

agInnovation-West Summer Business Meeting

Minutes

July 25th

July 25th, 2024

10:00 am -12:00 pm

Attendance: Leslie Edgar, Scot Hulbert, Ken White, Manoj Nair, Jodie Anderson, Mark McGuire, Darrin Boss, Eric Webster, Frank Camacho, Glenda Humiston, Chris Pritsos, Jay Lillywhite, Shawn Donkin, Lara Pridhodko, Gene Kelly, Bret Hess, Sreekala Bajwa, Mark Schmadick, Jenn Horton (recording secretary).

1. Business Meeting Agenda: Mark Moved, Jodie Second
2. Minutes: Leslie presented minutes. Shawn moved. Gene seconded.
3. **Chair's Interim Actions & Executive Committee Report-**
Charged the Western Region Strategic Communications Committee to assist with development of a tagline for agInnovation- West. Assisted with filling several vacant Administrative Advisor openings. Reinstated Jodie Anderson as one of three representatives from agInnovation- West on the WRDC Board of Directors. Hosted a workshop on personal values with the facilitator for the joint sessions at WRJSM. Supported the Executive Director's participation and agInnovation- West's sponsorship of the NCFAR annual reception on the Hill (see recognition of sponsors pasted below) and upcoming Lunch-N-Learn. Declined to sign on to a letter in support of the Breakthroughs Institute's request of Congress to make investments in agricultural research programs that support agricultural sustainability and resilience including AFRI, FFAR, SARE, OREI, and USDA Climate Hubs. Continue to represent agInnovation- West on the agInnovation Research Strategy Framework working group. Nominated officers and representatives for slots open to agInnovation- West members. Approved the agenda for the 2024 agInnovation- West business meeting agenda and suggested topics for the fall business meeting agenda.
Chris moved, scot seconded. Motion passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report-** Treasurer's Report May 2024
Membership Dues have gone out and we are starting to receive payments. The balance of \$94,644.52 is the total billed income. Event meeting and registrations is a combination of event fees from the NE summer meeting and our Western Summer meeting. The line item of \$60,621.89 will increase once the fee for Jenn's time is billed out. TCT charged us \$338.49 and we were reimbursed because it was not our charge. Miscellaneous Revenue is the Patagonia jacket orders for the West and Northeast. The negative service charge for \$5,717.16 is the hosting fee for Bret & Jenn at the University of Nevada. Business Expenses are the sponsorship fees for NCFAR and ACE conferences. \$12 is the fee to the state of Hawaii to register annually before they can pay their assessment. The next section are basic operation costs for postage, software, Subscriptions, supplies, telephone and internet costs. Other types of expenses are associated with the Patagonia jackets for both the West and NE. Program expenses including the NE summer meeting expense that are reimbursable or snacks for meetings that are covered by

registration costs. Association fees include costs for WRAOM and a group dinner. NERAOC and ESS meetings are all reimbursable. Travel & Meeting are reimbursable costs at \$501.68. Conference, Conventions, Meetings are registration costs. Travel includes meals, airfare, hotel, rental cars and taxi fee's. Overall, we had a profit of \$45,886.31 for the month of May. Looking at the AR report ESS owes us \$36,678.53. Hawaii, Northern Marianas and Montana have paid. California's check is on the way. We are missing the following assessments, American Samoa, New Mexico, Arizona, and Oregon. Gene moved to accept the treasurer's report. Glenda seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **MRC Update-**

I. **Proposal with Major Revisions from last MRC meeting**

1. WDC_WERA_1010 Improving Data Quality from Sample Surveys to foster Agricultural and Community Development in Rural America.
 - a. More detail was added, recommended approval.

II. **Proposals to renew not considered at last MRC meeting.**

2. WERA_TEMP_77 Managing Invasive Weeds in Wheat
 - a. Approval with minor revisions.
3. WERA_TEMP_1012 Managing and Utilizing Precipitation Observations from Volunteer Networks (from WDC43)
 - a. Consider becoming a Coordinating Committee that coordinates volunteers to collect data or prepare major revisions for a WERA.

