



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

Executive Committee (EXECOM) Conference Call – January 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Richard De Los Santos, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Mr. Edwin Kitzes, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, Dr. Mark Lawrence, and Ms. Tandra Stevenson - 9

Members Absent: 0

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

I. Welcome from Kate Lewis, Roll Call, and Quorum Check. Quorum was met.

DFO Lewis welcomed the group and Mr. Edwin Kitzes as a new Board Member who was nominated by Secretary Vilsack. Mr. Kitzes informed the Members that he is a Land Grant Director at the United Tribes Technical College located in Bismarck, North Dakota. He is looking forward to working with the Board Members.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revision to the December meeting minutes. There were no changes or revisions. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor. Ms. Simmons will post the December minutes on the NAREEE website.

DFO Lewis explained the new agenda structure that shows the status of the NAREEE Advisory Board’s work products. She thanked Ms. Stevenson for suggesting the idea of being able to view the status of the various work products each month on the agenda.

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

II. Remarks from Chair

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed the group. She stated it’s good to have Mr. Kitzes on the Board since representation with the 1994 tribal colleges has decreased. It will be a great opportunity to hear the challenges and concerns that our stakeholders have. Dr. Jefferson-Moore mentioned the major charge for FY24 is to write the relevance and adequacy (R&A) report on precision nutrition (PN). She’s looking forward to finalizing the current R&A report and working on new projects.

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



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III. Old Business

DFO Lewis informed the Board Members that Ms. Vanessa Garcia Polanco from the National Young Farmers Coalition, is also a new Board Member along with Mr. Kitzes. She also re-welcomed Mr. Mark Lawrence, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, and Dr. Balasubramaniam. They submitted their applications for the FY23 candidate slate requesting renomination and Secretary Vilsack renominated them. She congratulated and thanked them for their continued service. DFO Lewis also gave an update on the FY24 candidate slate. We were expecting to have the new members from the FY24 candidate slate start October 1, 2023, to fill the remaining vacancies on the Board. The slate is still being reviewed by the REE Under Secretary's office. DFO Lewis will update the Board once she has new information.

DFO Lewis stated that once we have the new Board Members from the FY24 candidate slate onboard, we will vote to reelect a new Chair, a Vice Chair and a new EXECOM. DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions. Ms. Brown asked if the terms are limited for Board Members? DFO Lewis stated that Board Members can serve up to six years total consecutively or non-consecutively. As the Executive Director and DFO, she structures the terms in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DFO Lewis gave an update on the NAREEE Advisory Boards work products. Diversity & Inclusivity recommendations - The Board approved these recommendations over 1 ½ years ago. They are at the REE Under Secretary's office. She will continue to communicate with REE leadership that these recommendations need to be acknowledged and forwarded to the Secretary.

Ag Climate Adaptation Report (FY22/23 R&A) - The EXECOM worked on this R&A report in FY22 and FY23. The Board approved the report at their annual meeting in Washington, DC in June of 2023. DFO Lewis put together a briefing memo with those recommendations which was routed through the OCS and then to the REE Under Secretary's office August 2023.

REE FY23 LT feedback – The feedback letter was approved by the EXECOM and the Board in early December. The letter was forwarded to Dr. Chester in the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) for her review and approval. The letter will be transmitted to Dr. Jacobs-Young and her leadership team for their acknowledgement. We have invited Dr. Jacobs-Young and her leadership team to the monthly EXECOM meeting in February to address your recommendations.



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Citrus Diseases Subcommittee (CDS) FY24 Emergency Citrus Disease Research Extension (ECDRE) feedback – The board approved the feedback letter. The research recommendations were informally sent to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in December of 2023. DFO Lewis is preparing a briefing memo that will route through the OCS, the REE Under Secretary, and then to the Office of the Secretary. Once completed, the EXECOM and the CDS Subcommittee will get an acknowledgment from Secretary Vilsack on these research recommendations having been received and the status of their implementation.

Precision Nutrition (PN) (FY23/24 R&A) – DFO Lewis gave an update on the PN theme area. The PN USDA working Group is preparing a summary document that outlines the precision activities. It's their goal to provide the Board a summary document late January or early February 2024. The Board's PN AD Hoc Committee includes Dr. V.M. Balasubramaniam, Ms. Liz Hobart (no longer on the Board), Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, and Ms. Tambra Stevenson. Once the summary report is finalized, it will be provided to the ad hoc committee to begin assessing the R&A of those efforts underneath PN. DFO asked if there were any questions or comments. Dr. Kolodinsky thanked DFO Lewis for providing the updates on the Board's work products. She stated that the Board should congratulate themselves because a lot of work products were accomplished. DFO Lewis stated that she appreciates the Board for all they offer and their expertise in providing USDA with their valuable feedback.

IV. New Business

Planning FY24 Board meeting - The Board Members discussed keeping the plans to have the meeting in North Carolina hopefully, when the Board is fully staffed. It was suggested that the meeting take place in early June 2024. With the current continuing resolution expiring January 19, 2024, further discussions for the next in-person Board meeting will start once we have a final answer on the Federal budget for FY24.

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

V. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

The next meeting will be **February 6, from 12 noon - 1 pm ET**.
The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m. ET.