Item 3.0
Agenda Item: 2026 Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Presenter: Jodie Anderson
Action: Approval

agInnovation-West Summer Meeting
June 25, 2026
3:00-5:00 pm
Hilo, Hawaii

Attendance- Jodie Anderson, Shawn Donkin, Leslie Edgar, Darrin Boss, Glenda Humiston, Chris Pritsos, Bret Hess, Kevin Olival, Mark Schmaedick, Frank Camacho, Paul Johnson, Jay Lillywhite, Lara Prihodko, Staci Simonich, Gene Kelly, Holly Neibergs, Manoj Nair, Jennifer Horton (recording secretary).

I. **Welcome-** Shawn welcomed members.

II. **Approval of business meeting agenda-** Paul moved to approve the business meeting agenda. Glenda seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. **Approval of 2026 Spring Meeting Minutes-** Leslie moved to approve the spring meeting minutes as presented. Gene seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Chair's Interim Actions & Executive Committee-** Shawn reviewed the Chair's Interim Actions and Executive Committee report. Holly moved to approve the report as presented. Gene seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

V. **Treasurer's Report**- There are six outstanding assessments totaling $30,907.93. An additional $17,097.68 has been deposited for Summer Meeting registrations. Total revenue as of the end of May 2026 is $140,611.94**.**
Our accountant filed our 990 for a fee of $740. Additional expenses include $1,260.91 in Summer Meeting costs, $500 for APLU BAA Leadership Meeting registration, and $1,106.95 in staff travel expenses. Total expenses as of the end of May are $32,822.20**.**
We are showing a profit of $107,789.74**,** and our current bank balance is $326,856.54**.** Gene moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Leslie seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. **Election of Officer and Committee Assignments-** Glenda moved to approve the slate of officers as presented. Chris seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. **Administrative Advisor Opening-** There are currently 15 openings, which Bret reviewed along with the responsibilities of an AA. Guidelines state that CC or ERA committees should have a research activity. It is acceptable for a department head or above to serve as AA.
Bret suggested updating guidelines so that a research (W) project does not require an AES position to fill the AA role. A recommendation was made that individuals in leadership positions should be eligible to serve as AA. Discussion ensued. Recommendations were made on filling positions. Bret and Jenn will follow up with recommendations.

VIII. Discussion of New & Emerging Issues

a. USDA Terms and Conditions- Shawn provided a high-level overview. Many institutions are not agreeing to the terms and conditions and will not accept or spend the funds. Jay shared that NMSU is moving forward but waiting on the injunction first.

b. OMB Uniform Guidance- Concerns were raised regarding advertising and public relations restrictions—grant dollars may not be used to advertise for positions. Jodie noted sections 200–205: discretionary awards should be given to those with lower indirect rates. Conference attendance must be pre-approved to use grant funds, but no approval process has been established. Mark questioned the likelihood of such a process being approved.
Jodie referenced section 305 regarding federal payments, which may require more reporting and staff. Concerns were expressed about sudden termination in Section 340. Shawn recommended that each institute respond individually, but that agInnovation-West should ask APLU to respond at the national level.
Jodie moved that agInnovation-West request APLU to write a strong letter addressing concerns and implications for LGUs. Chris seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Glenda shared that California is engaging stakeholders, such as Farm Bureau, to sign on.

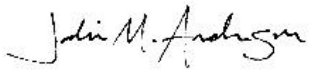
c. USDA Reorganization- USDA plans to dissolve area ARS area offices and move to a model of four topical focus areas and locations. Shawn noted that he previously had a one-to-one relationship with a director but now must coordinate with four station directors and four business centers.
Leslie is hosting listening sessions with ARS. Bret asked Rachel whether the agency has received official notice of when the move will be official. USDA REE HR has notified ARS that reporting must occur by the end of September. Bret shared that agInnovation will continue supporting NIFA however possible.

d. FAIR Model- This counterproposal addresses costs and indirect costs of conducting research, including environmental health and safety in labs. Frank noted that Guam does not have the capacity. Bret shared a video including a plea to support the FAIR model.
The executive committee brought this forward for discussion. Mark asked whether it would affect capacity. Gene noted that the impact depends on what is determined to be direct cost. The group agreed they do not support the model, as it would increase costs, especially for smaller institutions.
There could be opportunity for changing NIFA grant programs in the next Farm Bill. Current grants are capped at 30%. The group agreed this is not the path they wish to pursue but that they can make recommendations to USDA for Farm Bill changes.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

a. **agInnovation Annual Meeting-** Gene shared highlights for the fall meeting. The theme is *Headwaters to Tidewaters*. The ag tour is planned along the river. The conference will focus on promoting different funding models with industry speakers. The meeting will be held in Grand Junction, Colorado, September 21–25, 2026. Jenn will email when registration opens.

b. **WRJSM with WRAOM-** The WRJSM (June) and WRAOM (October) meetings will be combined and held in Guam on July 26–29, 2027. Combining the groups will support collaboration and help secure group discounts. Leslie recommended inviting Deb Driskell to speak about ROI and cost accounting.

X. Adjournment of business meeting.

Respectfully submitted on July 13, 2026, by Jodie Anderson, Secretary