



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

Specialty Crop Committee (SCC) Meeting Notes – January 16, 2025

SCC Members Present: Mr. Jack Karlin, (Chair), Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Casey Foster, Dr. Gregory Goins, Dr. Lorin Harvey, Dr. Carlos Iglesias, and Dr. Charlie Messina – 7

SCC Members Absent: 0

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

I. Welcome, Roll Call,

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

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

DFO Lewis informed the group that the Board, its committees and subcommittees have the authority and the legislative backing to remain active until the end of September 2025. The continuing resolution is valid until mid-March. She will keep the SCC informed about the FY25 budget as updates become available.

II. Report/Remarks from the Chair

Mr. Karlin welcomed the group. He had no remarks this month.

III. Current Business

SCRI Program Recommendations

DFO shared the SCRI letter that was last edited September 2024 to her computer screen for all to review, make comments, and edits. A Subcommittee member asked if the letter that included the SCC's SCRI recommendations was still relevant and ok to route for approval due to the passing of time.

DFO Lewis stated that letter can still be considered since it is an annual legislative requirement by Congress. She suggested that the SCC spend the remainder of the meeting to talk about the comments and make edits to complete the final draft.

Mr. Karlin said that he would take the lead in integrating the comments and edits that was discussed at the meeting. He mentioned that he would email the final draft to the SCC for one more review, comments, and edits before completing the final draft.

DFO Lewis stated that once the SCC, the EXECOM, and the NAREEE Advisory Board vote to approve the letter, a package consisting of the letter, a briefing memo, and a response letter from the Secretary stating their acknowledgement, will be routed to the OCS Leadership for their review and clearance, then to the REE front office for their review and clearance, and then to the Secretary's office for their review and acknowledgement. She will informally send the letter to the NIFA SCRI team for their review to start addressing the letter's SCRI recommendations. DFO also stated that Congress and the Ag committee also receives all NAREEE Advisory Board's, their committees and subcommittees reports and recommendations.

DFO Lewis asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

IV. Wrap-up/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m. ET.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025 @ 2pm ET.