III. **Proposal to establish a new committee, not considered at the last MRC meeting.**

1. WERA_TEMP_1025 Western Regional Mental Health Network
 - a. Consider becoming a Coordinating Committee with minor revisions to include more nutrition.

IV. **Midterm Reviews (W-projects)**

1. W6 Maximizing Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources and their Information (AA review) – MRC recommended continue with no changes.
2. W1196 Implementing and Correlating Soil Health Management and Assessment in Western States (AA review) – MRC recommended continue with strong suggestions to make progress if renewing in two years.
3. W2194 Children's Healthy Living Network (CHLN) in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Region (AA review) – MRC recommended to continue.
4. W4004 Marketing, Trade, and Management of Aquaculture and Fishery Resources (no AA assigned) – MRC recommended to report on collaboration not individual work or the project does not qualify as a multistate project.
5. W4112 Reproductive Performance in Domestic Ruminants (AA review) – MRC recommended to continue.
6. W4173 Impacts of Stress on Performance, Health, and Well-Being of Animals (AA review) – MRC recommended to continue with more detailed reports that show funding and efforts of being a collaborative project.

V. **Midterm Reviews (ERAs)**

1. WERA11 Western Regional Turfgrass Research (AA review) – MRC recommended to continue.

2. WERA27 Potato Variety Development (AA review) – MRC recommended to continue with better reporting and to document collaboration.
3. WERA89 Potato Virus and Virus-Like Disease Management (AA review) – MRC recommended continuation.
4. WERA97 Diseases of Cereals (AA review) – MRC recommended termination if reports are not approved by the AA at end of the fiscal year.
5. WERA102 Climate Data and Analyses for Applications in Agriculture and Natural Resources (AA review) – MRC recommended to terminate 9/30/2024.
6. WERA1007 Curtovirus Biology, Transmission, Ecology, and Management (no AA assigned) – MRC recommended continuation and suggested future reports be more like the report completed in the first year.
7. WERA1008 The Rangelands Partnership as a Community of Practice (AA review)– MRC recommended to continue and to fix the broken link to the website.
8. WERA1017 Coordination of Integrated Pest Management Research and Extension/Educational Programs for the Western States and Pacific Basin Territories (no AA assigned) – MRC recommended continuation and better organization of impacts and accomplishments in future reports.

VI. **AA Vacancies-** Washington would also like to give up a few projects. Leslie recommends having an annual AA check in of expectations.

W4004: Marketing, Trade, and Management of Aquaculture and Fishery Resources- Shawn Donkin

W4008: Integrated Onion Pest, Disease and Weed Management- Lara Prihodko

WERA1007: Curtovirus Biology, Transmission, Ecology, and Management-

WERA1017: Coordination of Integrated Pest Management Research and Extension/Educational Programs for the Western States and Pacific Basin Territories-

Shawn mentions that trying to get annual reporting for NRS for station specific is a challenge because they have already reported to the multi-state committee. NRS wants to know what your person at your station did for the multi-state it does not convert from NIMSS.

Is there something in the multi-state report that could remind people that even though it is collective they need to report on individual efforts as well. Discussion ensued on possible solutions. Bret is going to arrange a training session annually.

The appendix e needs to be renewed every time objectives are updated or the project renews. This is a hindrance for getting participants renewed. However, it is an opportunity for directors to determine if they want the resources reallocated for another five year term.

It was recommended that when a project renews all current members are automatically submitted for renewal for director approval. Jenn and Bret are going to work with the NIMSS team to see if we can make this happen.

