

**Western Association of
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors**

**Spring Meeting
Minutes**



ALASKA • AMERICAN SAMOA • ARIZONA • CALIFORNIA • COLORADO • GUAM
HAWAII • IDAHO • MICRONESIA • MONTANA • NEVADA • NEW MEXICO
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS • OREGON • UTAH • WASHINGTON • WYOMING

**Marriott Napa Valley Hotel & Spa
Napa, CA
March 19-22, 2012**

Summary of Actions

Unanimously approved agenda as circulated	3
Unanimously approved the minutes of the September 2011 meeting	3
Unanimously approved recommendation for continued off-the-top funding of NRSPs 1-9 with rigorous reviews at the 5-year mark and encouragement to continue to look for outside funding	37
Deferred action on NRSP_TEMP261 until the Summer meeting. Recommended that Stella Melugin Coakley come to the Summer Meeting and give a presentation on this proposal.....	37
Unanimously approved funding for regional trusts (W106 and W006)	37
Unanimously approved moving forward with the NRSP001 Communication Strategy	37
Will follow up with Extension re: repeating a similar exercise to explore the AES-EXT partnership	51
Directors to send information to Sarah Lupis on: 1) number of Hatch, McIntyre-Stennis, and Multistate projects 2) average length of time for approval, and 3) other problems. The WDO will start a database to track issues, evaluate scope of problems. If problems are communicated to NIFA, Directors are asked to cc Sarah to help keep track of issues	62
The budget was approved, as presented in these minutes and reflects a 3% increase to the ED's salary, as approved in Executive Session.....	88
Unanimously approved resolution to recognize and thank the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources as meeting hosts	92

Table of Contents

Participants	1
Agenda.....	1
1.0 Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions.....	2
2.0 Approval of Agenda and Minutes of September 2011 Meeting	3
3.0 Chair’s Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report.....	4
4.0 Treasurers Report	5
5.0 ARS Report	9
6.0 NIFA Report.....	12
7.0 2013 Budget and Legislative Update.....	25
8.0 ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief	26
8.1 NIFA White Paper.....	28
9.0 BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy Update (Farm Bill).....	34
10.0 ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee	35
11.0 Off-the-Top Funding Requests	36
12.0 ESCOP Science and Technology Committee.....	38
13.0 National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee	39
14.0 Multistate Grazing Management Instruction Program.....	40
15.0 Enhancing Regional Communications.....	41
16.0 MRC Report and Transition Process	44
17.0 Multistate Portfolio Overview	47
18.0 Identifying Partnership Values, Principals, and Expectations	48
18.1 Partnership Vision and Joint Initiative Process, ECOP/ESCOP Joint Planning Committee, October 3, 2001, Omaha, Nebraska	52
18.2 The Partnership Working Group, Partnership Principals.....	57
19.0 Time and Effort Reporting58	
19.1 Switching from 12 month vs. 9 month faculty employees	59
20.0 Problems Getting Hatch and McIntire-Stennis Project Approvals, etc. – Discussion Panel	60
21.0 WAAESD Reconvenes/Call to Order.....	63
22.0 ED Annual Report.....	64
23.0 FY2012-2013 Western Executive Director’s Office Budget	86
24.0 Assistant to the Director Plans.....	89
25.0 Executive Director Evaluation.....	91
26.0 Resolutions.....	92

Participants

Alaska:	Carol Lewis Milan Shipka	Washington:	Ralph Cavalieri
California:	Barbara Allen-Diaz	Wyoming:	Bret Hess
Colorado:	Lee Sommers Craig Beyrouthy	USDA-NIFA:	Frank Boteler
Guam:	Greg Wiecko	USDA-ARS:	Andrew Hammond Mickey McGuire
Idaho:	Donn Thill	Washington:	Ralph Cavalieri
Montana:	Jeff Jacobsen	Cornerstone Gov't Affairs:	Jim Richards
New Mexico:	Steve Loring David Thompson	NIFA:	Frank Boteler
Nevada:	Ron Pardini	Western Directors Office:	H.M. Harrington Sarah Lupis
Oregon:	Larry Curtis		Harriet Sykes

Agenda

1.0	Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions.....	Barbara Allen-Diaz
2.0	Approval of Agenda and Minutes of September 2011 meeting.....	Barbara Allen-Diaz
3.0	Chair's Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report.....	Barbara Allen-Diaz
4.0	Treasurer's Report.....	Jeff Jacobsen
5.0	ARS Report.....	Andy Hammond, Director, ARS Pacific West Area
6.0	NIFA Report.....	Frank Boteler, NIFA
7.0	2013 Budget and Legislative Update.....	Jim Richards, Cornerstone (by phone)
8.0	ESCOPE Budget and Legislative Committee Report.....	Jeff Jacobsen/H. M. Harrington
9.0	BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy Update (Farm Bill).....	H. M. Harrington
10.0	ESCOPE Communications and Marketing Committee.....	Ron Pardini
11.0	Off the top funding requests.....	Ralph Cavalieri/H. M. Harrington
12.0	ESCOPE Science and Technology Committee.....	Larry Curtis
13.0	National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee.....	Lee Sommers
14.0	Multistate Grazing Management Instruction Program.....	C. Lewis/R. Pardini/J. Jacobsen
15.0	Enhancing Regional Communications.....	S. Lupis
16.0	MRC Report & Transition Progress.....	S. Lupis/H. M. Harrington
17.0	Multistate Portfolio Overview.....	H. M. Harrington
18.0	Identifying Partnership Values, Principles and Expectations....	H. M. Harrington/S. Lupis
19.0	Time and Effort Reporting.....	Greg Wiecko
19.1	Switching from 12 month vs. 9 month faculty employees.....	Group
20.0	Problems w/ Hatch & McIntire Stennis Projects Approvals, etc.....	H. M. Harrington
21.0	WAAESD Reconvenes, Call to Order.....	Barbara Allen-Diaz
22.0	ED Annual Report.....	H. M. Harrington
23.0	FY 2011 Office Budget.....	H. M. Harrington/S. Lupis
24.0	Assistant to Director Plans.....	S. Lupis
25.0	ED Evaluation (Executive Session).....	Jeff Jacobsen
26.0	Resolutions.....	David Thompson

Agenda Item 1.0: Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Presenter: Barbara Allen-Diaz

Background:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Allen-Diaz. The attendees introduced themselves.

Action Requested: For information.

Agenda Item 2.0: Approval of Agenda and Minutes of September 2011 Meeting

Presenter: Barbara Allen-Diaz

Background:

Agenda: <http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/FINAL-Agenda-WAAESD-March-2012.pdf>

2011 Minutes: <http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/Folders/Research/Research-Agendas-Minutes/2011spmin.pdf>

Action Requested: Approval of Agenda and fall 2011 Minutes

Action Taken: Unanimously approved agenda as circulated. Unanimously approved the minutes of the September 2011 meeting.

Agenda Item 3.0: Chair's Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report

Presenter: Barbara Allen-Diaz

Background:

There were no interim actions.

Barbara review the actions taken in the Executive Committee meeting, held Monday, March 19 2012. Items discussed by the Executive Committee in their meeting will be reported during their agenda items in this meeting.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 4.0: Treasurers Report

Presenter: Jeff Jacobsen

Background:

A new letter was sent to the new President of the Northern Mariana Islands. There has been no response. They are in arrears for academic programs.

The WAAESD chose to thank Harriet Sykes with a modest honorarium. This is shown on the special accounts page.

**WESTERN DIRECTOR EXPERIMENT STATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2012**

29-Feb-12

ASSESSMENTS	FY 12 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska	\$ 11,207.07		\$ 11,207.07	\$ -
Am Samoa	600.00		600.00	-
Arizona	19,588.89		19,588.89	-
California	30,884.23		30,884.23	-
Colorado	23,084.39		23,084.39	-
CSU Rent	(7,800.00)		(7,800.00)	-
Guam	10,926.04		10,926.04	-
Hawaii	14,493.80		14,493.80	-
Idaho	17,401.81		17,401.81	-
Micronesia	600.00		600.00	-
Montana	18,379.24		18,379.24	-
Nevada	14,249.46		14,249.46	-
New Mexico	14,750.39		14,750.39	-
Northern Marianas	600.00			600.00
Oregon	22,179.19		22,179.19	-
Utah	19,435.60		19,435.60	-
Washington	25,944.63		25,944.63	-
Wyoming	16,534.27		16,534.27	-
Assessment Total	\$ 253,059.00	\$ -	\$ 252,459.01	\$ 600.00

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/11	Balance forward			\$ 122,021.96
	YTD Assessments Received	\$ 252,459.01		374,480.97
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	43.24		374,524.21
	August	66.19		374,590.40
	September	70.43		374,660.83
	October	80.58		374,741.41
	November	72.04		374,813.45
	December	76.91		374,890.36
	January	75.69		374,966.05
	February	56.99		375,023.04
	March			375,023.04
	April			375,023.04
	May			375,023.04
	June			375,023.04
7/1/11	MT Accounting Fee		\$ 3,500.00	371,523.04
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			371,523.04
11/2/11	FY11 Fourth Quarter		67,379.19	304,143.85
12/13/11	First Quarter		7,286.89	296,856.96
1/23/12	Second Quarter		116,880.58	179,976.38
	Third Quarter			179,976.38
	Fourth Quarter			179,976.38
Total		\$ 253,001.08	\$ 195,046.66	\$ 179,976.38

**WESTERN DIRECTOR SPECIAL ACCOUNT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2012**

29-Feb-12

ASSESSMENTS	FY 12 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska				\$ -
Am Samoa				-
Arizona				-
California				-
Colorado				-
CSU Rent				-
Guam				-
Hawaii				-
Idaho				-
Micronesia				-
Montana				-
Nevada				-
New Mexico				-
Northern Marianas				-
Oregon				-
Utah				-
Washington				-
Wyoming				-
Assessment Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/11	Balance forward			\$ 23,102.32
	YTD Assessments Received			23,102.32
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	4.63		23,106.95
	August	4.82		23,111.77
	September	4.89		23,116.66
	October	4.97		23,121.63
	November	5.37		23,127.00
	December	5.45		23,132.45
	January	5.70		23,138.15
	February	6.52		23,144.67
	March			23,144.67
	April			23,144.67
	May			23,144.67
	June			23,144.67
9/23/11	Harriet Sykes honorarium		1,500.00	21,644.67
Total		\$ 42.35	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 21,644.67

NOTE: 2008 Grant workshop net from regional workshop plus interest (\$7427.64)

**WESTERN DIRECTOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2012**

29-Feb-12

ASSESSMENTS	FY 12 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska	\$ 1,313.79		\$ 1,313.79	\$ -
Am Samoa	200.00		200.00	-
Arizona	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
California	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Colorado	1,313.79		\$ 1,313.79	-
Guam	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Hawaii	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Idaho	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Micronesia	200.00		200.00	-
Montana	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Nevada	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
New Mexico	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Northern Marianas	200.00	\$ 600.00		800.00
Oregon	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Utah	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Washington	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Wyoming	1,313.79		1,313.79	-
Assessment Total	\$ 18,993.06	\$ 600.00	\$ 18,793.06	\$ 800.00

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/11	Balance forward			\$ 14,717.49
	YTD Assessments Received	\$ 18,793.06		33,510.55
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	3.63		33,514.18
	August	5.57		33,519.75
	September	5.72		33,525.47
	October	6.25		33,531.72
	November	6.52		33,538.24
	December	6.49		33,544.73
	January	6.04		33,550.77
	February	5.67		33,556.44
	March			33,556.44
	April			33,556.44
	May			33,556.44
	June			33,556.44
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			
11/2/11	FY11 Fourth Quarter		4,735.75	28,820.69
12/13/11	First Quarter		4,748.25	24,072.44
1/23/12	Second Quarter		4,748.25	19,324.19
	Third Quarter			19,324.19
	Fourth Quarter			19,324.19
Total		\$ 18,838.95	\$ 14,232.25	\$ 19,324.19

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 5.0: ARS Report

Presenter: Andrew Hammond

Background:

ARS AREA LEADERSHIP

Pacific West Area

- Area Director: Andrew Hammond
- Associate Area Director: Robert Matteri
- Assistant Area Director: Maureen Whalen
- *Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington*

Northern Plains Area

- Acting Area Director: Mickey McGuire
- Acting Associate Area Director: Bryan Kaphammer
- *Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming*

Southern Plains Area

- Area Director: Dan Upchurch
- Associate Area Director: John McMurtry
- Arkansas, *New Mexico*, Oklahoma, Texas, (Panama)

**BUDGET
FY 2012 Appropriation**

Salaries and Expenses:

FY 2011 Continuing Resolution **\$1,133,230,000**

Decreases:

Location/Laboratory Closures (38,583,000)

- Fairbanks, Alaska
- Shafter, California
- Brooksville, Florida
- Watkinsville, Georgia
- New Orleans, Louisiana – Formosan Subterranean Termites Research
- Coshocton, Ohio
- Lane, Oklahoma
- Clemson, South Carolina
- Weslaco, Texas
- Beaver, West Virginia

FY 2012 Salaries and Expenses **\$1,094,647,000**

FY 2013 President's Budget

Salaries and Expenses:

FY 2012 Appropriation **\$1,094,647,000**

Increases:

FY 2013 Pay Costs \$2,706,000

Program Initiatives:

Environmental Stewardship	35,945,000
Crop Breeding and Protection	18,999,000
Animal Breeding and Protection	8,133,000
Food Safety	5,239,000
Human Nutrition	2,887,000
National Agricultural Library	<u>1,500,000</u>

Subtotal Program Initiatives 72,704,000

Repair and Maintenance 3,000,000

Decreases:

Proposed Termination of Extramural Research (20,082,000)

FY 2013 Proposed Decreases (50,410,000)

Proposed Laboratory/Location Consolidations (16,996,000)

Proposed Termination of Ongoing Research (33,414,000)

Subtotal (70,492,000)

FY 2013 Salaries and Expenses **\$1,102,565,000**

FY 2013 Proposed Location/Laboratory Closures/Consolidations

Boonville, Arkansas (location closure)

Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research \$1,961,000

Orono Maine

New England Plant, Soil and Water Research 1,118,000

Beltsville, Maryland

Food Quality Research 4,328,000

East Lansing, Michigan

Avian Disease and Oncology Research 3,633,000

Columbia, Missouri

Biological Control of Insects Research 1,880,000

Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

Biobased and Other Animal Co-Products Research 4,076,000

Total Proposed Closures/Consolidations **\$16,996,000**

NEW LEADERSHIP AND VACANCIES

CALIFORNIA

Maricopa

- U.S. Arid Land Agricultural Research Center, Pest Management and Biocontrol Research Unit, Dale Spurgeon, Research Leader (EOD June 18, 2012)
- U.S. Arid Land Agricultural Research Center, Steven Naranjo, Center Director

Parlier

- San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Commodity Protection & Quality Research Unit, Chang-Lin Xiao, Research Leader
- San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, VACANT, Center Director

NEVADA

Reno

- Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit, Mark Wertz, Research Leader

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 6.0: NIFA Report

Presenter: Frank Boteler

In Meeting Discussion:

NIFA is not operating as efficiently as it used to. New people are not as familiar with working within the complex federal system. Email is migrating to a new system, as are accounting systems. The new systems, unlike the old ones, do not talk to each other via computer. Personnel matters have also been an issue. People in programs are frustrated about this situation. Directors were encouraged to continue to share problems and issues and program managers will work to resolve them.

Last AFRI listening session had less than 300 comments. This makes each comment more powerful, especially when it comes to identifying priorities.

AFRI had a 23% increase but this is largely a transfer of funds from the 406 and international programs. NIFA's operating budget is funded based on a 4% off-the-top of grants awarded. Travel, training, and supplies have been cut. If Farm Bill mandatory funding programs don't pass, there will be additional cuts and staff reductions by attrition.

There is currently no vision about how the "competitive" program would be run.

The minor crop program (IR4) has already mobilized to exert pressure on NIFA.

H. M. Harrington: While the directors have been supportive of consolidation, that was couched on the idea that the programs that were consolidated would not be altered, only consolidated. A more thoughtful planning process is encouraged.

For FY2013, could be up to \$10-12 million increase in each of the challenge areas.

Action Requested: For information.



NIFA
Report to the Western Association
of
Agricultural
Experiment Station Directors

March 20, 2012

page

I. GENERAL NIFA GRANT INFORMATION

Applying for NIFA Grants	1
Upcoming NIFA Solicitations	1
New Allowable Indirect Rate	1
REEPort System	2
AFRI Listening Session	2

II. NIFA Reorganization in Place	3
NIFA Organization/Priorities	3

III. BUDGET MATTERS	5
FY2013 USDA Budget	5

IV. STAFFING NEWS	9
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V. RECENT SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS	10
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1. Franklin E. Boteler, Assistant Director, NIFA Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment.
fboteler@NIFA.usda.gov, (202) 720-0740.

I. GENERAL NIFA GRANT INFORMATION
Applying for NIFA Grants

All NIFA Grants through Grants.Gov. Grants.gov <<http://www.grants.gov/>> is the source to find and apply for Federal government grants. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) uses Grants.gov to post NIFA discretionary funding opportunities and, in some cases, other NIFA funding opportunities, and receive electronic applications. **Applicants are advised to submit early.**

Upcoming NIFA Solicitations

Posted at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/recentReleasedGrants.cfm>

▪Recently opened grants

[Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers](#)

Open Date: 03/12/2012
 Due Date: 05/14/2012

[1890 Facilities](#)

Open Date: 03/01/2012
 Due Date: 05/04/2012

[Organic Transitions Program](#)

Open Date: 02/29/2012
 Due Date: 04/25/2012

▪AFRI Foundation Programs.

30% of AFRI funds are dedicated to these areas which listed in the Farm Bill:

The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.

Anticipated RFA Release: TBA (2-3 months from now)

New Allowable Indirect Rate

On November 18, 2011, the President signed the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55) into law. This Act provides annual funding for some departments of the Federal government including the U. S. Department of Agriculture (except for the Forest Service).

Section 720 of the General Provisions to this Act increases the limit on indirect costs for some NIFA grant awards. It states: *“None of the funds in this Act shall be available to pay indirect costs charged against any agricultural research, education, or extension grant awards issued by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture that exceed 30 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award:....”* The Administration had proposed this increase in the President’s FY 2012 Budget Request.

Accordingly, NIFA has modified all open FY 2012 Requests for Application (RFAs) and will cite the 30 percent language described above in additional FY 2012 solicitations issued that are affected by this change. Where the increase in indirect costs applies and an application deadline

has passed, potential awardees will be contacted to allow revisions to their budgets in accordance with the new indirect cost cap.

