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

**Executive Committee Conference Call – August 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, Mr. Richard De Los Santos, Ms. Liz Hobart, Ms. Tambra Stevenson - 6

**Members Absent:** Dr. Edmund Buckner, Ms. Donnell Brown, and Dr. Mario Ferruzzi - 3

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

**I. Welcome from DFO Kate Lewis, Roll Call, and Quorum Check. Quorum was met. First order of business was to approve the July Minutes. DFO Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The July meeting minutes were approved by consensus, and no one opposed.**

DFO Lewis stated that there are two work products that need to be approved by the Board by the end of August. One is the Board's approval on the Specialty Crop Committee review and feedback to the Office of the Chief Scientist for the Hemp Research Roadmap. This draft roadmap outlines the research needs to move the hemp industry forward. The second product which needs to be approved by the Board by the end of August or early September, will be the Committee's annual recommendations to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture on their Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI). This is feedback that this Committee provides to the SCRI National Program Leaders and leadership every year.

DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**II. Remarks from Chair.**

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed everyone. She discussed the \$33 million dollars provided by USDA for the 1890 Capacity Building Grants. It was established under the Agricultural Research Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998, to build capacity at 1890 institutions in teaching research and extension. With this funding, 12 projects can be sent from each 1890 institution for review. There is an internal vetting process that takes place and then it goes to a competitive review at the national level and competition with other 1890 land grants. Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that this is a very good program, and she is appreciative of the funds from USDA.

**III. Next Steps**

- Feedback to REE leadership team on FY23 priorities presented in Board meeting
- Relevancy & Adequacy Committee formation; next steps; timeline



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- Draft or final R&A report by Nov 2023 meeting (TBD)
- November 2023 Board Meeting (North Carolina) updates

DFO Lewis asked if there were any updates on the REE feedback letter from the writing team.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore provided a brief overview. The Committee met on last Tuesday and identified three major areas to focus on. 1. The Science Research Strategy. 2. Responding to the REE leader's presentations at the June In-person meeting. 3. The R&A report. Ms. Brown and Dr. McFerson are working on the Science and Research Strategy portion. Dr. Balasubramaniam and Ms. Stevenson are working on relevancy and adequacy (R&A) portion. Dr. Jefferson-Moore is working on the response to the REE leaders. The goal is to allow two weeks to write in our individual subject matters and then come together again. We should have a draft to review before our next meeting. DFO Lewis asked the Board if they would like her to recruit additional members to join the Ad Hoc Committee?

Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated she would like DFO Lewis to put in the request to recruit additional Members to assist with drafting the report. Dr. Balasubramaniam noted that he will assist the R&A Ad Hoc Committee.

Dr. Balasubramaniam asked if this R&A report is different from the previous one the Board is working on? Are they related or different?

Dr. Jefferson-Moore – The previous task is to write a summary of recommendations and what was discussed from the June In-person meeting. We divided the areas into three of what we wanted to provide feedback on to the leadership. We want to respond to the Science and Research Strategy and to provide a response to the leaders on what they have presented. We also hope to accomplish or gain from looking at precision nutrition for the R&A report. This is a summary of what we hope to accomplish.

Ms. Hobart stated that she can assist with the final review and editing.

DFO Lewis informed the Board she and Michele met with the team at USDA that is responsible regarding defining and implementing what is precision nutrition for our agency. We had discussions with them around helping this team understand the Board's interest in evaluation. At our next meeting we will answer their questions related to what this Board's project is and the scope of it.

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



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Ms. Simmons spoke briefly about the November 2023 In-person Meeting to be held in either Kannapolis or Concord, NC. Dr. Jefferson-Moore is meeting with folks to discuss possible site visits. Once the visits are confirmed, we will have a better understanding whether to have lodging in Kannapolis or Concord. All Board Members are already in USDA's travel system so completing travel should not be long to process.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore provided an update on coordination with the North Carolina Research Center. Some of the tentative site visits are the North Carolina Food Innovation Laboratory, which is responsible for helping small businesses develop, an overview and tour of the Center of Harvest Technologies at North Carolina AT&T, and a possible farm visit.

DFO Lewis asked the Members if they wanted to move September's meeting to another date since it falls around Labor Day. The Board agreed to move the next meeting to September 12<sup>th</sup>.

DFO Lewis asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

**IV. Wrap-Up/Adjourn**

The next meeting will be **September 12, 2023, from 12 noon - 1 pm ET**.  
The meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm ET.