6. **Election of Officers and Representatives-**

agInnovation- West Chair-elect

Leslie Edgar

agInnovation- West Secretary

Jodie Anderson

agInnovation- West Executive Committee At-Large

Chris Pritsos

Greg Cuomo

agInnovation- West Treasurer

Gene Kelly (2 years left on term)

agInnovation- West Past-Chair

Sreekala Bajwa

agInnovation- West Chair

Shawn Donkin

agInnovation- West Treasurer

Gene Kelly (2 years left on term)

Western Regional Aquaculture Center

Shawn Donkin

Western Region MRC

Eric Webster

Holly Neiberger

Troy Bauder

Western IPM Center Advisory Committee

David Gang; has agreed to serve

Western Region MRC

Lara Prihodko (nominated)

Western SARE Administrative Council

Eric Webster nominated to replace Milan Shipka as Director Emeritus

Western Region Rural Development Center

Bret Hess (2022-2024); nominated for 2025-2027

Mark McGuire (2023-2025)

Jodie Anderson (2024-2026)

2025 agInnovation Committee Appointments

Executive Committee Members

Chris Pritsos, ECOP Liaison

Sreekala Bajwa (senior member, representative on Executive Committee)

Mark McGuire (Policy Board of Directors)

Shawn Donkin

Leslie Edgar, if elected

Bret Hess as ED and Alternate

Chair's Advisory Committee

Leslie Edgar, CMC incoming Chair

Mark McGuire, PBD representative

Bret Hess, Executive Vice Chair of STC

Budget & Legislative Committee

Sreekala Bajwa

Shawn Donkin

Science & Technology Committee

Greg Cuomo

Gene Kelly

Bret Hess as Executive Vice Chair

Diversity Catalyst Committee

Jodie Anderson

Shawn Donkin

Gene Kelly

Bret Hess

NRSP-RC

Mark McGuire

National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee

Scot Hulbert

Bret Hess as Executive Vice Chair

ACOP Liaison

Bret Hess representing agInnovation

Scot moved to accept all presented. Glenda seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

7. **Tools for Assigning Faculty to Hatch Projects-** Shawn shared that at Oregon there are three different levels of participation and there is a huge administrative lift to managing the transactional costs.
 - a. **Trying to explain what Hatch is to new faculty members and convincing them to join a project.**
 - b. Then there are 5-6 next steps to complete the process. It is an administrative burden to track and follow up with staff to ensure they have completed the next steps. Shawn asks if there is anyone that has a better process or figured out an automation process. Leslie noted the compliance issue to ensure that funds are used and matched correctly. Glenda shared that they have a system where they enter information once and then it is dispersed among different end users such as public value statements, communications. It was a 5-6-year process to create awareness. Glenda noted that the impact reporting resulted in increased state funding and staff responded positively to funding. Mark and Barbara worked on an initiative. They receive 1500 individual for their project, but the unit receives \$3,000. If they don't stay active they lose the additional funding. Discussion ensued.
8. **Federal Budgets and Legislation-**
 - a. Unexpected decreases in FY24 Hatch Regular- Jodie shared that we are all receiving less. Bret shared that everyone has receive .02-.03 percent less. We are waiting for the tables to be published then we can ask the agency why there was less when congress allocated the same amount. Leslie noted that any reduction is a reduction in people. We have not

received an increase in years. We need to be able to share if there is a decrease how it will affect each institute.

- b. FY25 budget projections- BRET?
- c. Farm Bill- The house has proposed an increase, which is a big win. It is still uncertain what the final outcome will be. The requirement of match doesn't apply to certain states such as Alaska. Alaska can't provide any match and it is not for each institution. More awareness needs to be made about capacity funding.

9. Upcoming Events

- a. BAA Leadership (formerly known as Joint COPs) July 16-18- There will be a zoom link for the agInnovation portion on the first morning. The meeting will begin at 5:45 am PT. agInnovation has received approval to operate as a 501 C(3)
- b. NCFAR Lunch-N-Learn July 23- This is designed for staff. Presentation are made on regional levels. Please encourage staff from your state to attend.
- c. agInnovation Fall Meeting- Raleigh NC, September 22-25- registration is open. We will have one hour with ARS and the NC region during the business meeting on September 23rd from 8-12.
- d. agInnovation-West Spring Meeting- in conjunction with NERAOC in Reno NV- Bret is working on finding funding to support a premeeting for insular islands including the virgin islands.
- e. 2025 Summer Meeting in Wyoming- The location is to be announced.

10. **Map of Me-** This will be a further discussion through the end of the meeting.

11. **Other Business-**

12. **Adjourn.**