



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

Executive Committee Conference Call – Feb 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Donnell Brown, Mr. Richard De Los Santos; Ms. Liz Hobart, Tandra Stevenson -- 7

Members Absent: Dr. Edmund Buckner, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky – 2

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Ms. Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Ms. Danielle Farley, Program Specialist

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Quorum Check, and approval of January 2023 meeting minutes. Call for a motion to approve meeting minutes from January by Kate Lewis, moved, and all in favor. No opposes.

Kate Lewis did roll call and quorum was identified. Kate asked if there were issues accessing Teams. Mario said yes, but it is on his end not the NAREEE Boards.

Kate acknowledged the boards interest in being involved earlier in strategic work within REE in a proactive way. She discussed with the Office of the Chief Scientist Director about the Board's wants for the next year. She mentioned that Dr. Chester will join our next meeting in March.

Donnell Brown thanked Kate for hearing the NAREEE Board's wants.

A motion to approve meeting minutes was put forth by Donnell Brown, meeting minutes were seconded, and approved by the entire Board.

Kate does not have an update on new or renewed Board members. There is no update yet on the initiation of the Pollinator Subcommittee.

Kate is still working towards forwarding Board approved work to the Secretary.

Danielle Farley mentioned that the NAREEE Board office staff received clarity on when Board approved work products can be moved forward to the Office of Congressional Relations (OCR) at USDA. Once the Board approves a work product they will be sent directly to OCR.



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II. Remarks from Chair.

On 2/2/2023 Dr. Buckner and Dr. Jefferson-Moore met with Dr. Jacobs-Young to discuss the next relevancy and adequacy review. Dr. Jacobs-Young said she would like the Board to look into precision nutrition and the intersection of equity across feeding programs at USDA. Also, a review of the USDA NextGen program, which is a program to foster a new agriculture workforce. She would like to have the Committee to consider reviewing the work progress of this program for improving diversity across USDA.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore announced that Secretary Vilsack will be visiting North Carolina A&T State University and will engage in a panel regarding climate smart commodities.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore ask the Board for questions and comments.

Donnell Brown voiced concern for not focusing the relevancy and adequacy review on research. She represents the National Grape Research Alliance and her stakeholders are more interested in research. Donnell Brown also voiced interest in having more Board focused work on the next Farm Bill. Ultimately, she wants the Board to focus on topics that affects stakeholders in her industry, like the Farm Bill.

Dr. Mario Ferruzzi mentioned that precision nutrition is a research focus with connection to the cancer moonshot initiative. He supports this topic for the adequacy and relevancy review. He understands the concern regarding research versus food assistance programs at USDA. Dr. Mario Ferruzzi also stated that precision nutrition is a multi-level approach involving a systemic approach.

Danielle Farley stated that specialty crop research is directly tied to precision nutrition and commodity support.

Tambra Stevenson is calling in from the Food Not Feed Summit in Washington DC. Tambra suggested putting together a working group to develop a work product regarding precision nutrition. She supports this topic area for the relevancy and adequacy review.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that the Board is not limited to the relevancy and adequacy review each year. In addition to nutrition focused work, she realizes that we do not want to lose momentum with the other Board members interest in other work products that affect the stakeholders they represent. The Board can put multiple work products forward to the USDA each year.

Kate Lewis also acknowledged that there can be multiple working groups and the Board can have dedicated space for strategic planning at the annual in person meeting.



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Liz Hobart voiced that the Board cannot lose sight of the production of food and the focus on agriculture research, education, and Extension.

Tambra Stevenson said she hopes that if there is a nutrition ad hoc Committee that someone from the Board represents crop production.

Dr. Balasubramaniam voiced interest in a work product with a focus on food processing and climate.

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

Comments and edits were received from everyone in the ad hoc Committee. Dr. Jefferson-Moore is pulling all those comments together and she will share her draft with Dr. Balasubramaniam for putting together an addendum. Dr. Jefferson-Moore opened the floor for comments, questions, or concerns from the Board. There were none.

IV. Summary of in-person meeting

Kate Lewis provided an update that we are planning to have an in-person Board meeting in early May or June with REE agency leadership present. We were considering co-locating this meeting with the Ag Outlook Forum but that was declined by REE leadership. She is looking for a location and availability.

NAREEE Board staff will create a survey for the Board members to gauge availability.

V. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m. ET