



**Pollinator Subcommittee Meeting – March 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Pollinator Subcommittee (PS) Members Present:** Kelly Bills, Darren Cox, Danielle Downey, Dr. Christina Grozinger, Melanie Kirby, Dr. Margarita Lopez-Uribe, Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Dr. Daniel Schmehl, and Dr. Hollis Woodard - 9

**Members Absent:** 0

**Ex-Officio Present:** Elizabeth Hill, USDA Honey Bee and Pollinator Research Coordinator, Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), USDA - 1

**Guest:** Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore, Chair, NAREEE Advisory Board, Dr. Deirdra Chester, Director, OCS, and Dr. Christopher Crawford, AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow

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

**I. Welcome, Roll Call, Quorum Check, and Minutes**

DFO Lewis welcomed the group, took roll call, and noted that the quorum was met. She introduced herself along with Ms. Simmons and asked the guest to introduce themselves and to provide a brief background.

Subcommittee Initiation/Welcome Remarks - Dr. Chester gave welcome remarks and thanked the PS members for taking time out of their busy schedules to serve on the PS and lending their expertise advice to USDA.

Report from the USDA Ex-Officio member - Ms. Hill expressed her excitement for the first kick-off PS meeting, the importance of pollinators and how important the PS roles are to USDA.

**II. New Business**

DFO Lewis asked the Committee members to introduce themselves and provide a brief 5-minute background of their portfolios. The PS members, titles, and affiliations are:

- Kelly Bills, Executive Director, Pollinator Partnership
- Darren Cox, President, Cox Honey of Utah
- Danielle Downey, Executive Director, Project Apis m.
- Dr. Christina Grozinger, Professor, Pennsylvania State University
- Melanie Kirby, Apiculturist-Agroecologist, Institute of American Indian Arts
- Dr. Margarita Lopez-Uribe, Associate Professor of Entomology and

Extension Specialist on Pollinator Health, The Penn State University  
Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Associate Professor, Oregon State University  
Dr. Daniel Schmehl, Principal Scientist, Pollinator Safety, Bayer CropScience LP  
Dr. Hollis Woodard, Associate Professor, University of California Riverside

DFO Lewis talked briefly about the Subcommittee Charter and explained that it's a document that outlines the goals of the PS. She mentioned the members can find additional information about the Charter and the Member responsibilities in the onboarding materials they received prior to the kick-off meeting. The PS Chair will be selected by the Members by a vote. We anticipate selecting a Chair at the next PS meeting.

Ms. Hill gave an overview on setting the Stage for Subcommittee work. She showed a PowerPoint presentation that outlined:

- The USDA Organizational Chart
- List of the Pollinator Portfolios Across USDA
- List of the Agricultural Research Service Pollinator Labs (ARS)
- The USDA Overarching Initiatives for Pollinators for the Research Projects and the Programmatic Activities
- Research Priorities
- 5 Subject Matter Areas: 1. Status and Trends 2. Forage, Habitat, and Nutrition 3. Genetics and Biology 4. Environmental Stressors, and 5. Pests and Pathogens
- USDA Pollinator Mastermind Team Leaders
- 2021 and 2022 USDA Annual Strategic Pollinator Priorities Report
- Overarching Research Priorities:
  - o Establish nationally coordinated data infrastructures and data management strategies
  - o Develop effective methodologies and models for integrating data, especially those that utilize multivariate, geospatial, longitudinal, and machine learning methods.
  - o Encourage focused communication, coordination, and collaboration in supporting pollinator health
  - o Integrate economic considerations into activities related to pollinator health assessments.

Ms. Hill will send out the PowerPoint to the PS for their review. She asked if there were any questions or comments.

Dr. Schmehl asked what's the expected role of the Pollinator Subcommittee in having dialog with the mastermind team?

Ms. Hill stated that the Mastermind Team Leaders are a great resource for the PS, especially if they are working through specific issues and need their expert feedback.

DFO Lewis stated we will email everyone the Kick-off PowerPoint slides, the draft 2024 Pollinator Priority Report, the 2018 Farm Bill, and a few other documents. The next meeting will be based on review of the information. This will help to determine what research, recommendations, and or reports related to the priorities that the PS may want

to work on. DFO Lewis asked if there were any more questions. There were none.

**III. Wrap-up/Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. EDT.  
The next meeting is TBD.