



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

Executive Committee (EXECOM) Conference Call – March 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Richard De Los Santos, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, Ms. Tambra Stevenson - 6

Members Absent: Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam– 1

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, Quorum Check, and Minutes review. Quorum was met.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revision to the February minutes. There were no comments or revisions. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor. Ms. Simmons will have the web team post February’s minutes and agenda on the NAREEE website.

II. Remarks from Chair

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed the group. She discussed the Diversity & Inclusivity recommendations and the FY22/FY23 Ag Climate Adaptation Report that was approved by the Board mid-year 2023. The reports were submitted to the REE’s Under Secretary’s office for their review. Because some time has passed with no updates, she would like to reach out to the REE leadership to find out the status of the pending Diversity & Inclusivity recommendations and the FY22/FY23 Ag Climate Adaptation Report. Dr. Jefferson-Moore asked for a consensus from the Board Members. They majority approved for her to move forward to get an update on the reports.

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

III. Old Business

DFO Lewis gave an update on the FY24 candidate slate. The slate with the suggested nominees is now being reviewed by the Secretary's advisors. Once the selections are made and they are onboarded, the Board should be fully staffed with 15 Members. The Board will then take a vote to select a new Chair. We’re



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anticipating that the selections by the Secretary will be made shortly. DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Diversity & Inclusivity (D&I) Recommendations – DFO Lewis stated that the D&I recommendations were sent to the REE Under Secretary’s office for review January 2024. The USDA Equity Commission's report and the 32 recommendations around equity in that report were released February 2024. She’s anticipating that the review of the Board’s D&I recommendations will be completed soon.

Ag Climate Adaptation Report (FY22/23 R&A) DFO Lewis informed the Board that the Ag Climate Adaptation Report is in the transmittal process to the Office of the Secretary for review. We’re anticipating that you will receive an acknowledgement response shortly.

Precision Nutrition (PN) (FY23/24 Relevancy & Advocacy (R&A)) - DFO Lewis stated that the Board’s PN Ad-hoc’s first work session for the PN FY23/24 Relevancy & Advocacy report is scheduled for March 14th. The goal is to have the Board approve the final PN R&A report at the tentative in-person meeting this June.

Pollinator Subcommittee (PS) – DFO Lewis informed the Board that nine PS Members were selected by Secretary Vilsack December 2023. They were all onboarded January 2024. The first PS meeting is scheduled for March 26th so they can introduce themselves, provide brief backgrounds, and get to know each other’s portfolios. Elizabeth Hill, USDA Ex-officio Member, will provide an overview of the science and research at USDA related to honeybees and pollinators. DFO Lewis invited the Board to attend the meeting if they would like to participate.

IV. New Business

Board Member Report Out: Ag Outlook Forum (Feb 2024) DFO Lewis discussed two topics that emerged from the February 2024 Ag Outlook Forum that was held in Arlington, VA. One topic was Precision Nutrition (PN) and the other one was the release of the 2022 Ag Census results. The PN session updated the stakeholders and meeting attendees about USDA’s position in nutrition, grants, and resources to help USDA reach their goals. There was a PN PowerPoint that was presented at the Ag Outlook Forum which DFO Lewis provided to the Board’s PN Ad-hoc Committee.



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She stated that the Ag Census is a five-year data gathering exercise with producers all over the country. DFO Lewis attended the session that discussed what the Ag Census is all about and some of the key aspects of the data. She asked the Board if they would be interested in receiving information about the report. If so, DFO Lewis can have someone from the USDA, National Agriculture Statistic Service (NASS) give a briefing at the next Board meeting in April. Drs. Jefferson-Moore and Kolodinsky said they would like to hear from NASS at the next meeting. Dr. Jefferson-Moore asked if the Ag Census session was recorded to be viewed virtually. DFO Lewis will check to see if the virtual option is still available and will provide the information to the Board.

Planning FY24 Board meeting - The Board Members discussed the status of moving forward to plan the in-person meeting in North Carolina. It was decided that the tentative meeting will be June 3-5th with June 2nd being a travel day. DFO Lewis stated that we cannot make concrete plans since the Continuing Resolution expires March 8, 2024. She suggested that we reach out to see if we can make commitments without obligating funds for the hotel room block and meeting space. Dr. Jefferson-Moore and Ms. Simmons will look into the hotel room block and meeting space. DFO Lewis asked if there were any more questions. There were none.

V. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

The next meeting will be **April 2, 2024, from 12 noon - 1 pm ET**.
The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m. ET.