Some NIFA programs will not have the 30 percent rate due to other legislation. Information on the indirect cost rate for each NIFA program can be found at http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/indirect_cost.html.

Questions may be directed to Melanie Krizmanich, Senior Policy Specialist, at mkrizmanich@nifa.usda.gov or Andrea Brandon, Assistant Director, Office of Grants and Financial Management, at abrandon@nifa.usda.gov.

REEport

NIFA's target date to deploy the REEport grant project reporting system is April 2012. As announced previously, the deployment of REEport will mark the transition of the system in becoming NIFA's singular grant and formula project reporting system. It will build on and replace the existing CRIS web forms system. REEport will also utilize the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR), a standard progress report format that all Federal research agencies will be required to use.

To inform the system about REEport, NIFA has been conducting bi-monthly Reporting Web Conferences, many of them focused on REEport. The February 9 web conference will focus on the progress report in REEport. Information on the Reporting Web Conference can be found at: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/rwc>. This web page includes recordings of all past web conferences as well as information on the very next web conference and how to get on the listserv to receive Email regarding the Reporting Web Conference.

In addition, Bart Hewitt will be conducting a national presentation on REEport at the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference in West Virginia in May. Also, Adam Preuter is working on developing help screens and documentation for the REEport system. NIFA is planning to produce a series of video vignettes which will be attached to each screen to train the user on how to use that particular screen.

AFRI Listening Session

NIFA hosted an AFRI listening session on February 22, 2012, in the Waterfront Centre Building here in Washington. Comments may be submitted to AFRI@nifa.usda.gov or fax to (202) 401-1782.

In addition, NIFA is hosting the Webinars Listed Below:

Challenge Area

Food Safety, 4/10/2012, 3 – 4:30 p.m.,

<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/challeIngeareafoodsafety/>

Childhood Obesity Prevention, 4/11/2012, 1 – 2:30 p.m., *

<https://connect16.uc.att.com/usda/meet/?ExEventID=84896371>

Sustainable Bio-energy, 4/18/2012, 12:30 to 2 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/cabioenergy/>

Climate Variability and Change, 4/18/2012, 2 to 3:30 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/caclimatechange/>

Food Security, 4/25/2012, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/cafoodsecurity/>

Foundational Program

Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities, 3/28/2012, 2 – 3:30 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/ageconruralcommunities/>

Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health, 4/10/2012, 1 – 2:30 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpfoodsafety/>

Agriculture Systems and Technology, 4/17/2012, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/agsystems/>

Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment, 4/18/2012, 3:30 to 5 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/caenergy/>

Animal Health and Production and Animal Products, 4/25/2012, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpanimalhealth/>

Plant Health and Production and Plant Products, 4/26/2012, 1:30 – 3:00,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpplanthealth/>

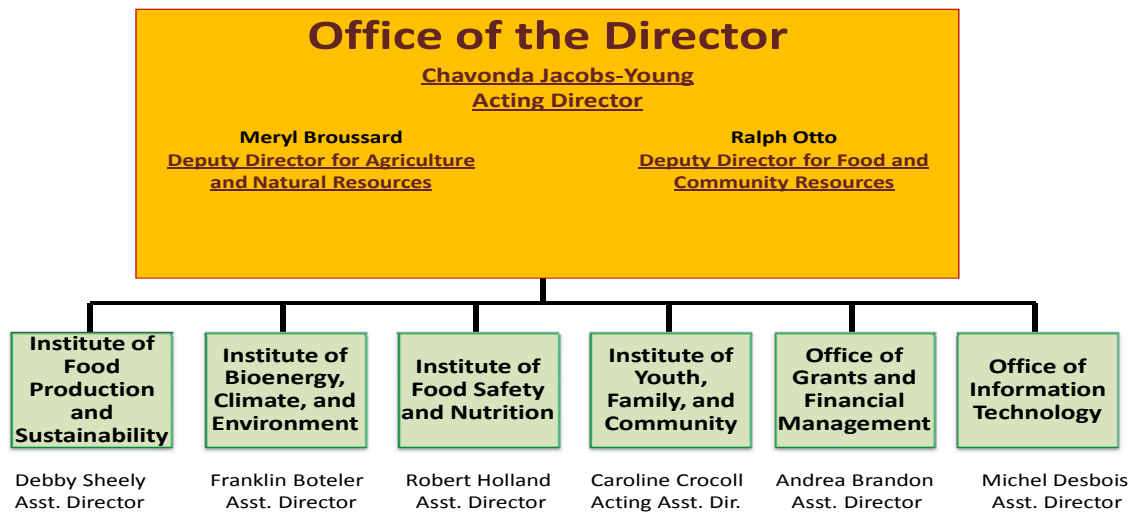
NIFA Fellows Program
 NIFA Fellows Program, 4/17/2012, 1 – 4 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/nifafellows/>

II. NIFA REORGANIZATION IN PLACE

NIFA Organization/Priorities

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture was created by the 2008 Farm Bill—primary purpose to advance science in agriculture and natural resource areas. Science includes efforts in research, extension, and education (both individually and collectively) to advance knowledge that will enable NIFA to meet significant societal challenges. To better meet these challenges in an effective and efficient means NIFA has reorganized into the structure below:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)



- Institute of Food Production and Sustainability
 - Enhancing global food security through productive and sustainable agricultural systems
- Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment
 - Ensuring energy independence through clean, biobased energy systems
 - Ensuring sustainable and adaptive agro-ecosystems in response to climate change
- Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition
 - Ensuring a safe food supply
 - Improving citizens' health through nutrition
 - Reducing childhood obesity
 - Improving food quality
- Institute of Youth, Family, and Community
 - Enabling vibrant and resilient communities
 - Preparing the next generation of scientists
 - Enhancing science capacity in minority-serving institutions
 - Enhancing youth development
- Center for International Programs
 - Educating the next generation of scientists in developing economies
 - Sharing research discoveries to enhance food production and stabilize economies

III. BUDGET MATTERS--FY2013 USDA Budget

Statement from Secretary Vilsack

"The President and I believe that this is a make or break moment for the middle class. What's at stake is the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home, and put a little away for retirement. To keep that promise alive, we need an economy that makes, creates and innovates – an economy that's built to last.

"Over the past three years, USDA has worked with the Obama Administration to respond to the economic crises of 2008, put Americans back to work, and to rebuild economic security for the middle class.

"USDA has supported farmers, ranchers and growers so that last year they enjoyed record farm income. We have focused on creating jobs and building a foundation for future economic growth, especially in rural America, where unemployment is falling than in other parts of the country.

"The President's 2013 USDA budget helps us to continue this progress, supporting robust farm income and good jobs in rural communities.

"To help sustain record farm income, we will invest in research and development to improve agricultural productivity. **The budget makes a 23% increase in funding for our premier competitive grants program to support the most worthy projects and continues support for in-house research and the land grant universities.** We'll continue our efforts to combat destructive pests and disease that threaten crops and livestock.

"To encourage thriving markets for our farm products abroad, we will continue funding that helped make last year a record for agricultural exports, driving farm income and supporting 1.1 million American jobs. We'll reduce trade barriers and aggressively promote 'grown in America' products. At home, we're working to encourage the development of a bio-based economy, where what we grow and raise is used to make fuel, chemicals and consumer goods to complement our traditional production of food, feed, and fiber. Our work to promote local and regional food systems provides another opportunity for income growth for farmers of all sizes.

"The 2013 budget will increase the record number of acres of working land in conservation programs, rewarding farmers, ranchers and growers for cleaning our air and water, preserving soil and wildlife habitat.

"Finally, farmers need to know that one bad crop won't put them out of business, so this budget maintains a strong safety net with disaster assistance, income support, and farm loans. We preserve efforts to modernize systems that will allow farmers and ranchers to access many of our programs online at their convenience. The budget's full funding for the expected requirements for the Department's three major nutrition assistance programs will also help support the bottom line for America's producers.

"At the same time, we cannot afford to let our foot off the gas from investments that are helping create jobs in rural America. This budget continues to fund programs that – over the past 3 years in rural America – have: helped more than 450,000 families buy or refinance a home; invested in over 6,250 critical community facilities projects like schools, hospitals, police and fire stations; helped improve 5,100 water and waste water systems; and provided grants and loans to help over 50,000 small businesses create and save 266,000 jobs.

"To promote the domestic production of renewable energy and create good jobs in rural communities, we'll invest in farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs working to develop a nationwide biofuels economy. We'll also continue our partnership with the U.S. Navy and Department of Energy to boost the production of domestically produced aviation biofuels for use by the military.

"Our budget also recognizes that successful and effective rural economic development will occur on a regional basis, working through existing programs to fund regional projects and strategic regional planning activities.

"Since fiscal year 2010, USDA has seen our operating budget cut by \$3 billion, or 12%. This came on top of a \$4 billion contribution to help pay down the debt.

"To manage these reductions while preserving the success we're seeing in the countryside, we've had to take a close look at the way we do business with less money, a smaller staff, and more complex programs. Following a Department-wide review of operations, we created a Blueprint for Stronger Service to make USDA work better and more efficiently for the American people. We found savings in areas like technology, travel, supplies and facilities. We've been able to avoid the interruptions in service that come with furloughs and employee layoffs.

"Like families and businesses across the country, USDA is finding new ways to innovate while making investments that help drive economic growth in the long term. At the end of the day, we want farmers working hard to make a good living, and we want to offer good, middle class jobs for the 50 million people who call rural America home.

The 2013 budget will allow us to keep our commitment to the customers we serve each day: farmers, ranchers, small businesses and the families that live, work and make their homes in rural America."

Statement from the NIFA Acting Director:

On February 13, 2012, President Obama forwarded the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Budget to Congress. The FY 2013 Budget Request includes approximately \$1.24 billion in discretionary funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This represents an increase of \$36.78 million or approximately 3.05 percent above the FY 2012 Consolidated Appropriation discretionary funding amount of \$1.21 billion. The Budget increases funding of competitive grants, continues funding for capacity building through formula programs, and consolidates funding for pest management and insular area programs. In this time of limited resources, the Budget also proposes to redirect funding from lower-priority areas to support higher-priority activities within NIFA. This proposal improves efficiencies in management of NIFA programs resulting in research, education, and extension investments with greater focus and enhanced impact.

The FY 2013 Budget also proposes to expand support for minority serving institutions through establishment of a new Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund and sustained support for the Native American Endowment Fund. The FY 2013 Budget Request proposes approximately \$21.9 million for both endowment funds, an increase of \$10 million over the FY 2012 level.

The FY 2013 Budget for NIFA also includes mandatory funding totaling \$10 million for the Agriculture Risk Management Education Program and Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program. This is a \$130 million decrease below the FY 2012 level due to mandatory Farm Bill programs expiring in 2012. In the current Farm Bill, the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program, Biomass Research and Development, Specialty Crop Research Initiative, and Biodiesel Fuel Education mandatory programs are scheduled to expire in 2012.

Some highlights of the FY 2013 President's Budget request for NIFA are:

NIFA proposes \$325 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). This is an increase of approximately \$60.5 million over the FY 2012 level. AFRI is the core competitive grant program for research, education, and extension. The program will provide funding for projects that address critical issues in U.S. agriculture in the areas of bioenergy, global climate change, global food security, nutrition and health, food safety. The program also continues to provide support for the foundational programs, and NIFA fellowships. The budget also proposes to redirect funding from the Section 406 Integrated Activities on water quality and food safety as well as the International Science and Education programs into AFRI. This redirection will allow efficiency in management and alignment of medium to long-term research, education, and extension goals relevant to these programs.

The FY 2013 proposes to consolidate funding for Expert Integrated Pest Management Decision Support System, Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control, Minor Crop Pest Management, Pest Management Alternatives, Smith-Lever 3(d) Pest Management, and Regional Pest Management Centers into a single program called Crop Protection. This action will allow NIFA to enhance its ability to support research, education, and extension activities needed to ensure global food security and respond to other major societal challenges.

NIFA proposes to consolidate the Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas, and Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas into a single program called Grants for Insular Areas to improve the efficiency in management of the program activities for insular areas.

In FY 2013, NIFA proposes increased funding for integrated activities related to sustainable agriculture. Included in the requested funding is a new State-Federal matching program which will leverage State and/or private funds and build the long-term capacity to guide the evolution of American agriculture to a more highly, productive, sustainable system.

The budget proposes funding for the Graduate Fellowships Grants, Institution Challenge Grants, Multicultural Scholar, and Secondary and 2-year Post Secondary, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom. Funded activities will work to build the next generation of scientists entering the food and agricultural sciences.

NIFA also proposes increased funding for extension activities for Smith-Lever 3(d) New Technologies for Agricultural Extension and Children, Youth, and Families at Risk programs; and the Renewable Resources Extension Act program.

Attached is the FY 2013 NIFA Budget Brochure which includes a funding table listing the requested amounts for NIFA programs.

It is anticipated that over the next few weeks the USDA Office of Budget and Program Analysis will post the FY 2013 Congressional budget justifications (Explanatory Notes) for all USDA Agencies on their website. You will be notified when this information is available.

The House Appropriations Hearing for the Research, Education, and Economics mission area, which includes NIFA, is scheduled for March 21, 2012. At this time, the Senate appropriations hearing schedule for NIFA has not been released. We will provide additional information on Congressional hearings and action as it becomes available.

Chavonda Jacobs-Young
Acting Director, NIFA

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

President's FY 2013 Budget Request vs. FY 2012

(All \$Millions)

Research and Education Activities	FY 2012 Final	FY 2013 President
Hatch Act	236.334	234.834
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	32.934	32.934
Evans-Allen Program	50.898	50.898
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	264.470	325.000
Improved Pest Control	15.830	1.405
Special Research Grants	4.000	0.000
Animal Health and Disease Research	4.000	0.000
1994 Institutions Research Program	1.801	1.801
Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Research	0.961	0.000
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	9.000	
Graduate Fellowship Grants		3.851
Higher Education Challenge Grants		5.643
Multicultural Scholars		1.239
Hispanic -Serving Institutions Education Grants	9.219	9.219
Secondary and two-year Post Secondary Program	0.900	0.981
Capacity Building for 1890 Institutions	19.336	19.336
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	3.335	3.335
Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	3.194	3.194
Insular Areas Grants		1.650
Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas	0.900	
Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas	0.750	

Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Program	1.450	0.000
Sun Grant Program	2.200	0.000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program	4.790	4.790
Federal Administration	10.500	14.229
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	0.825	0.000
Aquaculture Centers	3.920	3.920
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	1.081	0.000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	14.471	14.471
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges	4.500	0.000
Competitive Grants for Policy Research	4.000	0.000
Subtotal	705.599	732.730
	FY 2012	FY 2013
Extension Activities	Final	President
Smith Lever Sections 3(b) and 3(c)	294.000	292.411
Smith Lever Section 3(d):		
Farm Safety & Youth Farm Safety Education	4.610	4.610
Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP)	67.934	67.934
Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program	3.039	3.039
New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension)	1.550	1.750
Pest Management	9.918	0.000
Sustainable Agriculture Programs	4.696	4.696
Children, Youth and Families at Risk	7.600	8.395
Cooperative Extension at 1890 Institutions	42.592	42.592
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	19.730	19.730
Renewable Resources Extension Act	3.700	4.060
Rural Health and Safety Education	1.500	0.000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	4.312	4.312
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database	1.000	0.000
Grants to Youth Organizations	0.750	0.000
Women and Minorities in STEM fields	0.400	0.400
Federal Administration	7.852	8.544
Subtotal	475.183	462.473
	FY 2012	FY 2013
Integrated Activities	Final	President
Water Quality	4.500	0.000
Regional Pest Management Centers	4.000	0.000
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	1.996	0.000
Organic Transition Program	4.000	4.000
Crop Protection*		29.056
Sustainable Agriculture Federal-State Matching Grants*		3.500

Regional Rural Development Centers	0.998	0.998
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	5.988	5.988
Subtotal	21.482	43.542

Additional Budget Information:

House Appropriations Committee Hearing Scheduled for March 21 at 10:00. (eastern time)
Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing Scheduled for Marh 29 at 2:00 . (eastern time)

Complete proposed USDA budget information can be found at
<http://www.obpa.usda.gov/budsum/FY13budsum.pdf>

The explanatory notes for NIFA (117 pp – AFRI is noted in text on 17-5, 17-36, 17-53, 17-55, and in budget lines on 17-27, 17-29, 17-33). FY 2013 NIFA Explanatory Notes -
<http://www.obpa.usda.gov/17nifa2013notes.pdf>

Summary notes on the Agriculture chapter of the budget (6 pp at 30,000' level). FY 2013 President's budget, Agriculture Chapter -
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/agriculture.pdf>

Full budget proposal for agriculture (140 pp)
FY 2013 President's budget, USDA section of the printed Appendix -
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/agr.pdf>

USDA REE Budget—
<http://www.obpa.usda.gov/budsum/FY13budsum.pdf> from the OBPA page, which was actually posted yesterday (131 pp – REE begins on p 90 – AFRI starts on p 96).

V. STAFFING NEWS

•NIFA Director to Be Appointed (approximate date May 1) President Obama Announces Intent to Appoint Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as Director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2012—President Obama announced today his intent to appoint Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). NIFA links USDA with the land-grant university community, including historically Black colleges and universities, Native American institutions, Hispanic and other universities, and other public and private organizations, to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental, social, and human sciences. Dr. Ramaswamy is currently Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University.

"I welcome the President's intent to appoint Dr. Ramaswamy, a man with a distinguished career as a scientist, professor and leader within higher education, and someone who will surely

help to position NIFA as a modern and efficient service organization that is closely in tune with the long-term vitality of the food and agricultural sciences," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "NIFA's work to coordinate federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs in the service of U.S. agriculture is critical to sustaining the important gains made by U.S. agriculture. By investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future—such as global and domestic food security, renewable energy, and nutrition—NIFA's work has proven integral to the health and security of all Americans. And I am confident that Dr. Ramaswamy will uphold this vital mission."

Dr. Ramaswamy has served as the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University since 2009 and also serves as Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. Previously, he was the Associate Dean of Purdue's College of Agriculture and directed the University's agricultural research programs from 2006 to 2009. Prior to joining the Purdue faculty in 2006, Dr. Ramaswamy was head of the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University from 1997 to 2006, where he held the title of Distinguished Professor. He also served on the faculty of Mississippi State University, was a research associate at Michigan State University, and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Entomological Society of America. Dr. Ramaswamy earned his B.S. and M.S. in entomology from the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore, India, and earned his PhD in Entomology from Rutgers University.

NIFA is part of USDA's Research, Education and Economics Mission Area, which includes the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as well as the National Agriculture Library and National Arboretum. Each day, the work of USDA scientists and researchers touches the lives of every American: from the farm field to the kitchen table, from the air we breathe to the energy that powers our country. USDA science is on the cutting edge, helping protect, secure, and improve our food, agriculture and natural resources.

