

Item 3.0

Agenda Item: 2025 Spring Business Meeting Minutes

Presenter: Jodie Anderson

Action: Approval

Minutes for the agInnovation- West 2025 Spring Business Meeting Grand Sierra Resort, Crystal 5

Attendance: Sreekala Bajwa, Shawn Donkin, Jodie Anderson, Leslie Edgar, Gene Kelly, Glenda Humiston, Darrin Boss, Frank Camacho, Mark Schmaedick, Manoj Nair, Chris Pritsos, Jay Lillywhite, Bret Hess, and Scot Hulbert and Walter Bowen joined via Zoom for the NRSP presentations.

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions

Shawn Donkin called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees to GSR, introduced himself, and asked others in the room and online to introduce themselves.

2 & 3. Business Meeting Agenda and Virtual Spring Business Meeting Minutes

An additional agenda item regarding a document that was prepared for the upcoming NCFAR annual meeting was added to the agenda. Members approved the amended agenda and minutes from the virtual spring meeting.

4. Chair's Interim Actions & Executive Committee Report

Shawn reviewed the interim actions taken since the virtual meeting and asked for input about the document describing the impact of the Administration's Executive Orders and Actions. Members agreed with the major points in the anticipated communication with NCFAR and encouraged Bret to emphasize impacts on program/people rather than money/personnel. Members approved the report as presented.

5. 2025 agInnovation-West Goals

Leslie provided an overview of the 2025 agInnovation-West goals and requested a vote to approve. Members approved the report as presented.

6. NRSP_temp4

Jerry Baron from the IR-4 Project presented on NRSP-4, which focuses on securing pest management solutions for specialty crops and uses. He explained that NRSP-4 activities are part of the larger IR-4 Project, which works to ensure specialty crops have legal access to safe and effective pest control products. The project involves identifying pest management needs, conducting research, and submitting data to regulatory authorities. Jerry highlighted that the modest NRSP-4 investment of \$481,000 supports over 1,000 new EPA food crop registrations annually for specialty crops, contributing to the availability of healthy food and ornamentals. Jerry reported that the program contributes \$8.97 billion to GDP and supports over 123,000 jobs. Jerry argued that despite its importance, the program faces a potential 15% budget cut to support NRSP4. Jerry presented two budget options and justified stable funding by highlighting the program's focus on new technologies, regulatory assistance, and integrated solutions.

agInnovation- West members discussed the rationale behind the proposed cut and potential ways to increase industry contributions. Concerns were raised about the program's long-term funding strategy and its ability to meet all stated objectives with current resources.

7. NRSP_temp9

Phil Miller presented the renewal proposal for NRSP-9, the National Animal Nutrition Program. He outlined the program's history, major accomplishments, and goals for 2025-2030. The program has focused on developing and maintaining a searchable feed composition database, providing modeling resources and training, and expanding their social media presence. Phil also noted the increase in the requested budget was due to increases in postdoc salaries, website maintenance, and new initiatives like social media outreach and educational materials development. Phil clarified that the total budget request is \$1.5 million over a 5-year period, not \$5 million as initially misstated. He further explained that NRSP-9 has been involved in developing nutrient requirement publications for various livestock species, including beef, dairy, swine, and poultry. The committee aims to raise \$150,000 per year through fundraising to support data analysis and website maintenance.

Shawn suggested that NRSP-9 should focus on its core mission of maintaining databases and standardizing models used for nutrient requirements, rather than expanding into peripheral activities.

8. NRSP_TEMP_12

Brad Gaolach presented a proposal to establish a National Research Support Project focused on urban areas. The proposed project aims to bridge the gap between community and research in urban settings, addressing complex urban issues through integrated research and extension activities. The NRSP will focus on three main areas: urban agriculture and food systems, the built environment, and nutrition, health and wellness. Key objectives include establishing communities of practice, providing professional development, and developing an urban data hub. The project seeks to leverage urban resources and partnerships to address unique challenges in urban environments, emphasizing the need for tailored approaches and true partnerships with urban communities.

agInnovation- West members noted that the written proposal was much improved, and it was unfortunate that the presentation did not follow what was outlined in the proposal. Questions remain about focus and contributions by Extension.

