



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

Specialty Crop Committee (SCC) Meeting Notes – September 12, 2024

SCC Members Present: Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Casey Foster, , Dr. Lorin Harvey, Dr. Carlos Iglesias, and Dr. Charlie Messina – 5

SCC Members Absent: Mr. Jack Karlin, (Chair), and Dr. Gregory Goins, - 2

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Michele Simmons, Acting Designated Federal Officer

I. Welcome, Roll Call,

Ms. Simmons welcomed the group and attendance was taken. A quorum was established amongst the SCC Members to have the meeting.

The prior minutes from the August 2024 meeting were approved after a motion and a second motion. All approved the minutes, and none opposed. Ms. Simmons will post the August agenda and minutes to the SCC website.

II. Current Business

SCRI (Specialty Crop Research Initiative) Program Presentation Discussion – and proposed FY25 SCC Work. - Webinar: Specialty Crop Research Initiative 2024 Request for Pre-Applications | NIFA (usda.gov)

The SCC discussed the Specialty Crop Research Initiative 2024 Request for Pre-Applications webinar. An SCC member stated that the webinar seemed to be a valuable tool for first time applicants. A save the date was sent to the SCC to meet with the SCRI staff November 19-20, 2024. The SCC recommendations on the SCRI program review will be discussed at the meeting. They would also like to know the outcome of their recommendations from last year. Another topic the SCC would like to discuss at the November meeting is that the dates keep changing to submit an application for review. Some scientist couldn't apply because the date was moved up and didn't allow enough time for preparation before the deadline.

Consultation on SCRI Targeted Agricultural Projects (TAP)

The SCC also discussed the SCRI Targeted Agricultural Projects (TAP). A Committee member stated some of the stakeholders think it's kind of redundant and TAP would dilute the already limited funding sources. There was concern from the SCC why the SCRI team would add a smaller a category for smaller regional projects when there's a specialty crop

block grants in the multi-state block grants. It might also take away from handling some of the larger nationwide projects that are occurring or that need to occur.

Dr. Iglesias stated he will reach out to growers in Florida to get their opinion of the TAP for the new SCRI grant.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

III. Wrap-up/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. ET.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2024 @ 2pm ET.