In order to accommodate anticipated budget reductions, NIFA implemented an "early out" incentive at the end of 2011. Twenty employees retired. The agency is currently working to reassign staff responsibilities to cover the workload. This is a microcosm of what is happening in many federal agencies.

Daniel Cassidy has taken a one year detail to the REE Undersecretary's Office. He will be a coordinator of bioenergy efforts.

VI. RECENT SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Policy:

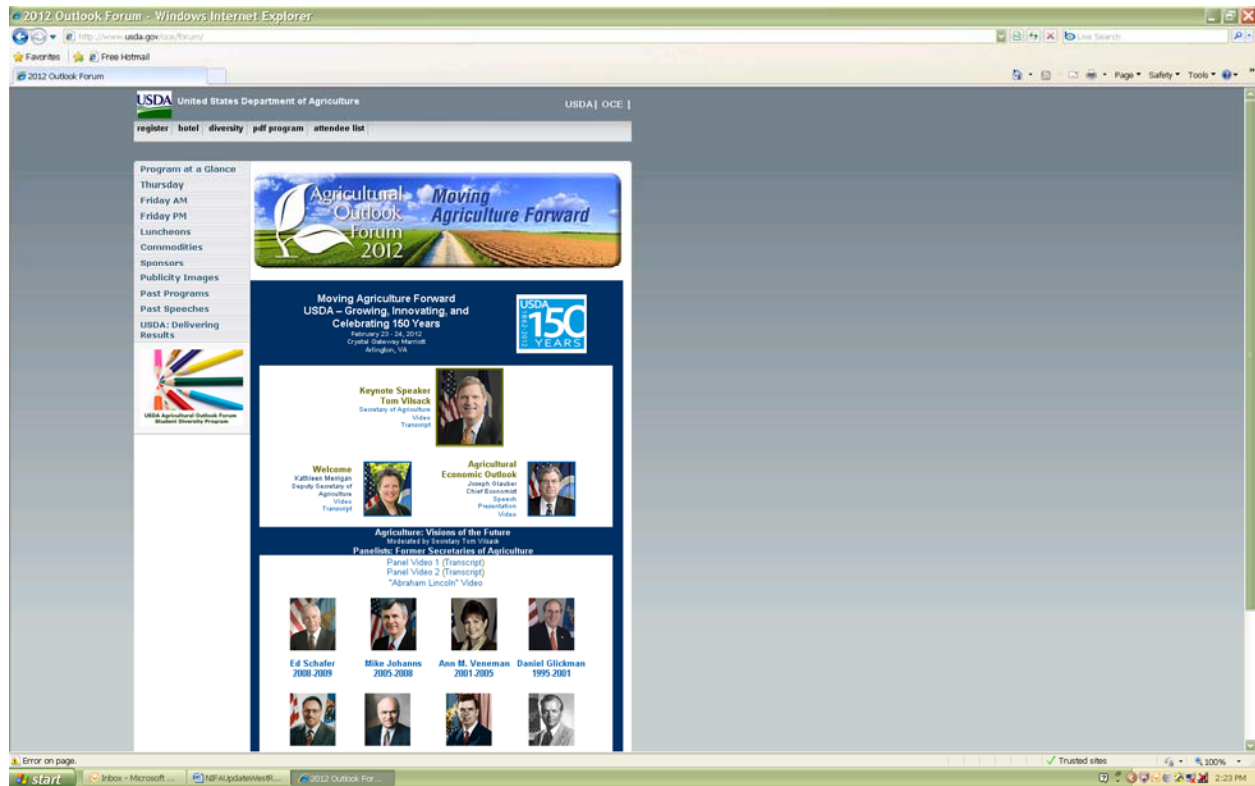
With authorities enacted in 2008 set to expire on September 30, 2012 (the end of FY 2012), both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are beginning to work on the 2012 Farm Bill.

Publications:▪ **USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum:**

Projections of supply and prices for ag commodities—“Agricultural Economic Outlook” by Joe Glauber.

Panel Discussion with Eight Secretary’s of Agriculture on future of agriculture.

Presentations Available at: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>



▪ **On Environmental Capital:** President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST): *Report To The President Sustaining Environmental Capital: Protecting Society And The Economy*. Co-Chaired by Dr. Rosina Bierbaum --Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) at the University of Michigan.

“The central messages of this report are two. First, the economic and environmental dimensions of societal well-being are both indispensable, as well as tightly intertwined. Second, even as the government is rightly focused on the direct threats to the economic aspects of well-being in the form of recession, unemployment, and the stagnation of the standard of living of the middle class, it must not fail to address the threats to both the environmental and the economic aspects of well-being that derive from the accelerating degradation of the environmental capital—the Nation’s ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain—from which flow “ecosystem services” underpinning much economic activity as well as public health, safety, and environmental quality.” --John Holdren

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_sustaining_environmental_capital_report.pdf

Agenda Item 7.0: 2013 Budget and Legislative Update

Presenter: Jim Richards (by phone)

In Meeting Discussion:

The House released their budget blueprint for FY13. They went below the FY12 level and BCA. The house has proposed a budget of \$1.028 trillion, \$15 billion below the FY2012 enacted budget. They are sending instructions to the House Agriculture Committee to create additional savings over the next 10 years. These savings are expected to come primarily out of nutrition programs.

Kathy Wotecki testifies tomorrow and there are a few more hearings after that. House action is anticipated for late May or early June. Nothing is likely to be resolved until after the election.

Currently, the goal is to drive the House numbers toward the Senate numbers.

The possibility of additional Farm Bill hearings west of Kansas was discussed. The Western State Directors should make those requests. The California members of the House Agriculture Committee could be contacted and asked to work on this. Commission and commodity groups should also be encouraged to promote this idea. Important to hear from stakeholders about why agriculture research is important.

Mandatory funding in the Farm Bill: The language in the current Farm Bill has the mandatory expenditure expiring. There is lots of discussion and awareness about this issue. There is support for extending for SCRI and organic programs that remains.

Any response to the IR4 "storm of the hill" last week? House and Senate committee staff did not enjoy their conversations with that community. It is still an open debate.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 8.0: ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: Jeff Jacobsen and Mike Harrington

Background:

The committee holds regular monthly conference calls that have generally been well attended. The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: Steve Slack (NCRA)</p> <p>Delegates: William (Bill) Brown (SAAESD) Jeff Jacobsen* (WAAESD) Ernie Minton (NCRA) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Orlando McMeans (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Bob Shulstad (SAAESD) Tim Phipps (NERA) Thomas Burr (NERA) Bret Hess (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>NIFA Liaison Paula Geiger (NIFA)</p> <p>Representatives Caird Rexroad (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Dina Chacon-Reitzel (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - B of Hum Sci)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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BAC Meeting Results: The BAC met in Washington on Feb. 15-16 to finalize the system’s FY 2013 appropriations requests for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The take home message is that the committee supported all programs at the appropriated level or the president’s budget request whichever is higher.

The BAC agreed to the following seven priorities:

Core Priorities (\$Millions)	F Y 2012	President	A·P·L·U Goal
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	264.470	325.000	325.000
Smith-Lever 3(b)-3(c)	294.000	292.411	294.000
Hatch Act	236.334	234.834	236.334
Evans-Allen	50.898	50.898	50.898
1890 Institutions Extension	42.592	42.592	42.592
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	32.934	32.934	32.934
1994 Institutions Research and Extension	6.113	6.113	6.113

Each of these priorities will be documented in a one-pager (two-sided). The document repository is here: www.land-grant.org/documents.html

Another incredibly difficult budgetary year is expected and the BAC determined that everything must be done to protect the significant gains that have been secured in the recent past.

Other Critical Initiatives Supported by A · P · L · U Component Organizations	
1890 Institutions Capacity Building Grants	Higher Education Competitive Grants
1890 Institutions Facilities Grants	New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension)
1994 Institutions Equity Grants	Renewable Resources Extension Act
Insular Area Competitive Grants	Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program
Non-Land-Grant Univ. Capacity Building Grants	Animal Health and Disease Research

The BAC also supported in principle the new Crop Protection Program \$29 million and will seek to have all programs moved out of the Integrated Programs account to either Research and Education or Extension. Unfortunately the explanatory budget notes do not address how existing programs would continue and it appears that more program would be included with an overall budget that has less funds than in 2012. Robin Shepard and Mike Harrington will develop a background white paper covering the issues (see Item 8.1).

In Meeting Discussion:

Will Blackburn has retired.

Western Farm Press had an article from the wheat growers that has to do with how ARS is handling budget cuts (\$3.5 million). This news was delivered part-way through the year. Decision was made that there would be no reductions in force. People have been offered the opportunity to take a new assignment. In the end, most of the 10 locations slated to be cut will still have personnel for the time being. There is an ongoing hiring freeze and salaries from those frozen positions are lapsing. The agency has announced that all outgoing cooperative agreements will be reduced by 30% for the current fiscal year. This was communicated to Department Chairs in the last week or so—this is what was communicated in the Western Farm Press article. Existing cooperative agreements were funded at no more than 42%, in anticipation of cuts.

Research support agreements are used to pay utilities and things like this. Research support agreements are not included in these cuts.

For FY2013, there is an overall \$8 million increase, but \$70 million of program initiatives to be funded—these are new initiatives. It is anticipated that money will be redirected from existing programs.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 8.1: NIFA White Paper

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

Background:

The Budget and Advocacy Committee (Frank Galey, WY, Chair) charged Robin Shepard and H. M. Harrington with developing a background white paper covering the Crop Protection Program. The BAC will be discussing the paper this afternoon in its final version; the final, approved version will be sent out after that meeting.

The white paper lays out the issues and proposes the formation of a working group with stakeholders, NIFA, and others who could work together to develop a new framework for the Crop Protection Program. The Chair of the BAC would invite members to this group. The one clear message from NIFA is that programs will not be the same as they used to be. In a recent meeting with NIFA, and the one complaint about the existing structure expressed is that there could be better connections with regional research committees (MRF) and Regional IPM Centers. This does not seem to be an issue in the West. A short-list of potential working group members is being developed.

The white paper also suggests restoring program funds and moving forward in 2013 as things were in 2012, giving the committee some time to work.

Concerns are:

- Continuing cuts
- Those who don't "see themselves" in the proposed Crop Protection Program
- IR-4 getting a 30% cut in funds (although legislation says indirect costs are not allowed, the new proposed program would include indirect costs)

The Policy Board meets next week in Seattle, WA.

On the afternoon of the March 20th, the BAC endorsed the white paper and the notion of keeping things the same in 2013 as they were in 2012 to allow time for planning.

New Integrated Crop Protection Program
- Comments Prepared on Behalf of the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee -
March 9, 2012

The APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA), Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) supported “in principle” the Integrated Crop Protection program proposed in the President’s 2013 Budget. In taking this action the BAC recognized the need to simplify the budget by consolidating lines as appropriate but also expressed concern with the location of the Integrated Crop Protection program with the Integrated Activities area of the NIFA budget because some \$34.368 M has been lost from this account over the last 5 years. The BAC recommendation was endorsed by the BAA Policy Board of Directors

The President’s 2013 Budget Proposal would eliminate a number of lines related to pest management totaling \$31,744,000 and create a New Crop Protection Program. Existing programs impacted by this action are:

Research and Education Programs	(1,000's)	Total (1000's)
IR-4	11,913	
Expert IPM Decision support system	153	
IPM and Biocontrol	2,362	
Pest Management Alternatives	1,402	
		15,830
Integrated Activities		
Regional IPM Centers	4,000	
Methyl Bromide Transition	1,996	
		5,996
Extension Programs		
Pest Management	9,918	
		9,918
	Total	31,744
New Crop Protection Program		29,056

Significant funding has been redirected and/or combined from three sections of the NIFA budget (Research and Education, Extension and Integrated activities). Further, several budget lines have been reduced and/or eliminated overall to create the New Crop Protection Program.

It is apparent from the above table that some \$2.688 million has been redirected or not accounted for. In addition, two important programs, Crops at Risk (CAR) (\$1.4 M) and the Risk Avoidance and Mitigation program (RAMP) (\$4.4 M), have been eliminated in the last 2 years further reducing funding for crucial programs that are focused on specific crop protection problems. Together, these total nearly \$8.5 million that should be restored to bolster critical crop protection needs.

The stated goal of NIFA is to combine all related pest management efforts into a single coordinated effort, i.e., create a new program from the ground up in order to “respond to pest management challenges with coordinated region-wide and national research, education and extension programs, and serve as a catalyst for promoting further development and use of IPM approaches. This New Integrated Crop Protection Program is intended to

foster regional and national team building efforts, communication networks, and enhanced stakeholder participation.”

There is pressure within government to simplify the budget process by consolidating program lines where appropriate. There may be many positive aspects to repackaging current IPM funding. A larger banner like Integrated Crop Protection “should” include many existing programming efforts and give more emphasis to the needs of all programs that support a common goal and the funding to achieve it; rather than unilaterally defending smaller projects in ways that pit programs against one another. Furthermore, it has sometimes been easier to increase funding for larger initiatives when stakeholders see themselves reflected in those goals and local responses to problems. To succeed in creating a New Integrated Crop Protection Program at a minimum there must be level funding; however, given the descriptions provided (to date) by the agency there is a strong need for increased funding. Any new initiative will not be successful when it asks us to do more – with less. In addition, a new initiative needs to actively engage the stakeholders of the programs whose budget lines are being consolidated.

If the intent is to create a program that better addresses the needs of the nation and stakeholders in the broadest sense, it must also be very flexible, yet comprehensive, in supporting local problem solving. Focusing solely on funding one-time projects is not sufficient to addressing the nation’s crop protection needs. The New Integrated Crop Protection Program should recognize the tremendous capacity already in place across our states in local E-IPM programming, regional IPM Centers and plant protection tactics and tools like the IR-4 program. For a national effort in crop protection to be successful, it must support both: (1) a comprehensive state and local response that reaches local producers; and (2) competitive projects that support, and take advantage of local and state expertise.

The development of a New Integrated Crop Protection Program needs to be much more “inclusive” than merely complying with requirements for federal listening sessions. If we are to move forward on developing these concepts and sharing common goals, there must be greater opportunity for participation in establishing how a New Integrated Crop Protection Program will be designed and implemented as well as resources that will be needed.. Some redirection of effort is important; however, it is not necessary to recreate an entirely new initiative, and especially one solely based on national coordination of single function projects.

Moving Forward

Given the importance of crop protection including pesticide approvals and use, IPM, etc. and far reaching impacts of restructuring existing programs to meet future needs, it would be appropriate to appoint a coordinating representative group with members in consultation with ESCOP, ECOP, stakeholders and NIFA with a charge of creating a program. This group would include representation from the IR-4 program, Regional IPM Centers, Extension IPM, IPM PIPE, Experiment Station and Extension Directors and Administrators, end user stakeholders and NIFA. Given the relatively short time frame to meet FY 2013 budget constraints this group should be appointed immediately by the Budget and Advocacy Committee Chair with a clear charge of devising a new comprehensive program that will effectively meet current and future needs.

Guiding Principles*

Based on preliminary reactions to the proposed “Integrated Crop Protection Program,” by the ESCOP and ECOP Budget and Advocacy Committees it is important that such an emerging initiative be based on:

- Protect/maintain the funding for E- IPM, Regional IPM Centers, IR-4 programs of the Land Grant Colleges and Universities, this includes local capacity as well as competitive support for important programs and projects ;

- Consolidate budget lines where it makes sense, doing no harm;
- Maintain intent (functionally equivalent) of programs, e.g., integrated activities regardless of where the budget resides within the USDA/NIFA Budget;
- Expand our ability to integrate research, education and Extension functions of the nation's Land Grant Universities in local and multistate problem solving;
- Ensure regional multistate collaboration focused on sharing and cooperating among Land Grant institutions and NIFA;
- Acceptable to those directly affected and supported by the COPs, BAC and PBD;
- Acceptable to appropriators.

**These guiding principles were also reflected in the 2011 ECOP/ESCAP Task Force Report on Section 406 Programs, including recommendations that addressed a number of IPM activities supported in the Integrated Activities Accounts of NIFA.*

Potential Essential Elements of an Integrated Crop Protection Program

IR-4 Project

The IR-4 Project which provides crucial support to specialty crops (vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, flowers, ornamentals, turf, etc.) and minor uses by developing residue and other data that is required by US EPA to facilitate the regulatory clearance of conventional reduced risk pesticides and biopesticides. The IR-4 Project is needed because the cost of the data required for specialty crops/minor uses far exceeds the potential return on investment to industry in this small acreage markets.. As National Research Support Project, the IR-4 Program has financially supported by the AES Directors for a number of years (\$481,000 currently/yr). This program is essential for the success of specialty crops/minor uses, an industry valued over \$40 billion. The IR-4 program must be maintained into the future to assure competitiveness of the specialty crop industry.

Regional IPM Centers

Regional IPM Centers provide direct linkage to stakeholders in each state. Each center has an advisory and/or steering committee comprised of IPM practitioners, industry and other regional representatives. The groups meet regularly to discuss issues and provide oversight. Each state has an IPM Coordinator who is typically connected to their respective regional center providing direct feedback on needs. These regional centers have components that include: state and regional crop profiles, multistate pest management strategic plans on major problems, regional/national pest alerts on emerging issues, and regional/national training programs in cooperation with Land Grant Universities, NPDN, APHIS and ARS. The IPM Centers also administer the regional competitive IPM (RIPM) Grants programs (\$2,863,043) assuring that regional and local needs are met. The Regional IPM Centers are the core of effective IPM programs across the Nation and must be maintained.

Extension - IPM (E-IPM)

The Extension Integrated Pest Management Coordination and Support Program (E-IPM) works directly with agricultural producers, urban clientele and other pest managers to educate them about sound pest management practices that meet economic and environmental goals. EIPM has a long record of increasing the adoption of such methods and practices through training, demonstration, and evaluation of impacts at the grower level. Each Land Grant Institution identifies an individual to be the primary institutional/state lead when taken together form a national network of more than 50 E-IMP Coordinators providing an essential cadre of experts on IPM within each state. Coordinators also form the critical bridge between local, county-based extension personnel and the research and extension capacities of their institutions, and act as a catalyst for state and regional IPM programs. They translate needs into programs, and then coordinate implementation back to the client base. USDA-NIFA E-IPM programming is based on an implementation strategy that rapidly addresses state/local/multistate needs

and existing as well as emerging pest problems. Those (state-based) plans and strategies are funded at various levels based on a national competitive review, and IPM Coordinators merge these funds with local funding sources to enable our national IPM capacities to operate efficiently. By addressing pest problems locally, regionally, and sharing successes, E-IPM meets national IPM goals and larger geographic issues of significance. This network of interconnected state-based programs is critical for providing pest managers, producers and urban clientele with unbiased information on pest control tactics.

