agInnovation-West Virtual Spring Meeting
March 10-11, 2026
3-5 pm PT each day

Attendance- Jodie Anderson, Elizabeth Stulberg, LBA Guest, Rachel Leon Guerrero, Holly Neibergs, Leslie Edgar, Darrin Boss, Frank Camacho, Paul Johnson, Chris Pritsos, Glenda Humiston, Bret Hess, Kevin Olival, Jay Lillywhite, Lara Prihodko, Scot Hulbert, Sreekala Bajwa, Gene Kelly, Manoj Nair, Jennifer Horton (recording secretary).

I. **Welcome/Introductions-** Shawn welcomed members and asked all attending to briefly introduce themselves since there were a couple new to the association and for Elizabeth's benefit.

II. **Approval of virtual business meeting agenda-** Leslie moved to approve the business meeting agenda. Jodie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of 2025 Fall Meeting Minutes-** Chris moved to approve the fall meeting minutes as presented. Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **State of Play in DC-** Elizabeth shared updates from presentation (inserted below). Bret asked – around the time the farm bill passed last time a framework was released by Senator Boozman. Now that the House Committee has passed their version of the Farm Bill, has there been any movement on the Senate side? Elizabeth replied that Carl Anderson in Boozman's office indicated that they had already released a framework, which was inferred that there was no text in the form of a bill yet. Bret then asked if there is any idea of when to expect the Presidents proposed budget? Elizabeth estimated April and same as last year. Sreekala asked if there are a lot of turnover in Congress? Elizabeth shared it is a challenge and opportunity. New people give the opportunity for a good first impression. The challenge is that as new members they don't have the best appropriation positions.

LBA Presentation 2026.pdf

IV. **Chair Interim Actions and Executive Committee Report** Shawn presented the one-page report, indicating that the amount of work performed by the Executive Committee may not be reflected well when their efforts are reduced to a list. Jodie moved to approve the interim actions and executive committee report as presented. Glenda seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

V. **Treasurer's report**

a. **2025 Year End Financials**

Income-Overall the total anticipated annual assessments were down because we waived $6,634.90 for the 2024 Arizona dues and have not yet collected Arizona or California's assessments. This $16,514.70 will be reflected as an addition to the FY26 budget.
The association event's income was higher than anticipated, but registration costs were set to cover costs. We worked with the National Ag Law conference for their meeting in Reno. The NERAOC conference was closed out and will be removed from our books for FY26.
Other types of income included the close out funds of IYRP. The check was written from the agInnovation- West checkbook and we transferred funds to cover the check. agInnovation-

NE asked us to help with agInnovation swag. APLU transferred startup funds to agInnovation-West and we transferred those funds to agInnovation.
Actualized income for FY2025 is $676,373.02.
Expenses- We budgeted sponsorship for ACE but never sponsored. We are planning on sponsoring our communicators at ACE for FY26. Business registration fees include our year-end state of Wyoming filing, and annual fees to Hawaii to become a vendor. Accounting fees should remain the same for FY26 unless our accountants increase their fees. Outside contract services were never used. The cost to build our new website was less than budgeted.
Postage and mailing were less than expected. No office equipment was purchased. Software and software subscriptions were slightly over budget because we got a discount to pay for the annual QuickBooks subscription in full. Supplies were under budget. Telephone and Internet were less because of Jenn's maternity leave.
Association swag was significantly more because W-APS decided they wanted agInnovation swag. Other expenses were the APLU funds for agInnovation.
Association meetings covered the costs associated with the summer meeting in Laramie and group dinners for the year. Other Events included a reimbursement of $60 for the CRCC, Civil Rights Compliance Collaborative- a meeting we helped host and the National Ag Law Conference. $2,000 for the agInnovation meetings is the deposit for Grand Junction, our Fall agInnovation meeting location. NERAOC accounts have been closed out and carryover funds transferred to Kansas City as the next host.
Guest meeting and travel covered the travel costs for the 1994 participants who were not covered by WRDC to attend NERAOC. Guest meeting and travel also covered the cost for the western region communicators dinner and group activity at NERAOC. Registration fees included 3 APLU meetings, WROAM in Arizona for Bret, WWN and the Western Governor's Winter meeting. Bret traveled a lot less than anticipated.
Actualized expenses for FY2025 are $621,482.86. The profit for FY25 is $54,890.16, but again, we recovered some of the deficit from last year with NERAOC registrations. Jodie moved to approve the 2025-year end financials. Leslie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. 2026 Proposed Budget

