



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Research, Education, and Economics (REE)

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

Pollinator Subcommittee Meeting – Monday, August 26, 2024

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

Members Absent: 0

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. Michele Simmons, Program Support Specialist

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

Ms. Hill welcomed the group, took roll call, and noted that the quorum was met.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revisions to the July 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 July minutes and agenda on the PS website.

II. Report/Remarks from Dr. Christina Grozinger, Chair

Dr. Grozinger mentioned that she received suggestions from some of the PS members about different ideas for work products that they could address. Most of the ideas received resulted in research priorities as opposed to policy. She reached out to Dr. Erica Kistner-Thomas from NIFA about the status of Pollinator Health grants. Dr. Grozinger stated that Dr. Kistner-Thomas is willing to attend a PS meeting to have a discussion regarding the Pollinator Health Grants. She will reach out to Dr. Kistner-Thomas to see if she can attend the September or October PS meeting. Ms. Hill asked if there were any questions.

A committee member commented that it would be good to get a sense of the grants to see how they fit with the Request for Applications (RFA) and if there are changes or not. The next comments were addressed under “New Business”

III. New Business

Ms. Hill addressed the comment above. She stated that USDA has an internal dashboard that was created for tracking pollinator research funded by USDA. Ms. Hill can share the dashboard with the PS and pull information of interest and/or the work products priorities that have been agreed on at the next PS meeting.

A committee member asked how to determine if the selected priorities will fit with the other pollinator efforts?

Ms. Hill stated we have the five mastermind groups that are valuable and we can talk with them about our research priorities. Additional information can be obtained from the USDA Annual Strategic Pollinator Priorities and Goals Report 2024. Ms. Hill stated that the PS can call her to discuss the what's the best available science for supporting our policies and programs.

The committee discussed how to know to integrated science and policy; eg when can policy be created from the science and when, if the policy is ahead of the science, can the policy be modified.

Ms. Hill stated that we can have Ex-officios attend some of our meetings to provide information on current policy and strategies. The committee can then write a follow up letter, and we can also have leadership and non-USDA individuals attend meetings from time to time. Ms. Hill said that you can give advice based on the best available science stating that this policy is not in alignment with whatever the topic is.

A committee member asked how federal versus state jurisdictions are evaluated, particular for invasive species. This topic will be discussed further in future meetings.

Ms. Hill asked if there were any more questions before moving onto "Old Business". There were none.

IV. Old Business

State of the Science Meeting Updates

The State of the Science Meeting is scheduled for October 29 - 30, 2024. The meeting might be extended to October 31st to accommodate a small PS meeting. Ms. Hill will send out a "Save the Date" calendar invite.

PS Cheat Sheet

Ms. Hill brought up the topic of the PS Cheat Sheet. She asked the Members to let her know if they have any suggestions on the living document.

FY25 Work Product Priorities

Dr. Grozinger discussed the work products for FY25 that the PS suggested. The group discussed having a short-term and a long-term work product to work on. The PS discussed the possible topics to identify which to move forward with first. The two top choices that were suggested were the Pollinator Health request for applications and the Yellow Legged Hornet. Dr. Grozinger and Ms. Hill will reach out to APHIS and ARS to have a subject matter expert attend one of the PS meetings to address the Pollinator Health request for applications and the Yellow Legged Hornet.

Ms. Hill asked if there were any questions. There were none.

V. Wrap-up/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. ET.

The next meeting is Monday, September 23, 2024, ET.