Integrated Pest Management Pest Information Platform for Extension (IPM PIPE)

The IPM PIPE is a monitoring and early-warning system initially developed by the land grant universities, USDA, and private groups to alert farmers to the presence and spread of soybean rust. It has since been expanded to include other crops and pests. The system includes surveillance and monitoring networks, a Web-based information management system and criteria for deciding when to apply fungicides, predictive modeling, and outreach directly to producers often through the E-IPM network of state coordinators. The program's coordinated framework that has also been highly effective in helping our nation's producers with informed decision making about fungicide application. The development of the web-based tracking and early-warning system has greatly enhanced the ability of farmers to manage risk and avoid unnecessary fungicide applications. USDA's Economic Research Service has found that rust management due to PIPE saved farmers as much as \$353 million in 2005. The IPM PIPE is essential assuring in agricultural biosecurity for the Nation.

Competitive Grants Programs

With the development of a new Crops Protection program there is an opportunity to consider more broadly how competitive funding could be brought to bear on critical issues. By recapturing CAR and RAMP funds that have been recently cut, it may be possible to expand Integrated Crop Protection funding to create new focus areas. The Regional IPM (RIPM) Grants programs, managed by the Regional IMP Centers, (\$2,863,043) should be enhanced and recognize that the current regional distribution needs to be reexamined to reflect the extent of pest management issues and value of crops. The RIPM program provides research, research and extension and extension-only grants to further IPM regionally. It is one of the few sources of competitive funding to generally address IPM issues. Regional coordination by the IPM Centers insures stakeholder input into priorities and relevance of funded projects. Also included should be a mechanism for funding emergency issues, possibly new instruction related program and other areas yet to be determined.

Budget Disposition/Location

The President's budget proposes the new Crop Protection program within the Integrated Activities area of the NIFA budget. However, experience over the last few years indicates that the Integrated Activities lines have been severely cut or eliminated. Any budget lines in the integrated account are likely in future jeopardy providing the justification for locating this program elsewhere. If the goal is budget simplification, all lines should move to the same location and it is essential that the affected programs be partners in any reconciliation. Given that the majority of funds would come from Research and Education Programs and Integrated Activities, all elements of the Integrated Crop Protection program could be moved to the Research and Education Programs area. Following the guiding principles outlined above, this could be accomplished with full authority and functional intent of the legislation such that the several programs highlighted above will maintain form and function. Again the concept of functional equivalency is essential to the success of this effort. It is important to protect program integrity, including maintaining current eligibility for accessing the funding. Without functional equivalency many current successful programs will only be asked to do more with less.

In the 2013 Explanatory notes most pest management programs funds have been moved without mentioning elimination of the programs or functions. However, several programs have their language specifically removed (e.g. "This change eliminates language for the following programs, which are not funded in 2013 through this account: Smith-Lever 3(d) Pest Management Centers, and Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database."). Below are the areas of focus in the Crop Protection program proposed in the President's 2013 Budget. At least some of the above highlighted critical activities are discernible but others are not.

Proposed New NIFA Crop Protection Program (from FY 2013 Budget Explanatory Notes for NIFA)

Plant Protection Tactics and Tools. This program area will support the development and introduction of new pest management tactics into agricultural production systems. In some cases, the program will develop new tactics that provide the breakthrough needed to fundamentally change a pest management system, resulting in greater profitability and smaller environmental and health risks. In other cases, the program will support the introduction of a new replacement tactic when a critical tactic is no longer available due to development of pest resistance, regulatory action or marketing decisions of manufacturers. The loss of a key management tactic can have devastating impacts on productivity, product quality and profitability. Examples include the impending loss of methyl bromide, the loss of effectiveness of glyphosate due to the development of resistant weed populations, and the endocrine disruptor issue associated with atrazine in runoff.

Diversified IPM Systems. Diversified IPM systems represent the long-term sustainable solution to many pest management problems. This program will support long-term projects focused on the development and implementation of innovative IPM systems on an area or landscape basis. The outcomes associated with IPM systems projects will be reduced reliance on single pest management tactics, the reduction of potential risks to human health and the environment caused by pests or the use of pest management practices, and increased economic benefits of adopting IPM practices. IPM systems projects will typically be multi-state or regional in scale and will involve multiple managed ecosystems with emphasis on enhanced stability and sustainability of IPM systems. The projects supported will be broad and systems-oriented efforts, with involvement of relevant disciplinary and subject matter experts in plant and animal sciences, water quality, food safety, and other relevant areas.

Enhancing Agricultural Biosecurity. This program area will support the development and maintenance of key information systems, networks, and decision support tools that provide the knowledge infrastructure needed for early detection and the application of science-based IPM systems for invasive, emerging and high-consequence pests that threaten U.S. agriculture. The program will support formal and informal education/training programs, and the development of pest management data and information needed by pest managers, regulatory agencies and policy makers to improve their ability to respond appropriately to endemic and exotic pests and diseases.

IPM for a Sustainable Society. Much of the IPM knowledge and expertise developed for agricultural systems has direct application in non-traditional settings. As IPM becomes more relevant in the areas that are fringe to agricultural crop production, much of what is learned can be applied to less traditional areas of food and quality of life on the rural-urban interface. For example IPM discoveries can be applied to urban pests (including Asian Long-horned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and Laurel Wilt) and in community gardens. In addition, knowledge gained from IPM can be applied to pests/pesticides within living spaces in schools and homes.

Development of the Next Generation of IPM Scientists. This program area will support education programs needed to prepare the next generation of IPM scientists. Education efforts will focus on the training of interdisciplinary IPM scientists and IPM discipline experts such as new age systematists who are able to link to traditional methods. Support also will be provided for curriculum development, including web-based courses.

Action Requested: For information.

Agenda Item 9.0: BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy Update (Farm Bill)

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

In Meeting Discussion:

A letter/memo has been drafted to send to Congressmen/Senators serving on the House/Senate Ag Committees from western states to encourage them to push for Farm Bill hearings in the western states. In the last Farm Bill, meetings were held in the west, but this year the westernmost hearing will be held in Dodge City, KS.

The WDO will send out an electronic version of the letter so that others might be able to use it.

There was some discussion about where the Farm Bill hearing should be held, if it was added to the schedule. Barbara Allen-Diaz will contact Representatives from CA and ask them to push for a hearing/listening session in CA.

Sarah explained that social media could be used to promote the idea of holding a hearing in the West, and that an op-ed might also be useful in helping this effort.

Update: The final letter was sent to Scott Tipton (CO), Joe Baca (CA), Dennis Cardoza (CA), and Jim Costa (CA) on April 3, 2012: http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Farm-Bill-hearing-request_final_20120403.pdf

Action Requested: For information.

Agenda Item 10.0: ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee

Presenter: Ron Pardini

Background:

Members of the ESCOP Marketing Committee, including Lee Sommers (ESCOP Chair) met with ECOP leadership, kglobal and Cornerstone on January 13, 2012, in Washington DC, to discuss the merits of ECOP joining ESCOP in the kglobal/Cornerstone Communication and Marketing efforts.

kglobal and Cornerstone were asked to submit a proposal that would include a joint effort for ESCOP and ECOP. See the joint proposal: <http://ncra.info/docs/Marketing/kglobal02082012.pdf>

The ESCOP System Communication and Marketing Committee met during the CARET meetings in Washington DC, on February 26, 2012. A key agenda item at this meeting was a discussion of the joint ECOP/ESCOP Marketing Proposal from kglobal/Cornerstone. ESCOP approved moving forward on a joint effort with ECOP on February 27, 2012, providing ECOP also approved the joint effort.

ECOP approved the joint proposal at their national directors meeting in March, 2012. A Working group will be formed soon to develop the operating procedures for a joint ESCOP/ECOP effort (Sarah will serve on the joint working group).

Background: At the national ESS meeting in 2010, a second three-year assessment for the Marketing effort was approved starting in April of 2011. ESS is nearing the end of the first year of the second three-year annual assessment for \$300,000. The joint ECOP/ESCOP effort is for two years at \$400,000 with ECOP paying half. The ESCOP assessment will be reduced to \$200,000 for the last two years of the three-year assessment.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 11.0: Off-the-Top Funding Requests

Presenters: Ralph Cavalieri & H. M. Harrington

Background:

**NRSP 2012-2013
Requests for Off-the-Top Funding**

Project	Request FY2010	Authorized FY2010	Request FY2011	Authorized FY2011	Request FY2012	Approved by ESCOP FY2012	Request FY2013	Action Requested
NRSP1	356,427	356,427	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	1 year budget request
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	1 year budget request
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	1 year budget request
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	1 year budget request
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	1 year budget request
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	1 year budget request
NRSP9			350,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	1 year budget request
NRSP_temp261						Deferred	150,000	Request to approve new proposal and budget
Western Regional Trusts								
W006	395,660	395,660	405,288	405,288	405,288	405,288	405,288	1 year budget request
W106	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1 year budget request

		Project Period
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2011-2016
NRSP-3	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2009-2014
NRSP-4	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2010-2015
NRSP-6	The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm	2010-2015
NRSP-7	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2009-2014
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2008-2013
NRSP-9	National Animal Nutrition Program	2010-2015
NRSP_TEMP261	ipmPIPE National Research Support Project	2012-2017
W006	Plant Genetic Resource Management, Preservation, Characterization, and Utilization	2012-2015
W106	Multistate Research Coordination, Western Region	1998-2029

Full proposals for all NRSPs can be found on NIMSS.

Action Requested: Recommendations for funding NRSPs and regional trusts.

In Meeting Discussion:

NRSP's comprise less than 2% of formula funds.

NRSP-7 was funded with the caveat that if they got an earmark, we would not fund it. As of two years ago, this is no longer meaningful language.

NRSP-4: The funding for this provides for the core faculty to run the program. It leverages lots of other money. The NC and NE regions were concerned about how many NRSPs were funded "forever" leaving little room for a new one. As a result, each is required to submit a plan that shows other funding. NRSP-3 was approved because the little we contribute allows them to leverage a lot of money.

NRSP-3 used to be \$350,000-360,000 and it has been reduced. Some of these others have been reduced as well. There is a disparity of scale when compared one to another, but each has its own unique background and story.

NRSP_TEMP261 has not yet been approved. The committee has received comments. It was suggested that Extension contribute to funding this project.

The notion of putting downward pressure on the dollars was discussed. On one hand, pressure eventually can create a dysfunctional program. On the other, no pressure creates a sense of entitlement. One concept of the National Research Support Program is to provide maintenance funds to keep-up valuable programs, provided that they meet rigorous review requirements. Projects are under a lot of pressure to show impact. Some members feel that they have to be impactful on research, others want impacts on agriculture. Impacts on research are less likely to be compelling when in search of outside funds. Even added value to AES faculty must ultimately result in value to agricultural industry.

It is very hard to get a new NRSP.

NRSP-6 is the main investment in the National Plant Germplasm. This is a nominal investment (ARS funds 90% of the program) and the AES scientists are the primary beneficiaries.

Action Taken:

- Unanimously approved recommendation for continued off-the-top funding of NRSPs 1-9 with rigorous reviews at the 5-year mark and encouragement to continue to look for outside funding.
- Deferred action on NRSP_TEMP261 until the Summer meeting. Recommended that Stella Melugin Coakley come to the Summer meeting and give a presentation on this proposal.
- Unanimously approved funding for regional trusts (W106 and W006).

Agenda Brief 12.0: ESCOP Science and Technology Committee

Presenters: Larry Curtis and David Thompson

Background Information:

Committee Membership

Chair : William Ravlin (NCRA)

Delegates:

John Liu (SAAESD)

John Russin (SAAESD)

Tim Phipps (NERA)

Cameron Faustman (NERA)

Steve Meredith (ARD) – Vice Chair

vacant (ARD)

Larry Curtis (WAAESD)

David Thompson (WAAESD)

Jozef Kokini (NCRA)

Abel Ponce de Leon (NCRA)

- Executive Vice-Chair: Dan Rossi (NERA, Executive Director)
- NIFA Representative: Muquarrab Qureshi
- Social Science Subcommittee Representative: Travis Park
- Pest Management Strategies Subcommittee Representative: Frank Zalom

Multistate Research Award

The announcement for the next round of awards was distributed on December 13, 2011. Nominations are due at offices of the Executive Directors on February 29, 2012. The regional associations will review the nominations and forward their recommendations to the Committee by April 30.

The Committee will review the regional nominations and forward their recommendation for a national winner to the ESCOP Executive Committee by May 21. The Executive Committee will forward their selection to APLU by July 1 and the award will be presented at the APLU meeting.

Science Roadmap

A draft of a synthesis paper from the Science Roadmap is being prepared and will be reviewed by the Committee in the near future.

Meetings

The next face-to-face meeting of the committee will be in the spring.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 13.0: National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee

Presenter: Lee Sommers

Background:

A proposal was presented to ESCOP to facilitate sharing of material transfer agreements (MTA) between institutions. The wheat improvement programs at Colorado State University, Oklahoma State University, Kansas State University, and Texas A&M University have implemented a MTA that guides exchange and use of wheat germplasm as a means of enhancing public plant breeding programs. The MTA has also been adopted by several other programs in the western region. A central location for providing the MTA to any interested party is desired. A proposal will be discussed involving use of the ESCOP website as the central location where a copy of the MTA could be downloaded by an interested institution. The ESCOP website would also contain a list of institutions that have adopted the MTA. The MTA may be updated periodically by the four originating institutions and made available.

Germplasm obtained through the MTA process cannot be shared for 5 years (unlike other sharing mechanisms). Material entered into trials are for “testing only” and cannot be used without permission from the institution that entered the material into the trial.

The Wheat Workers’ Material Transfer Agreement can be viewed/downloaded here:
<http://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/research-wheat-workers-material-transfer-agreement-20110513.pdf>

Annual meeting will be held in June, 2012.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 14.0: Multistate Grazing Management Instruction Program

Presenters: Ron Pardini, Carol Lewis, and Jeff Jacobsen

Background:

This development committee met last week in Tuscon, AZ in conjunction with Rangeland West. They are working on a full proposal to create a consortium of rangeland educators to provide distance education to share expertise

The program came out of a Society for Range Management meeting last year. They have a challenge grant to catalog online education programs, share powerpoint presentations with notes, held a symposium for teaching on-line classes and developed best practices, and conducted other activities.

The group is exploring options for how they would be structured, based on other models from across the country.

The Range Science Education Council will take this and develop a proposal. John Tanaka (WY) is the chair of the WDC. States that are actively involved include ID, UT, WY, CA (Humboldt), NV (a community college), AZ, AK.

There was discussion of the need for regionally specific coursework to prepare students for jobs as federal/state land managers in that region.

They are concerned about sharing tuition and student credit hours, which is a big concern for all. Courses can be co-listed, students register at their university and pay that university's tuition. There may also be concerns about getting courses from one university getting approved by other universities.

Action Requested: For information.

Agenda Item 15.0: Enhancing Regional Communications

Presenter: Sarah Lupis

Background:

Several initiatives are currently underway to enhance communication within the Western Region and also to raise the profile of multistate research nationwide.

Social Media

A Twitter account, @WAAESD, was established in early December. To date, @WAAESD has 34 followers, including several of our partner universities (Colorado State University, Arizona State University, University of California Davis, Oregon State University, Washington State University), government partners (NIFA) and others (Nat'l Ag Law Center, AgIsAmerica, The Prairie Star, NRCA, Capital Press). Tweets focus on the impact of agricultural research, especially from land-grant universities and Agricultural Experiment Stations. Try to maintain a somewhat western focus, but also tweet stories from other states.

Social Media Objectives:

- Share stories about western agricultural research
- Contribute to national ESCOP-ECOP marketing and communications efforts
- Raise the profile of the WAAESD, land-grant universities, and the importance of agricultural research

NIMSS T.I.P.S.

One of the major functions of the WDO is to provide support to NIMSS users, especially Administrative Advisors. Recognizing that there are many “frequently asked questions” about the NIMSS, a new “e-newsletter” was launched in February that offers hints, suggestions, and reminders that can improve experiences using the NIMSS database. Archives of NIMSS T.I.P.S.: <http://www.waaesd.org/multistate-program/nimss-t-i-p-s>

www.waaesd.org

In April, we will begin monitoring visitation to the WAAESD web site (www.waaesd.org) with Google Analytics. This free application will track number of visitors, where they are from, and many other useful metrics. The WDO will use this information to refine and improve the web site.

Impact Statements

Effective communications of research outcomes is crucial to maintaining as well as building support for such programs. In order to effectively communicate impacts and outcomes of the multistate research program in each region, Impact Statements will be developed for all terminating multistate research/coordination projects.

The WDO has developed Impact Statements for several years and, with the 2010 website redesign, has showcased these online (www.waaesd.org). Other regions are now interested in following suite. As a result, an objective for NRSP001 funding for FY2012 is to develop Impact Statements for research in all regions and make these available online and in easy-to-print

PDFs. In discussions with the NRSP001 Management Committee, the WDO has taken a leadership role in developing a national-level strategy for communicating the impact of multi-state research (see attached strategy).

NRSP001 Impact Communication Strategy

Effective communications of research outcomes is crucial to maintaining as well as building support for such programs. In order to effectively communicate impacts and outcomes of the multistate research program in each region, impact statements will be developed for all terminating multistate research/coordination projects. As part of the approved NRSP001 plan, a professional writer will be engaged to help prepare effective impact statements for the multistate research activities. The writer will access the annual SF-422 reports in NIMSS and will work collaboratively with the project AA and committee in development of a final product. A single writer is proposed to better maintain a single voice and ease coordination.

The WAAESD Office (WDO) will provide coordination, editorial oversight, and physical space for this effort to ensure a common voice and consistent approach to impact reporting efforts. The WDO will also provide coordination between this effort and the ongoing efforts of ESCOP and ECOP (i.e., with kglobal, Cornerstone, the ESCOP/ECOP Communications and Marketing Committees, and any joint ECOP/ESCOP joint committee on Marketing and Communication) to communicate the importance of Land Grant Universities and specifically the funding required to sustain and grow the Agricultural Experiment Stations and Extension to the general electorate, and influential leaders of America and American agriculture.

The WDO is uniquely poised to take on this responsibility because Sarah Lupis, the Assistant to the Director of WAAESD, is a communications specialist with over six years of experience as a science writer and communicator, including experience coordinating science writing teams. In addition, Dr. Michael Harrington, Executive Director of the WAAESD, serves on the ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee and has led the development of impact statement for multistate activities. Examples of this effort can be found at www.waaesd.org.

