



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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

Pollinator Subcommittee Meeting – May 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Pollinator Subcommittee (PS) Members Present: Mr. Darren Cox, Dr. Christina Grozinger, Ms. Melanie Kirby, Dr. Margarita Lopez-Uribe, Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Dr. Daniel Schmehl, and Dr. Hollis Woodard - 7

Members Absent: Ms. Kelly Bills, Ms. Danielle Downey - 2

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

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.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revisions to the March minutes. There were no comments or revisions. She asked for a motion and a second which was received to approve the minutes. All were in favor and no one opposed. Ms. Simmons will have the web team post the March minutes and agenda on the PS website.

II. Report/Remarks from the USDA Ex-Officio member - Ms. Elizabeth “Izzy” Hill

Ms. Hill thanked all for joining. She also thanked everyone who helped with volunteering their reviews and their comments on materials which was sent to the Members prior to the meeting. Ms. Hill knows that some materials might not be all the PS Members’ area of expertise but knows this is a diverse and knowledgeable committee. This would be a chance to get feedback and edits to be taken into consideration before pollinator materials are distributed to the public.

DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Lopez-Uribe asked how is this committee going to define what the PS priorities are?

DFO Lewis stated that the PS will operate pretty much like the NAREEE Advisory Board, the parent Board’s Committees and Subcommittees (C/S) in defining the priorities, except the PS isn’t statutory like the Board and the (C/S). We will talk more about the PS work products and deliverables most likely in our July meeting.

Ms. Hill stated that the Members should feel free to talk to stakeholder groups and be prepared to have a few priorities to discuss, take a vote and work from there. Knowing that this is a new Subcommittee with everything being brand new, she will work on a document that the PS Members can use to help them with questions they may have.

Ms. Hill asked the PS Members if they would like to have Mastermind groups attend their meetings at times to discuss topics or questions that need further conversation? If there's a topic to discuss beforehand it would help to have additional expertise to broaden conversations and to get questions answered.

Drs. Schmehl and Sagili agreed that having Mastermind groups attend some of their meetings is a good idea.

III. Electing a Subcommittee Chair

DFO Lewis discussed how the Chair will work the Ex-officio, and the DFO to make sure that once the deliverable and work products are defined, that they are progressing. The Chair also sends out relevant information pertaining to deliverables and/or work products. They will assist in developing and approving agendas along with helping to identify locations where in-person meetings could be held. This position will most likely be 20 months since the PS has two-year terms that will expire on September 30, 2025. DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Grozinger asked how does it work with all the PS Members having their terms end in FY25?

DFO Lewis stated your terms will end up being around 18 months. Since all Members were nominated in January 2024 all will serve until the end of FY25. The application period for new or reappointed Members will open in January 2025. You will be provided the information and link to the online application if you're interested in reapplying. She explained the process from the start of the application period to the final process of the Secretary nominating new Members. New or reappointed Members should be announced around October 2025.

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

IV. Old Business

Ms. Hill went over the following 3 topics of old business.

- Results of 'hive' definition for Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)
- Summarized 2024 Pollinator Priority Feedback
- State of the Science (SOS) meeting update and feedback request

V. Wrap-up/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. EDT.
The next meeting is TBD.