

**Item 3.0**

**Agenda Item: 2025 Summer Business Meeting Minutes**

**Presenter: Shawn Donkin for Jodie Anderson**

**Action: Approval**

**agInnovation-West Summer Business Meeting**

**June 26, 2025**

**Marian Rochelle Gateway Center**

**Ballroom B/C**

**Laramie, WY**

**Attendance:** Shawn Donkin, Paul Johnson, Gene Kelly, Eric Webster, Chris Pritsos, Frank Camacho, Manjo Nair, Glenda Humiston, Lara Prihodko, Scot Hulbert, Leslie Edgar, Jodie Anderson, Darrin Boss, Sreekala Bajwa, and Bret Hess

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Shawn at 2:11 pm MT. Shawn welcomed members to the summer business meeting then asked each person to introduce themselves since there were new members joining for their first time.

**2. Business Meeting Agenda**

Shawn asked for additions to the agenda. Bret asked to incorporate information that he has recently received. Shawn asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the updated information. Leslie moved to accept with the updates, Glenda seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Spring Business Meeting Minutes**

Shawn noted that the spring business meeting minutes submitted by Jodie were included as the first agenda brief. Chris moved to accept the minutes as presented, Frank seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Officers and Committee Nominations**

Bret explained that all nominations will be pulled into one motion and a vote will be taken at the end of his presentation of the nominees. He started by explaining that the executive committee members with one-year appointments agreed to be nominated for a second term, with the exception of Greg Cuomo. Glenda has accepted a nomination to replace Greg as a member at large. Jodie and Gene have one more year left on their appointments to the executive committee. a second term for the executive committee.

There may be a need replace David Gang on the Western IPM Center Advisory Committee. Gene nominated Troy Bauder, Associate Director at CSU. Bret will follow up with Matt Bauer regarding the possible change in members representing agInnovation- West.

With Greg's departure from Utah State, there will be a need to fill a spot on the agInnovation Science and Technology Committee. Lara Prihodko, Assistant Director at NMSU agreed to

accept a nomination. Lara will take over after Matt Yost fills in for Greg at the STC meeting on July 1.

agInnovation is seeking nominations for a representative to serve on the Communication Marketing Committee. Frank expressed interest and will let Bret know if he wishes to be nominated.

There is an opening on the Lead 21 Board. Darrin Boss, Associate Director at MSU agreed to accept a nomination.

Bret was nominated to serve as Chair of NCFAR's Research and Outreach Committee. The membership encouraged Bret to accept the role.

Bret called for additional nominations from the floor. Following none, nominations were closed and the members passed the slate of nominations unanimously.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Gene reported that the AR report shows \$115,942.64 in outstanding invoices, which includes \$949.95 to the NE for SWAG, \$22,968.83 for WRDC Tribal Sponsorships, \$3,151.26 in NERAOC reimbursement from WRDC and WEDA for their separate meetings, and \$88,872.60 in assessment invoices. Idaho has already paid and Nevada is an in-kind contribution.

There was \$31,645.87 in revenue generated for the summer meeting. The event sponsorship is reflective of the invoice for WRDC's tribal sponsorship and NERAOC generated \$447,567.11 in income. The \$47,764 in revenue reflects the transfer of IYRP funds into the main account.

Total revenue is \$665,804.02.

On the expenses, Bret and Jenn are in the process of registering as new vendors under agInnovation-West and pay an annual fee of \$12 to the State of Hawai'i. We paid an annual subscription to Survey Monkey of \$276.00. Association swag increased to cover the cost of the jacket given away at NERAOC. We have made some prepayment for the summer meeting in Laramie and NERAOC expenses were \$389,536.19. The guest Travel and Meetings reflects the tribal travel reimbursements for NERAOC. Bret had an additional \$600 registration for APLU and additional travel expenses.

Total expenses are \$467,584.74 and the association's current bank balance is \$253,309.15.

This balance does not account for passing along \$66,764.60 in carry over funds.

Bret mentioned that the name change has caused some hiccups with assessment payments.

Gene asked for questions and after hearing none, Darrin moved to accept the treasurer's report as present. Leslie seconded the motions and the motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Chair's Interim Actions & Executive Committee Report**

Shawn reviewed the actions listed in the agenda brief and asked if the members had questions. Hearing no questions, Shawn asked for a motion to approve the report. Chris moved, Lara seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **7. MRC Report and AA Openings**

Bret highlighted a few items included in the agenda brief. There were two projects in need of attention. W5177: Enhancing the Competitiveness and Value of U.S. Beef needs to decide if the committee wants to be cross-disciplinary or have the meat and animal scientists break away and only continue with those scientific endeavors. WERA1024: Sustainable Management of Free-roaming Equid Populations on Designated Western U.S. Landscapes seems to be getting back on track but a follow-up review next year is necessary to ensure that the committee is still making progress.

Regarding AA opening, there is a need to fill AA positions vacated by Walter's retirement. Luckily, Paul (USU) has served as AA on projects so there are only a couple open with Greg's departure. Email Bret if you know of anyone who would like to serve as AA on any of the open projects. Department heads could serve. Scot's replacement will serve as the advisor for the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee because WSU receives the Off-The-Top funding to support the regional plant germplasm center.

## **8. Upcoming Meetings**

Bret reminded the members that next summer's joint meeting will be in Hawai'i June 22-25.

The 2025 Joint agInnovation and Extension meeting will be September 15-18. It is anticipated to be in St. Louis, but no contracts have been signed.

The Spring 2026 will be virtual as the executive committee decided not to join WEDA and to save on travel expenses.

The 2026 agInnovation National Meeting will be September 21-25 in Grand Junction, CO.

## **9. agInnovation Capacity Funds Talking Points**

Shawn pointed out that the talking points were included as a brief on page 15 of the meeting packet. Let Bret know if you have any suggestions.

## **10. Membership check-ins**

Bret inquired about how institutions are managing the request related to biosecurity and gain of function research. Gene noted that CSU is working through VPR Office. Scot and Shawn both mentioned they are working with ARS and the VPR Office.

Jodie explain the information that was described in the memo regarding the Golden Pillars of Science. The memo essentially outlines what scientists already know about science.

Bret asked if ARS is telling folks to switch NACAs to cooperative agreements. Shawn said Yes and Leslie said it is not official but that it is coming.

Bret indicated that intel from LBA was NIFA is reviewing grants again and no new RFAs have been released yet.

Jodie thanked Eric for his service. Attendees recognized Eric on his impending retirement with a round of applause.

Sreekla asked when you lose funding, how is everyone in the colleges managing it? Gene noted that CSU is switching personnel to short-term contracts (3-months).

Shawn asked if the executive committee should put another all-call check-in on the calendar for the end of the summer. The membership indicated that the check ins are helpful and agreed to the executive committee identifying a date for the next regional check in.

Glenda inquired about the LBA call-ins, especially since there is one scheduled on Monday, June 30 that she is not able to attend. Those who joined the previous call noted that it was worth their time.

## **11. Call for Adjournment**

Shawn called for a motion to adjourn. Eric made the motion, Leslie seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm MT.

The minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted by Jodie Anderson, Secretary.