Working with a marketing/advertising expert, a standard impact reporting format will be developed by the writer and editor at the WDO and approved by the NRSP001 Management Committee and regions. The design will translate to both on-line and print format (2-page briefing documents) and will be easily scaled-down to accommodate summarization by topic area, state, etc. In addition, each impact statement will be classified by a standardized system of keywords to facilitate establishment of an online, searchable Impact Statement Database via NIMSS or other websites. Keywords will include participating states and subject matter. NIFA will be closely consulted to ensure that topical keywords are integrated into existing classification systems (e.g., Field of Investigation, Knowledge Area, Field of Study).

The NIMSS will serve as the primary archive and repository for all impact statements, with keyword searching capabilities. In addition, impact statements may be made available on regional websites, the ESCOP website, and/or the new joint ESCOP-ECOP website (proposed as part of the new kglobal joint strategy for communicating the importance of Land Grant Universities and specifically the funding required to sustain and grow the experiment stations and Extension.). The WDO will assume responsibility for maintaining the impact statement archive on the NIMSS and for distributing completed impact statements to regional offices, ESCOP, ECOP, and kglobal, as needed.

Logistics

For each terminating project:

- In October of the year prior to expiration, each regional System Administrator will provide the WDO with a list of terminating projects. The WDO and the writer will develop a system for tracking the status of impact statements (external to NIMSS) to ensure that all terminating projects are communicated in a timely and efficient manner.
- The writer will review SF-422 reports in the NIMSS and draft an initial impact statement.
- The writer will share this first draft with the project AA who will then pass it on to the committee for review and comment. Committees will have up to two weeks to respond with comments.
- The writers will develop a final draft impact statement based on comments from the AA and committee and will distribute this near final version to the committee via the AA for final approval. Committees will again have up to 2 weeks to respond with comments.
- Once the final draft has been approved by the committee, the writer or WAAESD will format the impact statement, including addition of photographs/graphics/charts/etc. as provided by the committee for this purpose. Ideally, graphics will be submitted through the existing pathways in NIMSS, but may also be sent directly to the WDO for possible inclusion in the final Impact Statement.
- The final impact statement in its final PDF form will be sent to the committee via the AA for final approval to ensure that all the information is correct, photo/graphic captions are accurate, etc. Committees will again have up to two weeks to respond.
- After final approval, the WDO will upload the impact statement on NIMSS and distribute to the regions, ESCOP, ECOP, kglobal as necessary.

Additional Communications Efforts

In addition to developing impact statements, the writer will create press-releases about multistate research activities for distribution to participating universities, government agencies, and industry for their use. In this way, impact of multistate activities will reach a wider audience. Selection of stories for additional communication efforts will be coordinated with the NRSP001 Coordinating Committee, the ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee, the ECOP Communications and Marketing Committee, any joint ESCOP-ECOP Communications committee, kglobal, and Cornerstone to ensure that timely, relevant stories are distributed.

Budget

Category	Est. Annual Expense	Notes/Comments
Impact Writer	\$16,500	<50% time
WDO Coordination	\$ 6,000	
Software	\$ 400	
TOTAL	\$24,000	

Action Requested: Vote to approve moving forward with NRSP001 strategy.

Action Taken: Unanimously approved moving forward with the NRSP001 Communication Strategy.

Agenda Brief 16.0: MRC Report and Transition Process

Presenter: Sarah Lupis and H. M. Harrington

Background:

Multistate Review Committee (MRC)

Preliminary Summary of 2012 Review Activities

1.0 The following Western Multistate Research Projects/Coordinating Committees/Development Committees will terminate on September 30, 2011.

- 1.1 WDC020 “Improving Safety and Health of Wildland Firefighters Through Personal Protective Clothing”
- 1.2 W505 “Western States Algae Bioproducts and Biotechnology Initiative (WeSABBI)”
- 1.3 W1005 “Parenting, energy dynamics, and lifestyle determinants of childhood obesity: New directions in prevention”
- 1.4 W1006 “Agricultural Literacy”
- 1.5 W1008 “Biology and Management of Iris yellow spot virus (IYSV), Other Diseases, and Thrips in Onions”
- 1.6 W2001 “The Great Recession, Its Aftermath, and Patterns of Rural and Small Town Demographic Change”
- 1.7 W2122 “Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Natural Chemicals on Human Health and Food Safety”
- 1.8 W2133 “Benefits and Costs of Natural Resources Policies Affecting Ecosystem Services on Public and Private Lands”
- 1.9 W2177 “Enhancing the Competitiveness and Value of U.S. Beef”
- 1.10 W2185 “Biological Control in Pest Management Systems of Plants”
- 1.11 WERA040 “Application and Utility of the Ecological Site and Condition Concept for Monitoring Rangeland Ecological Status in the Western U.S.”
- 1.12 WERA060 “Management of Pesticide Resistance”
- 1.13 WERA1009 “Systems to improve End-use Quality of Wheat”

2.0 The following multistate research (W) projects were approved from 10/1/2012 – 9/30/2017

- **W_TEMP2005** (W1005), “Parenting, Energy Dynamics, and Lifestyle Determinants of Childhood Obesity: New Directions in Prevention,” *with minor revisions**.
- **W_TEMP3421** (W1008), “Biology and Management of Iris Yellow Spot Virus (IYSV), Other Diseases, and Thrips in Onions,” *with minor revisions*.
- **W_TEMP3001** (W2001), “The Great Recession, its Aftermath, and Patterns of Rural and Small Town Demographic Change,” *with minor revisions*.
- **W_TEMP3177** (W2177), “Enhancing the Competitiveness and Value of U.S. Beef,” *with minor revisions*.

- **W_TEMP3122** (W2122), “Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Natural Chemicals on Human Health and Food Safety,” *with minor revisions*.
- **W_TEMP3401** (W2185), “Biological Control in Pest Management Systems of Plant,” *with editorial revisions**.
- **W_TEMP3441** (W2133), “Benefits and Costs of Natural Resource Policies Affecting Ecosystem Services on Public and Private Lands,” *with minor revisions*.
- **W_TEMP2191** (new), “Elder Financial Exploitation: Impact on Families,” *with minor revisions*.

**Minor revisions require that the MRC reviewers and WDO review the proposal again before passing it on to NIFA.*

**Editorial revisions will be reviewed by the WDO only.*

3.0 The following multistate coordinating committee (WERA) projects were approved from 10/1/2012 – 9/20/2017

- **WERA_TEMP3381** (WERA1009), “Systems to Improve the End-use Quality of Wheat,” *with minor revisions. Revisions will be reviewed only by the WDO.*
- **WERA_TEMP3361** (WDC018), “Meteorological and Climate Data to Support ET-Based Irrigation Scheduling, Water Conservation, and Water Resources Management,” *with minor revisions*.
- **WERA_TEMP040** (WERA040), “Application and Utility of the Ecological Site and Condition Concept for Monitoring Rangeland Ecological Status in the Western U.S.”
- **WERA_TEMP060** (WERA060), “Management of Pesticide Resistance.”
- **WERA_TEMP1018** (W1192), “The Social-Ecological Resilience of Rangelands in Working Landscapes,” *with minor revisions*.
- **WERA_TEMP3422** (W504), “Spotted Wing Drosophila Biology, Ecology, and Management,” *with minor revisions*.
- **WERA_TEMP3481** (new), “Urban Extension,” *with minor revisions*.
- **WERA_TEMP1020** (new), “Western Region Multistate Coordinating Committee on Water Resources,” *with minor revisions*. **NOTE:** Was originally submitted as **WCC_TEMP1007**, but was found to include both research and extension objectives, making it better suited as a WERA-type project.

4.0 The following development committees were established (to 9/30/2014)

- **WDC_TEMP028** (W505), “Western States Bioproducts and Biotechnology Initiative (WeSABBI),” *with minor revisions*.
- **WDC_TEMP027** (W1006), “Agricultural Literacy,” *with major revisions to be re-reviewed by MRC members assigned and the WDO.*

5.0 Action as deferred on the following proposals:

- **W_TEMP1014** (WDC020), “Improving Safety and Health of Wildland Firefighters through Personal Protective Clothing,” *with major revisions*.

6.0 Administrative Advisor assignments

- Don Thill will replace Lee Sommers as AA for WERA077.
- Linda Houtkooper was proposed as a potential new AA for W_TEMP2005 if Ron Pardini is willing to give up his assignment. **UPDATE:** Ron Pardini agreed and Linda Houtkooper will serve as the AA for W_TEMP2005.
- Mike Harrington will replace Bret Hess as the AA for WERA_TEMP1020/WCC_TEMP1007.
- A new AA is needed for NRSP004. Someone from OR, WA, CA, ID would be good, because they have the most minor crops, with greater experience in the topic area. Mike will visit with Barbara Allen-Diaz about this.
- Deborah Maddy will replace Bret Hess as AA for W_TEMP2191

7.0 Other business

The MRC was reminded that as of this year, there will be only one submission date for proposals—January 15th. If possible, there will be only one face-to-face meeting of the MRC at the Spring Meeting. Any unfinished business from the Spring Meeting and any mid-term reviews will be accomplished via conference call.

Interim reviews will be conducted via a series of conference calls; each to last no more than 90 minutes.

Action Requested: Information only.

Agenda Item 17.0: Multistate Portfolio Overview

Presenter: H.M. Harrington

Background:

<http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/AB17-Overview-of-the-Western-Region-Portfolio-March-2012.pdf>

Action Requested: For information.

Agenda Item 18.0: Identifying Partnership Values, Principals and Expectations

Presenters: H. M. Harrington & Sarah Lupis

Background:

Session Objective: Identify partnership values, principals, and expectations, through 3 rounds of conversation.

Session Overview:

1. Session overview and introduction to the World Café - Plenary (10 mins) – H. M. Harrington & Sarah Lupis
2. World Café Round 1 - 25 mins; Round 2 - 20 mins; Round 3 - 15 mins
3. Table questions:
 - What are the key values essential to a strong partnership?
 - What are the principals by which the partnership should function?
 - What are your expectations of a successful partnership?
4. Debrief - Plenary (20 mins) – Group Leaders Jacobsen, Thompson, and Curtis

World Café Basics:

Participants will split up into 3 initial groups (groups may mix up as the exercise progresses) and sit with others in their initial group.

Both table hosts and members are encouraged to write, doodle and draw key ideas on the paper in the center of the group.

Upon completing the initial round of conversation, one person will remain at the table as the host while the others travel to a new table. Travelers carry key ideas, themes and questions into their new conversations. Groups do not have to travel to a new table together—mixing up is encouraged.

The table host will welcome new guests and briefly share the main ideas, themes and questions of the initial conversation and/or second discussion. Table guests are encouraged to link and connect ideas coming from their previous table conversations, listening carefully and building on each other's contributions.

Background Information

One of Under Secretary Cathie Woteki's initiatives is to build a more effective partnership between the LGUs and USDA. Clarence Watson represents ESCOP on a joint committee working with USDA in this regard. During this session we will reaffirm the WAAESD's stated "values" and discuss attributes/expectations of a successful partnership with the aim of arriving at a set of principles by which the USDA-LGU partnership could (should) operate.

Discussions on how to form a more effective partnership with CREES and now NIFA have been ongoing at least since the late 1990s if not longer. There was a “Partnership Meeting” attended by representatives from cooperative extension, agricultural experiment stations and CSREES met in Baltimore, MD, February 2001 to address strengthening the Partnership for the 21st century. Subsequently the ECOP-ESCOP Joint Planning Committee was asked to develop a vision for the Partnership and a joint initiative development process. The JPC began with the purpose, functions and operating principles from the Workshop report and developed a vision for the Partnership in the 21st century and a statement on developing joint initiatives. The purpose, functions, principles and vision, as well as some key definitions, recommendations and references are in the attachment (18.1).

Following these efforts The Partnership Working Group (PWG) was formed by the COPs in July 2002 with membership from all parts of the system. The PWG developed a set of Partnership Principles and actively worked to improve the partnership through workshops including the biannual New Deans and Directors Workshops, “Creating High Performing Teams” (Joint COPs, 2004) and “Anticipating the Future of Research, Education, and Extension Programs in Land-Grant Colleges and Universities” workshop (Roanoke VA, May 2005). The PWG seemed to lose focus with the retirement of Gary Cunningham and new ED leadership but continued until the FY 2006 effort to convert a large portion of Hatch funds to a competitive process for multistate research. A final meeting after this held at the Waterfront Centre resulted in a pronouncement that the “partnership is broken”.

Session Reports

Values:

- Honesty
- Trust (this is earned)
- Integrity
- Reliability
- Openness, transparency, responsiveness
- Mutual respect (earned)
- “No a-hole rule” (could also be an expectation)
- Ethical
- Research is impactful, unbiased (could also be a principal)
- Communication (could also be an expectation)
- Competence
- Creativity

Key Points:

- Hope that values are the same, although politics play a role
- Honesty, openness, transparency, competence, creativity, integrity, etc.

Principals:

- Talked about who the partners might be: USDA-NIFA, CRS/AES/AP/International, stakeholders, administrators, NGOs, USDA ARS, USFS, commodity groups

- Sharing common goals and interests—understanding expectations
- Work through differences, find solution-oriented results that are mutually beneficial; willing to negotiate
- All system administration works
- Being best stewards of physical, budgetary, and human resources
- Communication; open and honest
- Trust and respect
- Apolitical/non-partisan; search for common ground
- High-quality and clear information
- Solutions-oriented, working toward resolutions with mutual benefit; collaboration
- Willing to increase knowledge base
- Best stewardship of resources
- Equitable
- Mutual intent of shared vision (i.e., we do it, they bring \$\$)
- Shared responsibilities
- Mission-oriented ag and natural resource problems
- Full negotiated indirect or competitive grants (close to these now)
- All administrative systems work (e.g., grants.gov)

Expectations:

- Everyone derives benefits, shares risks, strengthens all members
- Mutual respect, positive resolution of conflict
- Everyone holds up their end of the deal—reliable
- Aren't partnerships between the LGUs and USDA.
 - LGUs are dependents, not partners, in that we are asking for money
 - What if we show value, helping them to grow their budget
 - NIFA clientele is ag commodities, a totally different, diverse, group that is expected to go to the Hill.
- Mutual benefit has to be a part of it or it ceases to be a partnership
 - In these times of shrinking budgets, maybe it is a dependent relationship
- Money that LGUs bring to the table are more than what NIFA does, so we are really not dependents coming to ask for money, we bring a huge pool that they can leverage.
 - In the Western region, we leverage this money as much as 18:1, which could be an argument that we don't need these monies.
 - It might also be a chicken and egg—Can LGUs bring this money without NIFA? Would LGUs still have it if NIFA wasn't contributing?
- Everyone derives benefits and shares risks
- Mutual respect, positive resolution of conflict, under limitations of others.
- Partners must hold up their end of the deal—contribute and be reliable.
- Partnerships strengthens all members
- Equal say in decision-making, budget, priorities, etc.

- Legal barriers to partnerships with USDA. Land Grants are stakeholders, not partners. What do the Land Grants bring to the table? A unified voice with Congress. There is a distinct clientele for NIFA. Agricultural commodities more influential than Land Grants.
- Cultural differences are quite large even within the Land Grants, for example, Extension vs. the Agricultural Experiment Stations.
- Does NIFA really view the Land Grants as a strategic partner to increase funding?
- ARS views Land Grant scientists they work with directly as partners. Customers are commodity groups, farmers, ranchers. Those with an interest in the research are the stakeholders.
- NIFA seems to view Land Grants as junior partners because they hold the purse strings.
- Relationships with ARS and NIFA are quite different, as are partnerships.

Was this a useful discussion?

- Would like to hear from NIFA if they care to have a partner and if so, why?
- How can we get closer to some of these discussions—maybe important to really leverage relationship with Dr. Ramaswamy, because he’s “one of us.”
- The separation of culture between AES and Ext. Might be useful to have this same discussion or a similar one about partnerships with them about inter- and intra-relationships.
 - More parties at the table would help identify if expectations are truly shared. We cannot assume that Extension is operating under the same tenants.
 - It is at our peril that we allow divisiveness internal to APLU.

What can we do to improve the partnership?

- Involve more people, groups like Extension
- Give it time and create opportunities for collaboration to try and build/repair trust
- We could go through this exercise with Extension at the Summer meeting to see how they feel.

Action Requested: Participants provide feedback on values, principals, and expectations through a series of facilitated sessions.

Actions Taken: Will follow up with Extension re: repeating a similar exercise to explore the AES-EXT partnership.

Agenda Item 18.1: Partnership Vision and Joint Initiative Process, ECOP/ESCOP Joint Planning Committee, October 3, 2001, Omaha, Nebraska

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

Background:

Purpose

The purpose of the partnership is to assure that the land-grant system effectively engages the public in the discovery, dissemination and application of knowledge to prevent and solve problems.

Functions

- Promote a shared agenda
- Support and advocate for each other, even when agendas do not overlap
- Market and communicate the capacity and successes of the system
- Promote and encourage sharing of knowledge, within and among states and institutions and among Partners
- Mobilize rapid response to immediate, short-time issues and opportunities
- Anticipate and take timely actions on long-term issues and opportunities
- Leverage resources to further the purposes of the partnership
- Engage in public policy formulation
- Set joint priorities (added by JPC)

Principles

Through our actions, we demonstrate that ...

- We respect that all Partners have their own agendas, that there are areas of shared agenda, and there are areas where the Partners pursue individual agendas.
- We represent the interests of all Partners when they are "not at the table".
- There are bases for these groups to be connected beyond federal funding.
- We share responsibility for ensuring the efficacy of public investment.
- We value the benefits of our interdependency.
- We value and embrace diversity, pluralism and inclusion.
- We operate with mutual trust and respect.
- We share a commitment to open communications and dialogue.
- We are guided by the needs of the people, nation and world.
- We strive for excellence.

Vision

The Partnership functions in an environment of harmony and trust and creates alliances around mutual issues and opportunities. These alliances create and expand mutual programs, projects and activities to better serve the public.

Definitions

Partners: Partners currently refer to the cooperative extension system, agricultural experiment stations, academic programs, international programs and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES).

Alliance: An alliance exists when two or more Partners and/or other entities develop a mutually agreed upon written program or project based on a priority issue which is intended to result in joint outcomes. Guidelines for forming such an alliance include:

- The terms of the alliance are negotiated at the beginning of the relationship and may be renegotiated at any time.
- The terms of the alliance are written and signed by all members.
- Each member clearly defines their roles and responsibilities.
- The area of joint work is clearly defined within the mission of each member and each member's mission is respected.
- Each member may have other program priorities that do not involve the alliance members and alliances may be formed that do not involve other Partners.
- Each member contributes resources and share in resources resulting from the alliance.
- Members of the alliance maintain their individual identity and name.
- Credit for outcomes is shared and jointly recognized.
- Outcomes are evaluated regularly by the alliance members for continuous improvement.
- The alliance practices the functions and principles identified above for the Partnership.

