



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

Executive Committee Conference Call – July 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Ms. Donnell Brown, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, and Dr. Tambra Stevenson - 5

Members Absent: Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Dr. Edmund Buckner, Mr. Richard De Los Santos, and Ms. Liz Hobart - 4

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 May Minutes. DFO Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The May meeting minutes were approved by consensus and no one opposed. Michele will post the May agenda and minutes to the NAREEE Advisory Board website. DFO Lewis also asked the Board to approve the June NAREEE Advisory Board in-person meeting. There were a few items in the minutes that were addressed that needed edits. Michele will send the revised requests for the June minutes to the Science Writer to complete. The Board will vote on the updated June minutes via email.

Ms. Brown requested that a photo from the June in-person meeting be added to the home page of the NAREEE Advisory Board web page. Michele will work with the web team to have a picture added.

DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions or comments before she turned it over to Dr. Jefferson-Moore. There were none.

II. Remarks from the Chair

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed everyone. She stated it was wonderful to see the Members at the June in-person meeting. Dr. Jefferson-Moore noted how wonderful the meeting was and how she has a greater sense of what’s been charged to the Members and how we should move forward. DFO Lewis will lay out a proposed timeline. We need to address: 1. The feedback to the REE leadership. 2. We will be recruiting writers to assist in writing that feedback. Let us know if you would like to volunteer. 3. Preparing the Relevancy & Adequacy (R&A) report on precision nutrition. We discussed what our focus should be moving forward. We will also solicit participation to form a Committee to develop a draft report. We hope to have a draft by our meeting in November. 4. We have agreed to have the November meeting in Kannapolis, NC. We look for your feedback as we move forward to plan the meeting.



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

Executive Committee Conference Call – July 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Brown stated that she will volunteer to assist with writing the feedback letter to REE.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore asked if there were any questions. There were none.

DFO Lewis asked if the Board would like for us to send out a link where they could give feedback on how the meeting was or any other related issues or we can address it now.

Dr. Stevenson would like healthier food options for future meetings. Michele noted that she will take that into consideration going forward.

Ms. Brown gave kudos to how well the agenda was put together. It was great to have so many folks from REE leadership to the Office of the Secretary present knowledgeable detailed information.

Dr. Ferruzzi also noted that there was a lot of great information packed in for two days. His takeaway is that it would be good if more time could be built in for discussion after presentations. Maybe the agenda for the November meeting can have more time built in for discussions/questions from the Board.

Dr. Kolodinsky was impressed with the entire run of show and she learned a lot. It was helpful for her to hear from some of the leadership at USDA to know what they're doing and how the Board can contribute.

Dr. Ferruzzi spoke about the logistics for the Board meeting in November that's scheduled to take place in Kannapolis, NC. He stated that site visits at North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T would be great, but one of the largest glasshouses in the country is down the road and would be a good site visit. There's a lot to see that's not just related to food, but related to ag.

Dr. Stevenson – The Board meeting in June is helping to set the tone for the November meeting. It would be good to see what's happening on the ground in the field with USDA related projects making it personal and showing why our work matters. We should work with folks on the ground and post pictures of what we're doing as far as content to use across USDA science.

Ms. Brown stated it would be helpful if someone or maybe the science writer could take photos during different segments of the in-person meetings.

DFO Lewis – These are great ideas. We will look into seeing about someone taking photos at the in-person meetings.



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

Executive Committee Conference Call – July 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

DFO Lewis asked if there were any additional comments/questions about the June meeting. There were none.

**III. Next steps: Feedback Letter to REE leadership team on FY23 priorities
Relevancy & Adequacy (R&A) Committee formation; next steps; timeline**

DFO Lewis stated the first two work products to discuss is feedback to the REE leadership on the FY23 priorities. Ms. Brown stated that she would assist to be on the writing team. Once the Board discusses the presentations from the June in-person meeting, then put together the letter with feedback, Michele and I will package it to go to the OCS and Dr. Jacobs-Young's office for clearance. DFO Lewis suggested to keep the letter as brief as possible. She will query the bottom Board to see if anyone would like to assist with drafting the letter as well.

Dr. Kolodinsky will assist in reviewing the draft letter, but is unable to assist in drafting the letter, due to her work schedule.

DFO Lewis – Next topic is the R&A report. We will talk about what USDA will do prior to the Board drafting the report, what the topic area is on, and forming a committee to draft this R&A assessment or key project area for USDA. The decision was made at the June in-person meeting to pursue precision nutrition to make an assessment on. The PowerPoint that Dr. Jacobs-Young presented at the June meeting listed priority 3 which is nutrition, security, and health. Precision nutrition matches up with those priorities. The Board will look into answering two questions. 1. What is the relevancy on this work that USDA is doing and relevancy that's relevant to you and your communities. 2. What is the adequacy of funding that USDA has to put towards these efforts. DFO will compile information for you on what precision nutrition is, what's the mission, vision, what's the funding, who are the stakeholders, etc. Once DFO Lewis provides this information, the Board can start thinking about their responses for drafting the report.

DFO asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Ferruzzi - When we look at the R&A for precision nutrition, there are other collaborative agencies involved with precision nutrition. What is USDA's role? I would like to make sure we know what our distinction is with USDA's role and more broadly. What NIH, NSF, FDA, CDC etc... might be doing within precision nutrition. Otherwise, this could be endless. I know this is a sensitive issue. USDA has a unique role in this as outlined by Dr. Jacobs-Young's presentation. We're sharing a lot of bandwidth with other agencies. I want to make sure we capture this and know what our mission is.



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

Executive Committee Conference Call – July 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

DFO Lewis – I’ve noted that Dr. Ferruzzi.

Dr. Kolodinsky – My experience with these funding agencies, with a recommendation about adequacy, there should be more joint transdisciplinary request for proposals where it might be between NIH and USDA or the foundational programs in USDA that relate to precision nutrition. If 80% of the Farm Bill is for food and nutrition programs, we will need to make a strong statement because a lot of the nutrition programs get cut. There should be a specific call that relates to precision nutrition.

Ms. Brown – In reference to what Dr. Kolodinsky said about the Farm Bill, nutrition is a big part of it. The timing of writing the R&A for precision nutrition is coming at a good time.

DFO Lewis is looking forward to this project. She will start pulling information together so the committee can start its R&A assessment and the first draft of answering the 9 questions shown on Dr. Jacobs-Young’s presentation. DFO Lewis asked Dr. Jefferson-Moore about next steps.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore asked DFO Lewis if she could send out a query for volunteers for the greater Board.

DFO Lewis will send out a query. She also recommended that a few EXCOM Board Members volunteer as well.

Drs. Ferruzzi and Stevenson volunteered to assist drafting the R&A report for precision nutrition. Dr. Kolodinsky will assist in reviewing the draft report.

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

IV. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m. ET.