**Program Area – Overall Meeting Summary Points**

**Fall Conference – debrief session on September 5, 2013**

***[Notes from Tom Coon and Robin Shepard]***

**Directors:**

Next year’s conference is Sep. 8 – 10 in Fargo, ND

Goals for next year

1. Provide regional and national leadership to the implementation of the national 4H Working Group’s recommendations.
2. Expand use (and contributions) to the Measuring Excellence in Extension Database.
3. Evaluate our leadership efforts, like NELD and select state leadership programs, to better understand how those efforts support our evolving needs of leadership and enhancing the skills of the 21st Century Professional.
4. Follow–up on several of the key observations and recommendations from the administrative groups regarding 21st Century Extension Professional [based upon the debriefing reports from each group].
5. Look for more opportunities to have in-depth interaction on a fewer number of select issues.

**Evaluators:**

1. Goals & Action plan
2. 8 individuals, 6 states; network via phone conference periodically throughout the year – up to 19 participants, includes some state program leaders
3. Building evaluation capacity
   1. Involved in new staff orientation – 5 to 45 minutes – varies among states
   2. Involvement in working with local teams – especially on signature programs
4. Minnesota has five evaluators, one for each program area – work as a team.
5. Helping the regional water project identify a water quality evaluator (0.25 FTE).
6. Willing and interested in helping the Directors determine the emergency response indicators (Banner Outcome/examples). Requested that the directors appoint a small group to work on these indicators.

**4-H / Youth Development:**

1. Partnership agreement among NIFA, LGU/ECOP, National 4-H Council nearing signatures.
2. Common measures project advancing
3. New CEO at National 4-H Council – Jennifer Sirangelo – very supportive, very rigorous process
4. NC group seen as leaders and able to work collaboratively
5. Common measures – grounded in PYD, three mission areas; prioritized regional emphasis from among these to use for reporting against as a regional group
6. Efforts around feeding 9 billion people – follows on Battelle study; big idea: preparing youth for the most important jobs in a competitive global economy, through the lenses of science and agriculture – building logic model around this – they think this should be fundable
7. Growth goal for NC Region – 10% annual growth in sustained and short term youth numbers; try to reach 35 million by 2050 (? – for the region, cumulative vs. annual?);
8. Emphasis on capacity building in metro areas and educators based in them

**Agriculture and Natural Resources:**

1. Relationships
   1. With private sector – spinoff of Battelle study (summer, 2012)
   2. With NSF, USAID, EPA in addition to USDA/NIFA
2. ANR Academy – mid-career Extension professionals
3. Support & Build out Regional Water program –
   1. Effort of all program areas – ongoing support & attention needed
   2. Focus on leveraging new network for future growth
4. Follow up and pursue resources connected to new relationships
   1. EPA and private industry – wise use of new technologies
   2. USAID and others engaged in Internationalizing Extension (including R. Pardello in Minnesota)
   3. Maintaining robust “inventory” of specialist capacity and sharing resources/considering capacities in making hiring decisions – spreadsheet on dropbox site
5. Evaluating our results
   1. New relationships and connections, synergies
   2. New resources (dollars, ideas, diversifying our portfolio)
   3. Engagement of our faculty/educators – e.g. in new relationships under #3. above
   4. Ultimately impact on acres, sustainability, dollars, quality of life/environment

**Family and Consumer Science:**

1. SNAP-Ed – issues revolving around funding and potential defunding; how are different states handling the unknown around SNAP-Ed funding – some with action plans in place; resulting in reduced positions in SNAP-Ed
   1. Still one of the largest sources of funding for Extension across the nation
   2. Estimate 1,100 employees in NCR related to SNAP-Ed
   3. As a result of recent publicity, are becoming more known by residents
   4. Need to share success stories and impact reports; need to put into a database and have training on writing impact stories
2. Health task force – Karen Bruns, Linda Cronk
   1. Health promotion strategy
3. A new Battelle study on human sciences
   1. Use the information to seek expanded funding of Extension work in this area

**Community Resource and Economic Development:**

1. 21st Century professional discussion – how to work together as a team to building collaborative professional development across state lines
2. Multi-state programming – working on revenue generation models – to foster working regionally; sharing programming resources, sharing staffing
3. Brent Elrod – new NPL for community & rural development

**Human Resources:**

1. Relationship to campus HR offices – vary by state, learned from those differences
2. Sarah Conley joined the group and contributed
3. Action plan – nothing created yet; but will be following up with each other on sharing resources, learning from each other

**Business Officers:**

1. Discussed current budget situations in each state, salary increase plans, etc.
   1. Carry forward balances an issue this year – WI had a particular challenge this year
2. Conference call with federal contacts
   1. REEPort issues – how to manage & utilize – shared challenges with federal partners – few answers available to date
   2. Perspective on farm bill, appropriation, sequestration – don’t know much, but reinforced need to remain connected and share information – have a list-serve for that purpose
3. Discussion questions about 21st Century Extension professional – Dan Malacara reported earlier; noted that being competitive in salary is important, but don’t need to exceed competitors – environment can make a difference at that point.
4. Meeting next year planning.
5. Need to find ways to help support programming and not make financial processes an impediment to mission – growth opportunities

**Associate Directors** – no report