Expected outcomes of an alliance include:

- enhancing each member's capacity
- achieving each member's mission in agreed upon and defined areas
- increasing access to resources around priority issues
- demonstrating added value to the public.

References on Alliances

Austin, James E. 2000. The Collaboration Challenge, How Non-profits and Businesses Succeed Through Strategic Alliances. Jossey-Boss Publishers, San Francisco, CA.

Sagawa, Shirley and Eli Segal. 2000. Common Interest, Common Good, Creating Value Through Business and Social Sector Partnerships. Harvard Business School Press, Boston, MA.

Recommendations

The JPC strongly endorses the appointment of a continuing Partnership team as recommended by the ad-hoc Partnership Task Force.

This team should be charged with implementing the Partnership vision through the formation of alliances as described in this document.

This team should also be charged with facilitating appropriate Partnership-level actions as recommended in the *Implementation Plan for Recommendations in the Strategies for Enhanced Engagement Report* prepared by JPC and accepted by ESCOP and ECOP in August, 2001.

Joint Initiative Process

The following principles should apply in the formation of alliances which result in joint national initiatives among the Partners, including cooperative extension, agricultural experiment stations, academic programs, international programs and CSREES. Other agencies or organizations should be included when the expected outcomes are mutually beneficial to all members.

The following objectives and purposes were identified for guidance in establishing joint initiatives:

- Coordination and synchronization of the Partners' efforts when appropriate.
- Provide an alternative process to develop joint initiatives that is compatible with, and in addition to, current individual initiative processes
- Facilitate joint initiative development with other agencies and organizations
- Encourage alliances and mutual action in areas of common interest
- Increase and enhance outputs and impacts of national initiatives
- Broaden and diversify potential funding sources
- Encourage a future orientation and focus for joint efforts
- Increase integration of programs to better serve clientele and the public interest
- Gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all Partners

The following questions should all be answered positively by all Partners involved to move an initiative forward as a joint initiative.

1. Will national interests or stakeholder interests be better served if the initiative is a joint effort?
2. Does the issue benefit from effort and expertise of multiple Partners, although the input and output may not be equal and may change over time?
3. Is the issue a high priority for all Partners involved?
4. Are all Partners involved willing to commit an appropriate level of their resources for implementation?

If a "fast-track" process for a joint initiative is justified due to a crisis situation, immediate funding opportunity, or some other circumstance, leadership of the Partners involved should determine the best course of action. The basic steps for a deliberate, long-term process to develop a joint national initiative are the following.

A proposal for a joint initiative originates from anywhere within or outside the Partnership, particularly from stakeholders and/or faculty, and is presented to one or more of the Partners' leadership.

Each interested Partner's leadership requests their planning group to review the proposal and recommend whether or not a joint initiative is appropriate.

All Partners deciding to participate in the joint initiative development jointly appoints an Initiative Development Task Force with appropriate representation.

This Development Task Force:

- Describes the current state of the science and/or educational effort, including Partners' capabilities.
- Identifies knowledge, expertise and capability gaps and associated needs.

- Describes potential outcomes and impacts and the advantages of pursuing a joint initiative.
 - Sets long-range goals and objectives.
 - Seeks stakeholder review.
 - The Task Force reports back to the various Partners, who will decide whether or not to continue.
 - Each Partner that decides to participate in the joint initiative implementation jointly appoints an Initiative Implementation Task Force with appropriate representation.
 - This Implementation Task Force develops an implementation action plan and facilitates enhancing the various Partners' local effort within the joint initiative area.
 - The Partners that decide to participate in the joint initiative implementation also charge their budget groups to work together to develop appropriate budget requests based on the gap analysis done by the Development Task Force.
 - Leadership of each Partner involved with the joint initiative jointly monitors it's progress, evaluates it's success, and makes adjustments as necessary.
-

**WAAESD Statement
September 2005**

The core values serve as an integral part of the identity and culture of an organization. As background, a request was sent to all Directors asking to list “Values”, or those Principles, Standards, Morals Ethics and/or Ideals, which are important to them as individuals and central to the operation of an experiment station.

- We value-
 - Cutting edge, peer reviewed, research, discovery and learning
 - Honesty and Integrity
 - Unbiased, science-based information
 - Independent, creative thought
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Active student participation
 - Partnerships and collaborative relationships

- Mission Statement
 - The WAAESD contributes knowledge to address pressing needs in agriculture, food and related sciences in the Western Region

- Vision
 - The WAAESD will facilitate research excellence in member States, the Region and Nation that is responsive to stakeholders needs

- Operational Statement

- We operate in a open, collaborative manner with each other, with research partners, with Cooperative Extension, and with Academic Programs

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 18.2: The Partnership Working Group, Partnership Principles

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

Background:

Following the excellent work of the JPC the Partnership Working Group (PWG) was formed in July 2002 with representatives of all parts of the system. Originally co-chaired by Pat Jensen, Gary Cunningham and Mike Harrington, the group adopted a set of principles by which the partnership should work. Unfortunately the work of the PWG seemed to stall after Gary Cunningham's retirement, Mike Harrington moving aside for a new ED and the effort to make a large portion of Hatch funds competitive in 2006.

Partnership Principles, November 2003

- Open, candid communication is required to make this partnership work.
- All partners agree to be good team players and work for the good of the whole.
- Trust will be developed through action - by each partner doing what it says it will do.
- We commit to sending and receiving information and knowledge from each other.
- We agree to include whoever is important in what we are doing.
- We agree to make decisions in a timely manner.
- We will look for ways to get things done, not reasons why things cannot be done.
- We acknowledge and respect the cultural differences between and among all partners:
 - AES, CES and CSREES
 - 1862's, 1890's and 1994's
 - States and territories
- We acknowledge the contributions of all partners to the growth and development of the land grant system.
- Staying connected and committed to the partnership regardless of the funding.
- We will represent the interests of all partners when they are not at the table

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 19.0: Time and Effort Reporting

Presenter: Greg Wiecko

In Meeting Discussion:

At Guam, accountants want time and effort reporting. For a single grant, you may report every six months. If you are on more than one grant, you must report every two weeks, sometimes daily.

Several schools do one per semester, one for the summer. AK breaks down timesheets by grant. Timesheets are there to back up the reporting. Dave reported that their new electronic system may be required to check into the system every two weeks. Other schools do it quarterly or once a month.

NIFA rep was not aware of any rules about this.

This applies to all federal grants, not just NIFA.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 19.1: Switching from 12 month vs. 9 month faculty employees

Presenter: Greg Wiecko

In Meeting Discussion:

Is it legal to switch appointment from 12 to 9 month and expect the AES director to pick up the three months.

At UNR, this change caused a lot of problems, but there were no lawsuits. The new system was phased in over 2 years to give faculty time to write grants, etc. They also had to deal with merit, which was eventually spread out over the new 10-month system.

Rules at different institutions probably differ a little bit.

It is okay to use Hatch money on summer salaries.

At UC-Berkley, switched in 1993 so that new hires were given 9-month appointments. New hires got a start-up package that included summer salary. After that, they were expected to find their own.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 20.0: Problems Getting Hatch and McIntire Stennis Project Approvals, etc. – Discussion Panel

Presenters: Bret Hess, H. M. Harrington

In Meeting Discussion:

Don Snyder has had several problems getting projects approved. Examples include:

- A project that was rejected by the NPL after the start of the year for being the same as the previous project, even though the objectives are clearly different. They went back and forth several times and eventually the PI was forced to write a new proposal because the NPL would not approve it.
- Don had been granting 1-year no cost extensions on these projects. At some point they got a notice about an extension that would be disallowed because the law had changed. In an email from the NPL suggests that you can now only have 4+1, effective October 1, 2011.
 - There has been talk about creating a joint Hatch/McIntire Stennis manual, but the status of this is unknown.
 - ***M. Harrington will write a letter to Meryl to clarify this.***
 - A letter at UAF verifies—5 years MAX. No additional extensions (to 6 years).
 - NIFA posted an update on their web site to this effect:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/pp_formula_projects.html
- A project was submitted by one of their PIs and it came back from the NPL with some criticisms, which were addressed. Several months later, they finally got a response. Point being, that it took many months.

Bret Hess has also had some problems:

- A McIntire-Stennis project was deferred. 6 weeks with no response. Bret directed the PI to change an objective and resubmit. There was no response but the project was approved.
- Three instances where NPLs are overstepping their bounds, overriding decisions by the IRB Board and the IACUC board. Bret doesn't submit projects until he's obtained. NPL deferred one project that used animal tissues, not animals. On another, blood collected for the producer for disease tests, and another investigator was going to use the results. The NPL deferred. In both cases, Bret had to go back to the NPL and explain why the project was exempt from IACUC. In the second case, the PI got IACUC approval and resubmitted. On that one, they lost the project jacket (i.e., the proposal). This project is still deferred because they cannot find the project jacket.
- A multistate project that involved a survey of human subjects, part of which was about diet. IRB gave it an exemption. Each institution on this multistate project was giving a similar survey. The project was deferred because other states had asked for IRB approval, and the NPL felt that Wyoming's should have too—telling IRB that they needed to re-review the project. The IRB refused to re-review. At that point, the NPL acquiesced and approved the project.

CSU had a faculty member that wanted to join an existing, 3-year old multistate project. The response was that the member could join, but that an EIS was required. Decided to simply submit the faculty member as part of a new project. CSU also was recently asked for reports that were submitted back in December. The staff had a nice email string and Lee passed that on to Meryl. B. CSU Extension got 5 emails in one day for a report that was sent several months prior.

WA State has had few problems.

Are basic statistics needed? ***Sarah will conduct a survey on the following:***

- ***Deferred out of the number submitted***
- ***Average length of time for approval***
- ***Other problems***

If problems are communicated to Meryl, Directors are asked to cc Sarah who will keep a database of issues.

The business officers have also expressed concern over lack of response, timeliness, etc. Meryl B. has said he wants to hear about these issues ASAP.

Bret attended the last Western Administrative Officers meeting and the consensus was that these problems are wide-spread. H. Sykes explained that Andrea Brennan said they were creating a new manual, one that would cover all of the general administrative rules, and then have the unique portions for Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, Smith-Lever, as addendums. In May 2011, they didn't have a contract out to produce these materials.

UAF Letter

From: Deb Segla <dlsegla@alaska.edu>
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 9:18 AM
Subject: USDA Formula funded Policy on Project Deadlines
To:
Cc: Tobi Campanella <tccampanella@alaska.edu>, Carol Lewis <celewis@alaska.edu>

To all Faculty with Hatch or McIntire-Stennis funded projects:

At the last USDA National Convention we were instructed that Hatch and McIntire-Stennis projects are supposed to run a total of 5 years (4 years with a 1 year no-cost extension instead of the current practice of 5 years with a 1 year no-cost extension.) We are in the process of correcting this as projects reach their end dates by not offering the 1 year no cost extension until we are in compliance. If you were granted a project that is less than 4 years you will not be effected. I will communicate by email with your current termination date. If you have questions please contact me.

Deb

Deb Segla
Grant and Property Coordinator
302 O'Neill Bldg.
P.O. Box 757200
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7200
907.474.5550
907.474-6184 fax

Action Taken: Directors to send information to Sarah Lupis on: 1) number of Hatch, McIntyre-Stennis, and Multistate projects 2) average length of time for approval, and 3) other problems. The WDO will start a database to track issues, evaluate scope of problems. If problems are communicated to NIFA, Directors are asked to cc Sarah to help keep track of issues.

Agenda Item 21.0: WAAESD Reconvenes/Call to Order

Presenter: Barbara Allen-Diaz

Background:

Barbara Allen-Diaz called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 22.0: ED Annual Report

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

Background:

ANNUAL REPORT

**H. Michael Harrington
Executive Director, WAAESD**

January 1 to December 31, 2011

Contents

I. NARRATIVE SELF ASSESSMENT	2
II. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2011	3
III. DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2012	5
IV. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	6
WAAESD	6
Western Academic Program Directors	7
V. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES	7
ESCOP	7
VI. SUMMARY OF TRAVEL	10
VII. STATE VISITS:.....	11

I. NARRATIVE SELF ASSESSMENT

Overall, I am pleased with progress made on the 2011 objectives and will highlight several items below.

Regional Activities

Our regional meetings continue to improve with the addition of stimulating discussions on timely issues that are relevant to the Directors. The 2011 joint meeting with Extension was no exception.

Working with Lyla Houglum, Don Albrecht, Mike Kahn and I have worked to identify five areas of significant opportunity. One of these (Wind Energy) has been converted into a development committee on NIMSS. Progress on a western water meeting has been excellent with a meeting held at the same time as the Western Region Joint Summer Meetings in July 2011. A continuing challenge is to coordinate the joint summer meeting schedule to allow sufficient time for regional associations to conduct their business. To this end we have completed a best practices virtual notebook to assist hosting institutions with planning which is located on our website

Our regional portfolio and associated activities appear to be running smoothly as we implement that single submission deadline (Jan. 15) for multistate project. We continue to work to assure accountability in the multistate program including timely submission of annual reports and the collection of impact statements. I assumed the role of *ex officio* leadership for the Multistate Review Committee rather than have Director's serve a one year term as the chair. I continue to work with the Extension and Academic Program directors to encourage regional collaboration where appropriate. We discovered a problem in the NIMSS relative to participation in projects not reflecting actual commitments. This occurred because expired projects were also included in the tally.

New administrative assistant: In working with the Executive Committee, I developed a new position description justifying designation the new Assistant to the Director as an exempt administrative professional position (same and the ED) which was approved by CSU Personnel. We also developed a set of minimum qualifications that would facilitate finding a highly qualified replacement. This will allow the association to assess performance and provide salary increases in the same manner as the Executive Director. Sarah Lupis, who comes to us with excellent qualifications, commenced work on December 6, 2011.

National Activities

With Lee Sommers serving as ESCOOP Chair, I provide support as the Executive Vice Chair. Activities included logistics and planning for the ESS Annual Meeting in Estes Park and the ESCOP meeting in conjunction with the APLU Annual Meeting. I maintain ESCOP communications and facilitate monthly Chair's Advisory Committee conference calls.

I also serve as the vice chair of the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee which develops budget priorities for the Experiment Station Section. Through this responsibility, I have developed a trusted working relationship with members of the Cornerstone team. I have recently joined the System Communications and Marketing Committee to assist with this important activity. I also serve on the BAC as well as the new Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) which is working the next Farm Bill.

II. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

The following table describes the status of many activities described in the following narrative.

Regional Activities

Activity	Status
Provide support to the Association Chair, the Executive Committee, and MRC	Continuing
Assist with meeting planning and logistics for WAAESD, WAPD and W-AHS	Continuing
Update regional MRC Guidelines as appropriate	Updates as needed
Assure smooth transition of multistate program from current biannual submission practice to a single annual submission date	We will see – this is the first year!!
Facilitate the regional portfolio and assist with the continued integration of regional activities	Continuing
Facilitate adoption/endorsement of the Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West (CREW).	CREW steering committee held a meeting in Seattle of three interest groups: Wind energy, weatherization/buildings efficiency and impacts of energy development on rural communities
Improve website including addition of short summaries of all multistate projects.	Some progress, recommend termination
Implement collection of impact statements for multistate projects in their final year.	Continuing, working with Ms. Diane Clarke to edit develop/edit statements.
Assist with the continued integration of regional activities.	Continuing
Assist with the identification of emerging opportunities/needs in the region.	Continuing
Assist with planning for the Western Region NIFA Grants Workshop	NIFA decided against regional workshops in favor of hold two events in the DC area.
Assist with the collection and analysis of data relative to the President's proposed 2012 budget and to other issues of interest to the WAAESD	Completed
Assist with Western Region Teaching Symposium planning	Continuing
Work with the WEDA as appropriate	Continuing, excellent progress
AA Responsibilities, W2122 and W2190	Continuing
Fully develop liaison relationship with the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture	No progress
Initiate contact with Western Governors' Association, Western NACO, Western Council of State Governments	Continuing
Develop a western water meeting to better	2011 Universities Council on Water Resources

align multistate efforts with stakeholder needs	meeting in Boulder CO held in July. Attended by representatives of wW190 and regional water quality groups
Promote relevant interactions with other EDs and regions based on shared priorities	Continuing, good progress
Complete state visits as schedules permit.	Visited Guam, Wyoming and Oregon
Website modifications	New website deployed, impact statements rotate on home page
Continue regional committee representation including W-SARE, PBAG, W-IPMC	Continuing
Western Rural Development Center Board of Directors.	Continuing

National Activities

Activity	Status
Provide support to Lee Sommers during his tenure as ESCOP Chair	Ongoing
As Executive Vice Chair provide support for the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee and to Steve Slack, the current Chair	Ongoing
Serve on Communications and Marketing Committee	Continuing
Science Roadmap	Complete
Provide support to ESCOP based on committee assignments and special tasks.	Continuing
Promote relevant interactions with NIFA leadership	Excellent progress, Continuing
Serve on new Committee on Legislation and Policy (Farm Bill)	Continuing
Promote relevant interactions with other EDs and regions based on shared priorities	Continuing
Continue to meet and develop relationships with NIFA, ARS, APHIS staff and others	Continuing

III. DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2012

Regional:

- Provide support to the Association Chairs, the Executive Committee, and MRC
- Update regional MRC Guidelines as appropriate
- Assure smooth transition of multistate program to a single annual submission date
- Assist with meeting planning and logistics for WAAESD, WAPD, W-AHS and summer meeting hosts.
- Continue to update best practices virtual notebook for joint summer meetings
- Facilitate the regional portfolio and assist with the continued prioritization and integration of regional activities.
- Continue collection of impact statements for multistate projects as needed and required.
- With Sarah develop plans for communicating the successes and impacts of regional partners.
- Improve website including addition of short summaries of all multistate projects.
- Assist with the collection and analysis of data relative to the impending 2011 and President's proposed 2012 budgets and to other issues of interest to the WAAESD.
- Continue to work on relationship with the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
- Continue to nurture relationship with Western Governors' Association.
- Facilitate Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West (CREW) activities.
- Continue to work with partners to develop plans for western water meeting in 2011.
- Continue committee representation.
- Assist WAPD as appropriate and with Western Region Teaching Symposium planning as needed.
- Continue long range planning efforts.
- Work with the WEDA and Lyla Houglum as appropriate.
- Continue state visits as schedules permits, especially American Samoa.

