferson-Moore will be the chair for the remainder of the fiscal year. A new vote will be made for a vice chair when new members are onboarded.

Donnell Brown – expressed gratitude to Dr. Buckner for his leadership in his service and to Dr. Jefferson-Moore for stepping up in her new role.



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III. Update on the 2022 Ag Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Report/ Recommendation

Ad Hoc Committee Members from the Board: Dr. Balasubramaniam, Dr. Ferruzzi, Ms. Liz Hobart, Dr. Jefferson-Moore, Dr. Ortiz-Bobea.

Next meetings will be at 9:30 – 10:00 AM on Friday, January 13 and Friday, February 10.

Update from Dr. Jefferson-Moore: Revising and updating the board’s recommendations for climate adaptation and mitigation. Initial meeting was December 16, the goal of that meeting was to develop a working timeline for proposed activities. December- January is reserved for reviewing materials. Next meeting is January 13 to discuss the review. Between January and February, the group will be writing. Ask: for the entire board to review those materials so they can provide recommendations on what is drafted. Would like to have final materials ready by February 15th.

IV. Summary of survey and in-person meeting

Update from DFO Lewis: We recently decided to try to jointly implement an in-person meeting with the Ag-Outlook Forum this February. A decision by leadership was suggested to push the in-person meeting to mid to late May or early June 2023. Reason for rescheduling is the Ag Science and Research Strategy has not been released. The public release will be at the AIM for Climate Summit followed by a 1-2 of socializing the strategy to USDA stakeholders. Give the board the opportunity to read the strategy and provide feedback to the strategies implementation.

Dr. Ferruzzi – This makes sense. He knows they are going to present that strategy but is there anyway the board can have access to that strategy before the release?

DFO Lewis response: DFO Lewis is currently working with the group administering the Ag Science and Research Strategy and how to involve the NAREEE Board prior to the public release.

Dr. Kolodinsky: There is a lot of high-level initiatives going on for the AIM for Climate. Loosing sense of the NAREEE Board AIM for advising the strategy. There have been so many changes in leadership. What’s our role in advising the Secretary?

DFO Lewis – Asked board members to include their feedback in their response to the anonymous survey that will be disrupted to leadership.

Dr. Ferruzzi – It makes more sense to provide input before big strategies are finalized. Providing input after strategies are finalized feels like backpedaling.



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Dr. Kolodinsky - Does everyone on the committee have a clear idea on how we engage as board members? Is it just my perspective that we are reacting vs advising?

Dr. Balasubramaniam – Agrees with Dr. Ferruzzi and Dr. Kolodinsky.

Dr. Buckner – Ideally, we as aboard should give input to move strategies forward not after the fact by proving reactionary comments.

Liz Hobart – Agrees with Dr. Ferruzzi and Dr. Kolodinsky.

Dr. Ferruzzi – Key thing that we have a lot of items in the survey response that the board wants to be involved ahead of release of the documents.

Donnell Brown– Talked with Kate about why they joined the advisory board to bring things forward. It doesn't feel like we ever get a chance to bring things forward and that we are always just reacting. It is promoted that this is a board that advises the Secretary, but it doesn't seem like we have access to the Secretary or a direct line to the Secretary. If it is in fact a board that advises the Chief Scientist then it should be advised that way.

DFO Lewis' response – All federal advisory boards report up and essentially report to the Secretary. The board works within REE (research, education, and Economics). Your comments are appreciated and valued. We will move forward and act on them. Dr. Buckner and Dr. Jefferson-Moore met with Dr. Jacobs-Young in a closed meeting. DFO Lewis asked for a summary of that meeting.

Dr. Buckner – Dr. Jacobs-Young touched bases on what impact they're making with the Board. Changes in leadership was an issue why items were not moving forward, but changes have been ironed out. Dr. Buckner is looking forward to providing proactive advice to the Secretary.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore – Dr. Jacobs-Young wants to see diversity, equity, and inclusion. Shared the sentiments of the Board. Discussed R&A process, 2020 Reports, and plans on moving forward regarding the future of the Board.

Next Steps:

DFO Lewis is trying to see if the EXECOM members can meet in person for mid- May – June. The NAREEE Board Office will solicit feedback on location, agenda, framework to react to. Would be good to have in-person meeting in DC to better engage USDA Leadership.

Dr. Kolodinsky suggests we meet in DC.



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Dr. Balasubramaniam – also likes the idea of hosting meeting in DC

Dr. Jefferson-Moore - was okay with the outlook forum, but DC would be a preferred location. She was looking forward to the combination of attending the outlook forum and the in-person meeting.

DFO Lewis – we will be reinstalling ideally 3 new members by mid Feb. We want to ensure we can onboard the new members before an in-person meeting.

VI. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

Agenda will be sent out a week before the next meeting. The next meeting will be **February 7, 2023, from 12 noon - 1 pm ET.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.