



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

Executive Committee Conference Call – March 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky -- 4

Members Absent: Dr. Edmund Buckner, Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Richard De Los Santos; Ms. Liz Hobart, Ms. Tambra Stevenson -- 5

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

- I. Welcome from Kate Lewis, Roll Call, Quorum Check. Quorum wasn’t met. Dr. Jefferson-Moore suggested that since the quorum wasn’t met to table the February minutes. Final review of February 2023 meeting minutes for approval from the Board Members will be sent via email by Michele.**

Kate welcomed Dr. Deirdra Chester, Director, Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) to the call. She thanked the Board for all of their work for USDA. Dr. Chester is very excited that all the Board’s work products have been cleared through OCS and is making their way to Secretary Vilsack’s office for review. She mentioned in FY24, that OCS will be more diligent in having Board approved items cleared in a timely manner. Also, in FY2023 OCS will work harder to ensure that new Board Members are more diverse. Dr. Chester invited the Board to assist with recommendations and outreach efforts for the new Board Members in 2024. Dr. Chester stated that she is now in the position to better help with the Board’s needs and that if Board Members need anything from her to please reach out.

USDA’s Science and Research Strategy (S&RS) will be released to the public at the Aim for Climate Summit in Washington, DC from May 8-10, 2023. Stakeholder engagement on this strategy will be implemented via webinar fly ins for the Science & Research Strategy to give feedback. We have decided that we will roll it out to really acclimate our stakeholders to the Science and Research Strategy. We will send you the site for Science Research Strategy to the Board to review and to give feedback. She is looking forward to meeting the Board Members at the in-person meeting this June. Her role as the Director of OCS is to make sure the work that you do is easier. Dr. Chester thanked everyone again for their time.

Kate thanked Dr. Chester for taking time to talk with the Board. The invitation to join the Monthly Meeting is always open.

Kate informed the Board that we are anticipating the Secretary to announce the new FY23 NAREEE Board, Committee and Subcommittee Members. She will reveal who the new



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Members are once the cleared candidate slates are received from the Secretary. Applications have opened up for new FY24 Board, Committee and Subcommittee Members that are officially scheduled to start October 1, 2023. Kate explained how to access the Subpage on the NAREEE Advisory Board’s website to see the available vacancies and the details of the application process.

II. Remarks from Chair.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore brought to everyone’s attention that she did participate in the Ag Outlook Forum. Some of the highlights were the Meat Demand session. The Chief Economist mentioned at the Forum that there is strong meat demand and they will continue to look at meat demand to see how consumers are responding. China continues to be one of our largest consumers. Our farm economy is very strong. Secretary Vilsack mentioned that the USDA is making an effort in investing in innovations. Secretary Vilsack visited North Carolina A&T (NCAT) State University to highlight some of their projects they have within the state. Under Secretary Jacobs-Young will be visiting NCAT the last week of March for their Annual Small Farms Week. She will keep the Board Members informed if the event will be available virtually. The Ag Outlook Forum will be available online until February 2024. Kate asked were there any comments or questions for Dr. Jefferson-Moore. There were none.

III. Update on the 2022/2023 Ag Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Report/ Recommendation (The Board’s Relevancy & Adequacy project for FY23)

Dr. Jefferson-Moore gave a brief update discussed the status of the report. The Ad-Hoc Committee Members from the Board have been meeting since January 2023 to address the 2020 report that was submitted by the previous Relevancy and Adequacy (R&A) Committee. The Board had a chance to review all of the documents. What was gathered from the discussion, the previous group did a very good job and there is a consideration for future areas to look at. A draft has been developed. Drs. Jefferson-Moore and Balasubramaniam are reviewing the draft. After final review the final draft will be submitted to the Ad-Hoc Committee to review.

Kate revealed the timeline that was outlined for the review process. Kate thanked the Board for reviewing the previous R&A Report/recommendations. Kate also thanked Danielle Farley for helping to reengage this board to rereview the recommendations and gather the USDA updated activities in this area. Drs. Jefferson-Moore and Balasubramaniam should have their final review completed by Monday, March 13th. Kate will move the final draft to the report’s Ad-Hoc Committee Members for approval via email by Friday, March 17th. Once the Ad-Hoc Members review/approve the final draft, it will be forwarded to the Executive Committee. They will have two weeks to review the final draft. The full Board will vote at the next Board meeting on April 4th. Kate and Michele will prepare the briefing memo package to the OCS for review. Once



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approved, the briefing memo package will be forwarded to Under Secretary Jacobs-Young's office for clearance and then to the Secretary. Kate asked if there were any questions. There were none.

IV. Summary of In-person Meeting

Danielle provided a summary from the January survey she submitted to the Board to gather the best availability for an in-person meeting in June. The survey also requested that the Board submit suggested projects and topics to be discussed. The 1st week of June seems to work for the majority of the Board to meet. The link is still open to provide your availability and suggested topics for the agenda that Kate is drafting. Kate will share the agenda with Kennett. The Board will also have a chance to review the agenda before it is finalized.

Michele provided a brief overview of what is needed from the Board Members to complete their upcoming travel. She also discussed some of the steps that are required to secure a hotel and meeting space for the June In-person Meeting that is preferred to take place in Washington, DC.

Kate gave the Board an update on the National Genetics Resource Advisory Committee's (NGRAC) In-person Meeting that's scheduled to take place April 11-12, 2023, in Fort Collins, CO. The NGRAC is meeting to discuss their work plan for this fiscal year and their strategy going forward.

Kate asked if there were any questions. There were none.

V. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

Kate asked Dr. Jefferson- Moore if she had anything further to share with the group. She had none.

The next meeting will be **April 4, 2023, from 12 noon - 1 pm ET.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m. ET.