National Activities

- Provide support to Lee Sommers during his tenure as ESCOP Chair
- Provide support for the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee and to Steve Slack Chair; serve as Executive Vice Chair of the committee.
- Serve of Budget and Advocacy Committee
- Serve on Committee of Legislation and Policy (Farm Bill)
- Assist with the System Communications and Marketing Committee activities
- Provide support to ESCOP special tasks.
- Promote relevant interactions with NIFA leadership
- Serve of Extension 406 futuring committee
- Work with Regional IPM Center stakeholders to maintain program
- Promote relevant interactions with other EDs and regions based on shared priorities.
- Continue to meet and develop relationships with ARS, APHIS staff and others.
- Transition to providing logistical and other support for the NRSP Review Committee

IV. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WAAESD

Support to the Chair and Organization

- **Annual Report and Evaluation:** Submitted annual report for the calendar year 2010 to the chairs of the WAAESD and WAPD. Worked with Carol Lewis and Jeff Jacobsen to facilitate the evaluation process.
- **Executive Committee:** Coordinate monthly conference calls to address immediate business of the association.

Redefinition of Administrative Assistant Position and hiring new Assistant to the Director

Harriet Sykes has served as the administrative analyst for the association for some 26 years within the Colorado state classified employee system. This meant that she was at the top of the salary range for the particular employment class which to a certain extent hampered the Association's ability to fairly provide raises.

In working with the Executive Committee, I developed a new position description designation the new Assistant to the Director as an exempt administrative professional position (same and the ED) which was approved by CSU Personnel. We also developed a set of minimum qualifications that would facilitate finding a highly qualified replacement. This will allow the association to assess performance and provide salary increases in the same manner as the Executive Director.

An extensive search was conducted with 16 applicants meeting the minimum qualifications. The top three were interviewed by a committee comprised of Lee Sommers, Jan Irons, Bret Hess, Jeff Jacobsen, Joni Rippee (representing Barbara Allen Diaz) and Mike Harrington. Ms. Sarah Lupis was selected. She began work in the office on December 6.

Meeting Support and Logistics

- **Spring Meeting:** With Jeff Jacobsen, Lyla Houglum, Jon Boren and the Executive Committee developed the agendas and arrangements for the March meeting.
- **Joint Summer Meeting:** Worked with Chair and Executive Committee to finalize WAAESD agenda. Worked with Sylvia Yuen, Lyla Houglum, and others to develop overall agenda as well as the agenda for combined session.
- **Fall Meeting:** Worked with Executive Council to develop the WAAESD meeting agenda.

Multistate Program Impact statements: Continue to work with Ms Diane Clarke to develop/edit impact statements for western region multistate projects. There five of eight new statements on the website at this time. Three statements are pending

Regional Survey Regarding Federal Capacity/State Fund Allocations: Worked with Bret Hess, David Thompson and Jeff Jacobsen to develop a survey on the use of capacity funds. Deployed survey and summarized results responses for discussion at the summer meeting.

Committee Activities

- **Western SARE Administrative Council:** I serve as the Western Directors' representative on this group and serve as a member of the Executive Council.
 - Participated in the Technical Review Panel meeting in Salt Lake City, January 19-20; served as a principal/secondary reviewer for six Chapter 1 Research and Education grant proposals and also reviewed all proposals submitted.

- Attended the Administrative Council meeting, Mar 1-3 in Salt Lake City during which funding decisions were made.
 - Reviewed applications and made recommendations for 16 graduate student fellowship awards.
 - Attended Council meeting in Lake Tahoe August 16-19 where proposals were selected for further development.
 - Working with subcommittees to develop a modified RFA that will facilitate long term systems research and to develop evaluation plan.
- **Western Rural Development Center Board:** I represent the Western Directors' representative on this activity. Serve as the recruiting chairman responsible to identifying new board members.
 - **Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West: CREW:** The CREW Executive Committee brought the focus back to the original intent of the CREW, facilitating regional collaborations. Worked with Don Albrecht, Mike Kahn, Lyla Houglum, and others to hold a planning meeting Seattle aimed at developing collaborations in Wind Energy, Weatherization and Economic Impacts of Energy Development in rural communities. Detailed report is attached. A meeting of workgroup was held in in Seattle June 2-3.
 - **Southern Rockies LCC:** Represented the Association at the initial meeting of this group. Serving on the Science Committee and will participate in on the Steering Committee meeting as time permits.

Multistate Program

- **Excellence in Multistate Research Awards Program:** Facilitated collection and review of nominations and forwarded Western Region winner to the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee.
- **Impact statements:** Worked with Ms. Diane Clarke to develop/edit impact statements for western region multistate projects. There are 5 of the eight statements are up on our website at this time.

ARS - Northern Plains Area New Staff Workshop Feb 1-2

- Invited participant at the 2011 new research staff workshop in Ft Collins. Provided a session on Writing Effect Objective Statements and use of the Logic Model.

State Visit

- Colorado: August 15-17, after live in CO for 10 years in this job I was able to participate in a college tour which included North Park and the Western Slope.

Western Academic Program Directors

- **FY 2011 budget approval:** Worked with Charles Boyer to facilitate budget approval
- **Joint summer meeting:** Worked with Nancy Irlbeck to facilitate joint discussion with WAAESD at summer meeting.

V. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ESCOP

Support to ESCOP Chair: Lee Sommers will become ESCOP Chair at the end of the meeting in ESTES Park. I provide support as the Executive Vice Chair. I maintain ESCOP communications and facilitate monthly Chair's Advisory Committee conference calls.

ESS Annual Meeting: Worked with Lee Sommers and CSU Conference Services to develop budget, menus and finalize arrangements for the Annual ESS Meeting and Workshop in Estes Park at the Stanley Hotel.

Worked with the other EDs to develop the all meeting agendas and the ESS workshop agenda. Provided communications to the ESS.

Committee Activities

- **Chairs Advisory Committee:** Facilitate and participate in monthly conference calls.
- **ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee:** Support Chairman Steve Slack (Ohio State) as the Executive Vice Chair on this important committee. Summarized data from the national survey on budget priorities for the FY 2012 budget cycle; sought B&L Committee input on the 2012 budget proposal and provided a report to ESCOP. Organize monthly conference calls, produce meeting notes and develop agenda briefs for Steve Slack.
 - **2012 Budget Priorities:** Developed survey on priorities for the 2012 budget cycle.
 - **Science Roadmap Priorities Survey:** Developed an on line survey that prioritized Director's priorities within the Science Roadmap and reported results at the ESS meeting.
 - **BAC meeting:** Represented the B&L Committee at the BAC meeting in Boston
 - Attended BAC meetings: Washington DC, Feb. 9-10 Boston MA, July, 17, San Francisco Nov 12
- **APLU - BAC one-pagers:** Worked with Cornerstone to collect and finalize all one-pagers for 2011.
- **Committee on Legislation and Policy -** Support Steve Pueppke (Michigan State) who represents ESCOP on this committee and provide some assistance to Wendy Wintersteen who chairs the CPL. Collected and refined all inputs from the ESS for the next farm bill. Developed initial ESS positions based on section survey. Participated several conference calls and developed agenda briefs for Steve Pueppke.
 - **2012 Farm Bill Priorities:** Developed on line survey to obtain input, summarized results which were communicated to the B&L Committee, the Directors and to the Committee of Legislation and Policy
 - Attended committee meetings on Feb 8-9, Sept 6-8 in Washington DC
- **USDA Planning and Accountability Workshop:** Some 60 representatives from the LGU System and 2 dozen NIFA NPLs attended and worked to develop outcomes and indicators for the NIFA POW process. Served as the group facilitator responsible for Global Food Security and Hunger. Participated in a number of conference calls to develop agenda and to analyze workshop results.
- **Science Roadmap – REE Action Plan Crosswalk:** Developed spreadsheets to facilitate comparisons of the ESCOP Science Roadmap and the REE Action Plan as part of the system's response to Cathy Woteki's request for comments.

Extension 406 Task Force

Participated on a committee that developed recommendations as to how several integrated programs, e.g. Regional IPM and Rural Development, Water Quality, etc. should be positioned in budget for simplification and protection from possible future cuts.

Spending of Formula Funds

At the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference in Anchorage, I became aware of a problem related to how formula funds are being spent. The specific issue: During an internal audit, at particular institution certain charges were disallowed or recommended to be charged to state accounts rather than formula funds. Included were salaries of the Director Associate and Assistant Directors as well as support staff. The underlying rationale was that formula funds are now administered as grants and overhead cannot be charged to "formula grants". This issue arose due to the change in how formula funds are distributed – the switch in the distribution of formula funds via Payment Management System to formula grants via grants.gov and Fast Lane

I had a conference call with USDA –NIFA Policy and Oversight folks to discuss. It turns out that they are aware of this problem and will be issuing clarifying guidance.

REE Action Plan Fly-in Minneapolis: Participated in the national fly-in listening session in the REE Action Plan

Presentations

- **National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference, Anchorage, AK** Invited presentation:
 - History of the Land Grant Movement
- **Regional IPM Center Directors Annual Meeting, Washington DC.** Invited presentation
 - Future Funding of Regional IPM Centers

Winning Teams, Winning Grants Workshops

Arlen Leholm, Robin Shepard and I are collaborating to offer workshop aimed at improving team success in seeking competitive grants. The elements of the workshop include building High Performing Teams, Emotional Intelligence, Multifunctional Team, funding sources and keys factors leading to successful grant proposals. The workshop has been offered twice as below with excellent marks in the post workshop evaluation.

- University of Alaska Fairbanks, (44 attendees) Nov 4-5, Fairbanks
- Southern Region Teams Workshop, (60 attendees) Dec 13-14, Washington DC

Plans for 2012 include additional workshops for the NE NC and Southern regions.

VI. SUMMARY OF TRAVEL

Jan. 19-21: W-SARE Technical Review Panel meeting Salt Lake City UT

Jan 30-31 National Water Quality Meeting, Washington DC

Feb. 8-9: Committee on Legislation and Policy meeting, Washington DC

Feb. 8-10: Budget and Advocacy Committee meeting, Washington DC

Feb. 21-24 USDA Planning and Accountability Workshop, New Orleans, LA

Feb. 27-28: Washington DC

- AHS-CARET meeting
- ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee meeting
- ESCOP meeting

Mar. 1-3: W-SARE Advisory Council meeting Salt Lake City UT

Mar. 27-31: Albuquerque, NM

- WAAESD/WEDA/WPLC joint meeting
- MRC meeting
- W-Sun Grant Center Board Meeting

April 5-6: Southern Rockies LCC, Salt Lake

April 18-20: NMCC Meeting, Washington DC

May 22-26: National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference, Anchorage, AK

June 7-9: REE Action Plan Listening Session Fly in, Minneapolis, MN

June 9-10: CREW Meeting, Seattle, WA

July 8-14: Western Region Joint Summer meeting Honolulu

July 9: ADAP/WERA-1004 annual meeting

July 17-22: Joint COPS, Boston MA

- Policy Board of Directors meeting
- Budget and Advocacy Committee meeting
- ESCOP meeting

Aug 1-5: W-SARE Administrative Council Meeting, Lake Tahoe. NV

Aug 15-17: Western CO tour with CSU College of Agriculture

Sept 6-8: Committee on Legislation and Policy meeting Washington DC

Sept 26-28: ESS Annual Meeting Estes Park CO

- WAAESD fall meeting
- ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop

Oct 3-4 IMP Centers Annual Meeting, Washington DC

Oct 10-12 NMCC meeting Indianapolis IN

Oct 13-14 W-2122 Committee meeting Calistoga CA

Nov 3-6: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Winning Teams Winning Grants Workshop

Nov. 11-15: APLU Annual Meeting

- BAC meeting
- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting

Dec 12-14: Winning Team Winning Grants. Southern Region Teams Workshop, Washington DC

VII. STATE VISITS:

X	Alaska	X	Montana
	American Samoa	X	Nevada
X	Arizona	X	New Mexico
X	California (state offices), Riverside, Davis	X	Northern Marianas
X	Colorado	X	Oregon
X	Guam	X	Utah
X	Hawaii	X	Washington
X	Idaho	X	Wyoming
X	Micronesia		



Arlen Leholm, Robin Shepard and Mike Harrington

The workshop is designed to assist teams in attaining higher levels of performance and to enhance the probability of successfully obtaining funding to support the teams activities. These objectives will be accomplished via a series of interactive presentations case studies and diagnostic activities that are designed to facilitate deeper understanding of how teams work, how to effectively form teams and how to frame cogent grant proposals that result in funding.

A call for participants will be issued via directors with a target of attracting those working in or interested in forming teams.

Although acceptance into the workshop based on preferences for teams, this will not preclude individual investigators from participation. However, all participants are expected to be fully engaged with the workshop and the homework exercises.

Prior to the workshop, all participants will receive a CD with the Winning Teams and Winning Grants Manual which includes a wealth of additional background information and all presentations, as well a copy of Emotional Intelligence 2.0.

Pre- workshop activities and homework

- Identify team members.
- Identify compelling reasons for collaboration and the need for contributions for multiple participants.
- Provide a summary of the broad issue.
- Provide tentative objectives.
- Read *Emotional Intelligence 2.0* and take online assessment.

Workshop Duration 1.5 Days, **Enrollment limit:** 75 participants

General Curriculum Outline:

Session I

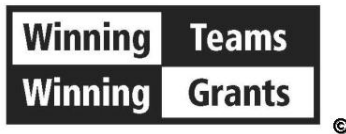
- a. Introductions, Objectives and Why Teams and Collaborations
- b. The Art of Collaboration – Developing High Performing Teams
- c. The Role of Emotional Intelligence -- Review Emotional Intelligence 2.0
- d. Project Management- Best Management Practices
- e. A Framework for Collaboration – applied exercise with case situation. Impact of organizational and team variables and helpful techniques and tools for success.

Session II

- a. Opportunities for Integrated Teams Proposals
- b. Team Planning – developing goals and use the logic model
- c. Part 1 – The Components to Writing Winning Grants (Finding Funding)
- d. Part 2 – The Components to Writing Winning Grants (Key Elements of Proposals)

Session III

- a. Team Diagnostics (Feedback on the goals/objectives submitted pre-workshop)
- b. Revisiting and Recapping the Importance of Teams
- c. Intellectual Property and Ethics
- d. Part 3 – The Components to Writing Winning Grants (Panel Dynamics and Avoiding Pitfalls)]



Presented by Arlen Leholm, Robin Shepard and Mike Harrington
December 13 – 14
Embassy Suites, Crystal City, VA

DAY ONE – Tuesday, December 13

- 6:30 am** Breakfast (complementary full breakfast in atrium)
- 7:45 am** Welcome and Workshop Goals – Ron Brown and Eric Young
- 7:50 am** Introductions and Objectives for Workshop
- 8:30 am** Why Teams and the Art of Collaboration
- 9:30 am** The Role of Emotional Intelligence
- 10:00 am** Break and Emotional Intelligence Discussions
- 10:20 am** **A Framework for Collaboration**
- What the collaboration is trying to accomplish
 - Best implementation practices
 - Best rules of engagement
 - Project Management Best Practices
- 11:20 pm** Case Situation Analysis and Group Reports
- 12:15 pm** Lunch
- 1:30 pm** **Opportunities for Integrated Team Proposals (Research, Education and Extension)**
- Roles for our mission areas (Research, Education and Extension)
 - How to clarify roles
 - Elements of success within those roles
 - Elements of an effective outreach plan
- 2:15 pm** **Team Planning – Building Integrated Teams**
- Using the Logic Model
 - Joint goals
 - Joint work products
 - Benchmarks and evaluation
 - Logic Model group discussion

(Note: Some of this is based on the pre-training assessment of project descriptions and their objectives)

3:15 pm Break

3:30 pm Show Me the Money!

- Accessing Information on Funding Sources and Planning
- Understanding and Working with Foundations
- Using Grants.gov
- Community of Science – COS
- Matching your idea to those of the Agency or Foundation
- Assessing Institutional Support

4:15 pm Focusing on Key Elements

- The Peer Review Process
- Writing SMART Objectives
- Project Summaries or Abstracts
- Budgets
- Supporting Documentation

5:00 Adjourn for the day, individual consultations

5:30 Reception (complimentary reception in atrium)

Dinner on your own

DAY TWO – Wednesday, December 14

6:30 Breakfast (complimentary full breakfast in atrium)

7:30 Priority Groups Separate Facilitated Discussions - Team Building Exercise

- Increase productivity, nutritional value and local availability of plant and animal food products – Robin Shepard
- Develop new plant and animal production systems, products, and uses to increase economic return and profitability for producers – Mike Harrington
- Develop technologies and processes to improve production and conversion efficiency of regionally-appropriate biomass into biofuels and other bioproducts – Arlen Leholm

8:30 USDA-NIFA National Program Leaders meet with Priority Groups

- Increase productivity, nutritional value and local availability of plant and animal food products
 - Steve Smith - Animal Systems, Food Production & Sustainability
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/AllUnits/staff_view.cfm?record_id=4102
 - Tom Bewick - Plant Systems - Production, Food Production & Sustainability
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/AllUnits/staff_view.cfm?record_id=171
- Develop new plant and animal production systems, products, and uses to increase economic return and profitability for producers
 - Bob Nowierski - Plant Systems - Protection, Food Production & Sustainability
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/AllUnits/staff_view.cfm?record_id=147

- Louie Tupas - Global Climate Change, Bioenergy, Climate, & Environment
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/AllUnits/staff_view.cfm?record_id=307
- Develop technologies and processes to improve production and conversion efficiency of regionally-appropriate biomass into biofuels and other bioproducts
 - Mark Poth – Bioenergy, Bioenergy, Climate, & Environment
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/AllUnits/staff_view.cfm?record_id=364
 - Bill Goldner - Bioenergy, Bioenergy, Climate, & Environment
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/about/AllUnits/staff_view.cfm?record_id=308

10:00 Break and check out

10:20 Team Diagnostics

- Review of objectives and summary statements

11:45 Lunch

1:15 Priority Groups Discussion: Next Steps to Collaboration

2:15 Developing a Personal Strategic Plan and the Ethics of Grant Writing

- Myths Debunked
- Campaigning your Idea
- Responsible Conduct of Research

Common Short Comings in Grant Applications

- The Take Home Message
- The Holy Grail!

2:30 Closing Comments and Evaluation

2:45 Adjourn

THE CONSORTIUM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WEST (CREW)
June 1-2, 2011 Seattle Meeting Report

Created in 2009, The Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West (CREW) serves as a catalyst for multi-state, multi-disciplinary, multi-function collaboration in the West. To date CREW has stimulated the formation of a Development Committee entitled “Wind Energy - Opportunities and Challenges in the Rural West” (WDC022) with 5 participants. In addition, a small grant from the Farm Foundation was obtained, allowing a regional meeting to be held in Seattle June 1-2, 2011. This meeting was attended by 17 people with interests in wind energy, energy efficiency and weatherization, and/or the socio-economic factors of energy workforce development and its impacts in rural communities.