Income- Membership income has increased to reflect the 2025 assessments of $16,514.70 that were rolled into 2026. Association Income will cover the Western Region Joint Summer Meeting in Hawaii, WRAOM conference in Las Vegas, the National Ag Law Conference and our Fall 2026 agInnovation national meeting for a total income of $190,000. Total revenue is projected at $293,604.18.
Expenses- Business sponsorships include sponsoring our western region communicators at ACE 2026 and NCFAR's reception on the Hill. We have budgeted for the potential need for a moderator as we continue to work on our AWE. Business registration fees, accounting fee and website management have been budgeted for a slight increase as costs continue to rise. Operation fees have also been budgeted at a slight increase for a total of $4,100.
Association swag was budgeted at $6,000. Program expenses are budgeted to offset income. Travel costs reflect the anticipated travel expenses of guest speakers, registration fees and staff travel expenses. Total expenses are projected at $278.890.00. The profit margin is projected to be $14,714.18.
Leslie moved to approve the FY26 proposed budget. Jodie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. **2026 agInnovation-West Goals-** Leslie presented the 2026 goals. Holly moved to approve the goals as presented. Jodie seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. **NRSP Program Description-** Bret shared that the goal is to have projects that are not necessarily focused on research but projects that enhance research capabilities in two different areas. The first are standing long-term and the second are emerging technologies. The long-term projects receive baseline funding. The emerging projects may be two 5-year cycles with the concept is that the projects will wean themselves off of the reliance of multi-state research funds in the first 1-2 cycles. The projects are funded from off the top multi-state research funds, which automatically includes respective state matching funds. In addition to a peer review there is a national research support project review committee (NRSP-RC) that conducts an independent review along with regional input before they provide a final recommendation. The second NRSP project that was on our original agenda received all negative peer reviews and therefore NRSP-RC decided not to move the project forward for regional consideration. Bret explained the review form that will help him complete the regional review.

B. **NRSP_TEMP_12 Discussion- Following a presentation by NRSP_TEMP_12 leads, members took a poll to answer questions about the proposed project (see the attachment below). Due to time constraints, it was decided to resume discussion of the proposal at the opening of day two business meeting.**

2026 NRSP-12 presentation - west sł

C. **Adjourn**

Day Two- Wednesday, March 11th

Attendance: Jodie Anderson, Shawn Donkin, Bret Hess, Manoj Nair, Lara Prihodko, Paul Johnson, Glenda Humiston, Gene Kelly, Frank Camacho, Jay Lillywhite, Chris Pritsos, Sreekala Bajwa, Scot Hulbert, Leslie Edgar, Holly Neibergs, Kevin Olival, Jennifer Horton (recording secretary).

I. **Welcome-** Shawn welcomed members back to the virtual spring meeting, day two.

II. **NRSP_TEMP_12-** Shawn opened the meeting with a straw poll. Glenda shared that this is a critically important subject matter. The proposal is not well designed, broad base, and poorly articulated with a high budget. Gene agrees that the topic is critically important, but the proposal needs to focus on the fundamentals of urban science. They could include strong partners that are already working with a team that is strong in the subject matters such as Cornell. This is not the right team to bring this project forward. Scot shared that his feedback years ago was to include more research into the project and that still has not been incorporated. Jodie shared that the budget is too high for a date clearing house. There are groups that are doing great work and none of them are included in the project. The proposal is too broad; they need help focusing on the scope. A final vote was made to unanimously disapprove. Leslie moved to sunset the project and not accept any revisions. Jodie

seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gene agreed to carry comments forward to NRSP_TEMP_12 Team.

III. **Upcoming Meetings**

a. **Western Region Joint Summer Meeting-** Kevin invited everyone to join us in Hilo, Hawaii on June 22-25, 2026. See the save the date card for a link to complete details. Kevin provided a brief overview of the agenda.

b. **AgInnovation Annual Meeting-** Gene shared that we will be in Grand Junction, September 21-24, 2026. Gene shared a high-level overview; the proposed theme is "Inspiring Solutions to Tomorrow's Challenges". Gene would like to focus on water, different funding models, advocacy, philanthropy, coalitions & resource sharing, and policy redirection.

c. **Western Region Joint Summer Meeting 2027-** Jenn shared that Rachel has volunteered to host the summer meeting in Guam. To get support and have a large enough meeting we need to guarantee attendance to get a room block with a local hotel. We have also received feedback that our WRAOM (admin officers) really enjoyed being able to meet with their directors. The summer meeting is usually late June, WRAOM is early October and if we meet in the middle, we are looking at the last week In July. This was the recommended time frame from Rachel. By combining the two meetings we would build an important business agenda for everyone. Glenda encourages all members to make the effort to travel to the islands because they always travel to us. WRAOM is in favor of moving their meeting to the summer. This would also hopefully enable more attendance from NIFA. The directors are supportive of the joint meeting for 2027.