9. NRSP_Temp13

Stavros Vougioukas presented the proposal that emphasized a national effort to advance agricultural autonomy through data collection and AI model development. Stavros presented the need for autonomous systems in agriculture due to labor shortages, safety concerns, and efficiency requirements. He explained that while simple autonomous solutions exist for some agricultural tasks, more complex operations like fruit harvesting still lack commercial solutions. The project aims to develop comprehensive open-source datasets and build collaborations to create AI models better suited for agriculture. The team plans to work with related multistate projects and engage industry through an advisory board. The proposal includes a budget for salaries and research activities across multiple institutions, with plans to leverage additional funding sources.

agInnovation- West members noted there is a need for this type of effort. The major concern was whether the NRSP was fully justified since the proposal left the impression that the primary investigators were seeking funds to advance research efforts rather than working as a National Research Support Project.

10. Last chance to comment on NRSP

Members elected to take a quick break instead of providing additional input.

11. AA assignments and openings

Bret discussed turnover of AA for various multistate committees and the need for new AAs. Walter, who is retiring, was thanked for his contributions. Bret also mentioned the retirement of Eric Webster and Sanford Eigenbrode, and the potential retirement of Scot Hulbert. The need for a representative on the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee was highlighted. Suggestions for AA assignments should be sent to Bret.

12. Bridging Perspectives and Unlocking Potential

Leslie was assigned to lead the discussion on following Jackie Mosley's presentation. Jackie Mosley, a professor and Assistant Dean at the University of Arkansas, was introduced as a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory. Jackie provided a video recording on the importance of cultural competence in building better relationships, emphasizing the capacity to shift perspectives and behaviors based on people's backgrounds and experiences. She outlined three steps to develop cultural competence: learning about oneself, learning about others, and having experiences. Jackie also explained the five orientations in cultural competence, ranging from denial to intercultural competence, and how to help individuals grow in their cultural competence. Jackie highlighted the need for action and equity in addressing inequality in the workplace. Jackie also shared her research findings on the lack of demographic differences in cultural competence scores across various groups. Jackie concluded with encouraging participants to take the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) to understand their own cultural competence and to engage with others in **Acceptance** to foster growth. Leslie encouraged everyone to follow up on learning more about their IDI scores and improvement. She further explained how she has used IDI assessments to build teams.

13, 14 & 15. Preliminary results of Western Agenda survey, Overview of 2024 WRJSM prework results, and Overview of 2024 WRJSM conference results

Shawn combined these agenda items as a way to explain that there will be a series of workshops on "Advancing the Western Agenda" at the summer meeting. He reminded members to complete the Western Agenda survey by April 25th and to review reports from the Alaska summer meeting before this summer's meeting in Laramie.

16. Review of NERAOC schedule

Bret encouraged attendance at the NERAOC sessions hosted by agInnovation-West, which were specifically designed to enhance collaborations with Tribal Colleges and Universities.

17. Western Region Communications Strategies

Communicators were planning to develop regional impact templates around core pillars of the new roadmap, but were encouraged to redirect until there is more certainty about what the final pillars will be. Members suggested to continue distributing the onboarding guide for new communicators and developing a communication strategy framework.

18. 2025 WRJSM

Bret provided advice on traveling to Laramie for the summer meeting.

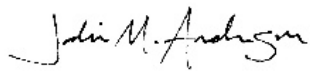
19. 2025 Joint agInnovation/CES-NEDA Meeting

Bret indicated that the plan is to hold the annual fall meeting with Extension in Milwaukee on September 15-18, 2025.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned in time for members to attend the NERAOC orientation session.

Respectfully submitted on May 30, 2025 by Jodie Anderson, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodie M. Anderson".