Meeting Goal: To create action oriented multi-state committees by bringing together Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station professionals in the West who are interested in and working on research and community education focused on energy conservation and efficiency, wind energy, and the community socio economic factors related to energy workforce development. Sub-groups plan to develop and/or finalize their applications to create a Western regional development committee and begin drafting an action plan for exploration and implementation.

Outcomes: The three groups met separately to engage in discussions about the individual topic areas but also jointly to discuss items of mutual concern. In addition to enhancing multistate collaboration on energy related matters, other major points of agreement include:

- Energy development in the West will continue to be an important activity;
- CREW needs to recruit pertinent expertise from across the university as participants in these efforts; and,
- A new multistate projects will emerge on energy efficiency in the home and on the farm/ranch, an existing project will be modified to include socio-economic factors of energy development, and a third (wind) will be modified as needed.

Future of Energy Efforts in the West: The group recognized the budget and funding climate and framed its discussions with this in mind. The region wide survey of several years ago suggested the need for state wide energy specialists a need reinforced at this meeting. Additional expertise is sorely needed; simply stated, the topic of renewable energy in its current context is too broad for any single person to master. Alternatively, topic experts with knowledge in one or two specific areas that might cover more than one state would be of great value and help to position us as providers of unbiased, factual information. Budget considerations might favor the development of shared faculty staff across state lines as has been done of other regions.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Wind Energy Group

Three members of the development committee (WDC022) met to discuss future activities. It was agreed that an additional call for participants should be issued targeting folks who are working in wind energy.

Dr. Geiger has a SARE Professional Development Program (PDP grant that has funded training sessions for extension personnel and others in WY and MT. Sarah Hamlin has done several of these events with attendees responding that this information was “just what they needed”. However, most extension agents indicated that they would refer questions to Sarah and the topical expert rather than dealing with them. This finding is consistent with the results obtained in a region-wide survey conducted in 2007-08, which indicated that agents needed access to topical experts who can answer questions.

Current Participants:

Milton Geiger, WY**, Irene Schonle, CO**, Sarah Hamlin, MT**, Thomas K Foulke, WY, David Taylor, WY

Energy Efficiency in the Home and on the Farm/Ranch Group

This group agreed to work together to coordinate efforts for the primary purpose of reducing energy consumption. They will draft a development committee proposal that will tentatively include:

1. Inventory energy conservation and efficiency programs currently available, identify the gaps, and develop a plan to address the gaps.
2. Analyze and utilize effective energy conservation and efficiency educational materials that are already available.
3. Seek human and fiscal resources to provide transformational education and evaluation research that will support the expansion of Extension programs for home owners and farm/ranch owners to reduce their energy use.
4. Form partnerships with industry, state energy offices, and other public and private organizations that are working in this area.
5. Identify Extension's role without duplicating others.
6. Identify the role and process of research, evaluation, and accountability.

Currently interested and attending the June 2011 meeting: Rich Seifert, AK, Ed Martin, AZ, Joe Junker, OR, Tom Karsky, ID, Richard Beard, UT; others: Mike Vogel, MSU Extension Weatherization Center, Jake Fey, WA (or someone from the WSU Extension Energy program)

Socio-Economic Factors of Energy Workforce Development and Impacts in Rural Communities

A number of options were discussed and it was decided to modify a current multistate project WERA1005 - Addressing the Rural Development Concerns of the Rural West by adding additional objectives relating to this topic. Tentative new objectives include:

- Develop procedures for development of budgets of potential renewable energy projects
- Implement procedures to incorporate renewable energy budgets into county or multi-county input-output models
- Develop procedures to analyze potential occupational demands of renewable energy projects.

Currently interested: Don Albrecht, WRDC**, Buddy Borden NV-Extension**, Lisa Gaines, OR, Roger Coupal, WY**, Tom Harris, UNR**, Valerie Barber, AK**

**** Attended the June 2011 meeting**

Day One, Wednesday, June 1, 2011		
8:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Board Room One
8:30 a.m.	CREW Overview	Board Room One
8:45 a.m.	Regional Development Committees	Board Room One
	What are they?	
	How do they work?	
9:15 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings	
	1. Wind Energy	Board Room One
	2. Energy conservation	Board Room Two
	3. Socio-economic	San Juan One
10:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break	
10:15 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
	1. Wind Energy	Board Room One
	2. Energy conservation	Board Room Two
	3. Socio-economic	San Juan One
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	Progress Check	Board Room One
2:00 p.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
3:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break	
3:45 p.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn for the day	
Day Two, Thursday, June 2, 2011		
8:00 a.m.	Progress Check and Questions	Board Room One
8:30 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
9:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break	
10:00 a.m.	Sub-group Meetings (continued)	
11:30 a.m.	Summary of activities and action items	Board Room One
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	

Participants

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	University	Interest area
Don	Albrecht	Director	Utah State University	Socio-economic Factors
Buddy	Borden	Associate Professor	University of NV Cooperative Extension	Socio-economic Factors
Ed	Martin	Associate Director, Programs	University of Arizona	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Irene	Shonle	Gilpin Extension Director	Colorado State University	Wind Energy
Joseph	Junker	Director Energy Efficiency Center	Oregon State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Lyla	Houglum	Director	Oregon State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Mike	Harrington	Director	WAAESD	Energy Efficiency and Conservation. Wind
Mike	Kahn	Associate Director, Agricultural Research Center	Washington State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Wind
Milton	Geiger	Energy Extension Coordinator	University of Wyoming	Wind Energy
Richard	Sefiert	Professor, Extension	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Richard	Beard	Professor	Utah State University	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Roger	Coupal	Professor	University of Wyoming	Socio-economic Factors
Sarah	Hamlen	Community and Energy Associate Specialist	Montana State University	Wind Energy
Tom	Karsky	Professor	University of Idaho	Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Tom	Harris	Professor and Director	University of Nevada, Reno	Socio-economic Factors
Valerie	Barber	Research Professor and CES Forestry Specialist	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Socio-economic Factors

Action Requested: For information

**Executive Director Report
H. Michael Harrington
January – March, 2011**

I. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WAAESD

Support to the Chair and Organization

- **Annual Report and Evaluation:** Submitted annual report for the calendar year 2011 to the chairs of the WAAESD and WAPD. Worked with Barbara Allen-Diaz and Jeff Jacobsen to facilitate the evaluation process.

Meeting Support and Logistics

- **Spring Meeting:** With California staff and the Executive Committee developed the agendas and arrangements for the March meeting.

Committee Activities

- **Western SARE Administrative Council:** I serve as the Western Directors' representative on this group served as a principal/secondary reviewer for six Chapter 1 Research and Education grant proposals and also reviewed all proposals submitted. Attended the Administrative Council meeting, Mar 5-8 in Salt Lake City during which funding decisions were made. Serve on W-SARE Executive Council and as chair elect of the Executive Committee. An upcoming issue will be transition to a new regional coordinator when Phil Rasmussen retires in 3 years.
- **Western Rural Development Center Board of Directors:** I serve as one of three WAAESD representatives on this group and chair the membership committee. Both Rang Narayanan and Sonny Ramaswamy have left the board so 2 replacements are needed from the WAAESD.
- **Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Consortium:** Serving on the Science Committee and will participate in on the Steering Committee meetings as time permits. Worked Science Committee to refine a listing of science needs and attended committee meetings in Denver to finalize needs. The Steering Committee approved needs will be the subject of future RFAs.

New Biofuels opportunity with Agrisoma

Agrisoma is a Canadian company with conventional and biotech improved varieties of Brassica carinata. I have been working with Arlen Leholm to facilitate field trials of B. carinata in the Dakotas, Montana and possibly Hawaii. B. carinata is a high yielding oil seed (>50% by weight) and has larger seeds (~ 3-5x larger than B. camelina) that can be harvested by conventional means. The primary oil is C-22 Erucic Acid that can be cleaved to a biodiesel and jet fuel without further modification. The plant is drought

tolerant and can be grown in rocky soils. One other advantage is that there is an apparent yield kick to wheat when caranata is grown in rotation. Trials are planned to commence this spring in several locations in MT, ND and SD. Initial discussions are planned with Hawaii.

II. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ESCOP

Committee Activities

- **Chairs Advisory Committee:** Organize and participate in monthly conference calls.
- **ESCOP Meetings:** In conjunction with Lee Sommers and others, develop agendas for ESCOP meetings.
- **ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee:** Support Chairman Steve Slack (Ohio State) as the Executive vice Chair on this important committee. Summarized data from the national survey on budget priorities for the FY 2012 budget cycle; sought B&L Committee input on the 2012 budget proposal and provided a report to ESCOP. Organize monthly conference calls and produce meeting notes.
- **Budget and Advocacy Committee** - Support Steve Slack on this BAA committee. At the request of Frank Galey BAC Chair, provided leadership for the development of a white paper on the proposed Crop Protection program. Attended BAC meeting in Washington DC, Feb. 9-10.
- **APLU - BAC one-pagers:** Worked with Cornerstone to collect and finalize all one-pagers for 2012. Sarah and I edited the Hatch one pager
- **Science Roadmap** – Completed priorities survey ranking the several action items within each of the seven Challenge areas.
- **NIMSS** - With the separation of the NIMMS from the CRIS system in NRSP-1 the committee proposed to develop impact statements for all projects in the MRF portfolio much as we have done in the West. Sarah and I developed a proposal whereby the WDO would employ a part time writer funded by NRSP-1 who would be responsible for writing impact statements as well as press releases about the projects. All statements would be housed on as PDFs on the NIMSS and provided to each region. Efforts will be made to include statements on the ESCOP webpage and these efforts would be coordinated with the kglobal communications efforts as well. Sarah would provide final oversight. The proposal would provide some \$24,000 for these operations.

Summary of Travel January-March 2012

Jan. 12-13: System Communications Committee meeting with kglobal Washington DC

- Meeting with Meryl Broussard and Lee Sommers

Jan 17-18: Meeting with Agrisoma (Canada) representatives, John Oliver, Don Schenk, Arlen Leholm on B. caranata biofuels efforts in Dakotas, MT and HI, Minneapolis

Jan 25-26: Southern Rockies LLC Science Committee meeting Denver, CO

Feb.15-16: Budget and Advocacy Committee meeting, Washington DC

Feb 20-21: Meeting with NC Sun Grant staff, Agrisoma representatives, John Oliver, Don Schenk, Kent McVay (MT) Arlen Leholm on B. caranata biofuels efforts in Dakotas, MT and HI, Brookings, SD

Feb. 26-27: Washington DC

- AHS-CARET meeting
- ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee meeting
- ESCOP meeting
- Meeting with Meryl Broussard and Lee Sommers
- Meeting with crop protection staff at NIFA

Mar 2: FBI Biosciences Security Workshop, Ft Collins, CO

Mar. 5-8: W-SARE Advisory Council meeting Salt Lake City, UT

Mar. 19-22: Napa, CA

- MRC meeting
- Spring WAAESD Meeting

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 23.0: FY2012-2013 Western Executive Director's Office Budget

Presenters: H. M. Harrington & Sarah Lupis

Background:

FY 2012 – 2013 Tentative Budget (starts 7/1/2012)	
Executive Director—Salary & Benifits ¹	\$230,665
Assist. To the Director—Salary & Benefits ²	\$76,320
Hourly/Contract Work	\$5,000
Montana Accounting Fee	\$3,500
CSU Rent	\$7,800
Office Operating	\$54,250
FY 2012-2013 Total Budget	\$377,535

**Total Assessment Needed By Function for 2012-2013
(based on function % of total budget of \$377,535)**

	AES @ 95%	AP @ 5%
Total	\$358,658	\$18,877
W-106 (Off-Top MRF)	-100,000	
Actual	\$258,658	\$18,877
Total Proposed AES/AP Directors' Assessment		\$277,535

¹Salary of \$184,237 plus CSU current fringe rate of 25.2% (FY13 fringe rate not yet determined).

²Salary of \$60,000 plus CSU current fringe rate of 25.2% (FY13 fringe rate not yet determined)

**Western Director's Office
Detail for Budget/Expenditures**

Description	2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013
	Budget	Actual	Budget	to 1/1/12	Tentative Budget
Executive Director salary	178,871	178,871	178,871	89,436	184,237
Retirement fund	45,075	46,506	45,075	23,522	45,428
CSU Bonus					
Social security					
Medical ins.					
Workman's comp.					
ED Final Payout-2001 Only					
Sub-totals	223,946	225,378	223,946	112,957	230,664
Admin. Analyst salary	67,104	67,104	67,104	37,772	60,000
CSU fringe	18,252	17,380	18,252	9,059	16,320
Sub-totals	85,356	84,484	85,356	46,831	76,320
Hourly/Contract Labor	4,900	270	4,900		4,900
CSU fringe	100		100		100
Sub-totals	5,000	270	5,000		5,000
CSU space rental	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800
Montana Accounting Fee	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Operating Expenses:					
Office supplies	2,500	901	2,500	350	2,500
Copying/printing	200	58	200	34	200
Telephone charges	1,000	740	1,000	382	1,000
Dialcom					
Postage	50	39	50	10	50
Travel-Executive Director	35,000	33,368	35,000	14,169	35,000
Travel-Administrative Analyst	9,000	4,617	10,000	3,918	10,000
Equipment repair/purchase	2,500	2,400	2,500	3,704	2,500
Incidental expense	1,000	744	1,000	737	1,000
Computer supplies/service	2,000	181	2,000	10	2,000
Empl Recruit & Moving costs				1713	
Sub-totals	53,250	43,049	54,250	25,028	54,250
TOTAL EXPENSES	378,852	364,481	379,852	196,116	377,535
Funding Information:					
AES					
Amount from W-106	100,000		100,000		100,000
Total Assessment	271,052		279,852		277,535
Actual Assessment (<i>reflects reduction for CSU rent of \$7,800</i>)	252,109		260,859		269,735
APD					
Assessment	18,943		18,993		18,877

*Requires approval by both AES and AP Directors. AP Directors' assessment is currently 5% of total budget

Action Requested: Approval of FY2012-2013 Budget

Action Taken: The budget was approved, as presented in these minutes and reflects a 3% increase to the ED's salary, as approved in Executive Session.

Agenda Item 24.0: Assistant to Director Plans

Presenter: Sarah Lupis

Background:

Assistant to the Director, WAAESD

Plan of Work for 2012

1. Support the WAAESD and MRC

- Facilitate operations of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and serve as the Recording Secretary of the WAAESD
- Produce minutes of meetings and conference calls
- Maintain the WAAESD web site and continue to improve functionality and usefulness
 - Establish Google Analytics for WAAESD web site and collect baseline data on visitation and use
- Serve as a liaison with the USDA/NIFA and Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and other college of agriculture officials
- Maintain electronic mail lists for various groups
- Develop, maintain, and reconcile WAAESD budget and expenditures
- Create and process financial and travel documents in support WAAESD transactions and activities

2. Facilitate and Expand Use of NIMSS in the Western Region

- Train new administrators, members of the MRC, and others in NIMSS use
- Initiate a regular email newsletter, NIMSS T.I.P.S. (troubleshooting, information-sharing, problem-solving, and solutions), for Administrative Advisors, Directors, and other NIMSS users
- Serve on the National Steering Committee that oversees NIMSS implementation
- Work with other Regional System Administrators to continually improve the performance of NIMSS to meet changing needs
- Facilitate review/evaluation of the NIMSS system and help to implement improvements to enhance functionality and meet changing needs

3. Provide oversight for the Western Region Project Portfolio

- Revise Regional Guidelines to reflect changes in the NIMSS, the National Guidelines, and other policy changes
- Develop financial resources commitments report for Western Region projects
- Maintain and expand information included in the Virtual Notebook for Directors and Administrative Advisors

4. Communications

- Produce periodic narrative summary reports of the WAAESD project portfolio and project impact statements for the web

- Produce “user-friendly” written communications (print & web) for other regions, APLU, USDA, NIFA, Congress, stakeholders, and others at the regional and national levels
- Develop issues and position paper drafts to increase awareness of important western-region issues, positions, policies, and opportunities and/or respond to other regional or national initiatives affecting the MRC and funding
- Maintain regional listservs for AES Directors, Deans of Agriculture, Academic Program Directors, Council of Agricultural Research Extension and Teaching (CARET), and Western Regional Administrative Officers Association, and others as needed
- Establish and maintain a WAAESD presence on social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, etc. in support of regional and national communications and marketing efforts
- Support national-level communications and marketing efforts in coordination with the ESCOP System Communications and Marketing Committee, kglobal, and Cornerstone LLC

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 25.0: Executive Director Evaluation

Presenter: Jeff Jacobson

Background:

The annual evaluation of the Executive Director was conducted in a closed session of the WAAESD.

Action Requested: For information

Agenda Item 26.0: Resolutions

Presenter: Dave Thompson

Background:

WHEREAS Dr. Barbara Allen-Diaz, Vice President, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and Director of Cooperative Extension, Sherry Cooper - UC ANR program support unit, Monica Cooper - UCCE Napa, Morgan Doran – UCCE Solano, David Lewis – UCCE Marin, Ellie Rilla – UCCE Marin, and their colleagues from the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources were organizers and hosts for the Spring meeting of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at the University of California at Davis, from March 19-22, 2012; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz and her colleagues were outstanding hosts, providing such hospitable, and beautiful surroundings in which to meet; and

WHEREAS the Marriott Napa Valley Hotel in Napa, CA provided excellent service, accommodations, delightful meals and break services; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz and her colleagues arranged an excellent program that allowed discussion of issues pertinent the western Region in a cooperative, collegial atmosphere; and

WHEREAS David Kelley, Consulting Plant and Soil Scientist, Mike Anderson, UC Davis Oakville Station, John Roncoroni, Monica Cooper, Napa County Cooperative Extension, and Janice Alexander, Marin County Cooperative Extension gave informative lectures on the Napa valley and the history and mission of the UC Davis Oakville Station; and

WHEREAS Matt Ashby, Vineyard director and Susan French, Wine educator of Robert Mondavi Winery, Mumm Napa Winery, Silverado Vineyard, Ellie Rilla, Marin County Cooperative Extension, and Sue Conley, Cowgirl Creamery introduced the members to the operations of vineyards, dairies, and artisan cheese in the Napa Valley; be it

RESOLVED that the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at its meeting in Napa, California, from March 19-22, 2012, expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Allen-Diaz and her colleagues for their significant contributions to a successful meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Action Requested: Approve resolution to recognize and thank the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources as meeting hosts

Action Taken: Unanimously approved resolution to recognize and thank the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources as meeting hosts