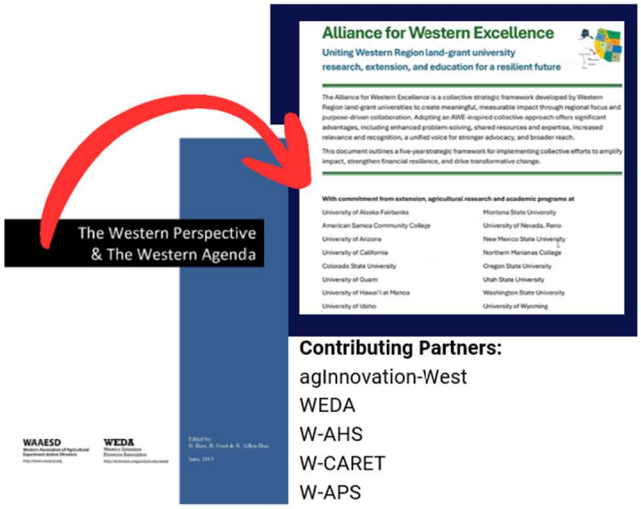
IV. **Alliance for Western Excellence-** Shawn shared how we have gotten to where we are. A poll was conducted with unanimous approval of the AWE document.

WESTERN REGION

ALLIANCE FOR WESTERN EXCELLENCE

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- The Western Agenda was finalized in 2015.
- 2024- The region decided to update the Western Agenda
- Facilitated Sessions - June 2024, Fairbanks Alaska
- Survey collected input on relevant content in the Western Agenda
- Chairs of agInnovation-West, W-APS and WEDA developed workshop for WRJSM 2025
- Workshops held at WRJSM 2025- Laramie Wyoming
- Steering committee compiled workshop results and drafted AWE
- January 30, 2026 AWE document accepted by steering committee after acceptance by W-APS, agInnovation-West and WEDA



Contributing Partners:
agInnovation-West
WEDA
W-AHS
W-CARET
W-APS

Steering Committee: Jennifer Alexander, Jacob DeDecker, Nancy Deringer, Shawn Donkin, Doreen Hauser-Lindstrom, Bret Hess, and Alda Norris

Bret shared that the steering committee would like all of the regional associations to work on the same set of implementation questions. The purpose of the virtual workshop will be to determine what agInnovation- West prioritizes as collective actions and possible steps for implementation.

We have taken the input from those who have responded and built a series of polls to identify clear intension on implementations goals. We can build upon this at the summer meeting. Bret proposed that the group review the first 4 collective actions.

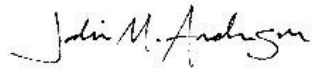
Bret will share poll results as soon as the meeting concludes. Members will have the opportunity to review and analyze results. **Poll results linked below**

Spring%20Meeting%20AWE%20Poll%20R

V. Members Check in-

Kevin shared that Hawaii was just notified of a NIFA civil rights compliance review and were allowed to choose the old or new format. Oregon also started a NIFA compliance review but under the new format. Shawn shared that NIFA has adapted to the new administration, but there is a disconnect between the narrative and worksheet. In response to a separate question, Bret shared that NOFO for RFA is estimated in May. Jodie shared that NIFA was very stringent on the compliance training and needing full details on how many people read the newsletter, who attended, etc. Jodie shared that there is a regional meeting called CRCC-Civil Rights

Compliance Collaborate. Jenn will share the information for this year's meeting as soon as she receives it. Frank asked if the extension review is similar to a research review. Jodie shared that the research review is more focused on students and lab space. Shawn shared that the advisory boards portion are similar. Sreekala shared that MSU developed a voluntary survey. NIFA shared as long as the data was shared with the advisory board that was sufficient. Another learned lesson was any public facing communication, digital or printed, need to include equal opportunity hire, ADA compliance and language accessibility. Even if it is a small postcard. If you are using an abbreviated language the font size must match. If your state is reporting more than five people not proficient in English, you must have language accessibility available. Two requirements that are being removed are parity and language accessibility. Lara shared that the challenge is what do you continue to track, not knowing what will be required in the future. Shawn also noted there new requirements for accepting funding outlined in the General Terms and Conditions. Bret indicated that we are still waiting on the agency for more streamlined guidance regarding the new terms and conditions. Gauging the conversation was over, Shawn called for the meeting to end.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted on March 26, 2026, by Jodie Anderson, Secretary