

[DRAFT MINUTES – submitted to members for approval.]

**North Central Region, Extension Deans and Directors
Meeting Minutes – Fall Meeting at APLU**



Meeting Minutes: November 16, 2009

Attending:

D. Buchholz (Chair, KS)
C. Hibberd (Vice Chair, Purdue)
T. Coon (MI)
E. Dickey (NE)
B. Durgan and M. Schmitt (MN)
D. Hauck (ND)
M. Holz-Clause (IA)
R. Klemme (WI)
L. Lighari (SD)
M. Quart, B. Coberly, D. Baker (MO)
K. Smith (OH)

Guests:

Meryl Broussard, NIFA
Keith Niemann, NACo Fellow
Dell Warren, Discovery Channel

Next Conference Call:

December 17, 2009
1:30pm (CT)

**MEMBER INSTITUTIONS
North Central Cooperative
Extension Association
(NCCEA)**

University of Illinois
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Lincoln University, Missouri
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
North Dakota State University
Ohio State University
Purdue University
South Dakota State University
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Agenda Items – Discussed

A. Review of October 15th Conference Call Minutes.

A. Minutes presented as part of the agenda.

B. ACTIONS:

1. Moved by Coon and Seconded by Hibberd.
2. Approved unanimously.

B. eXtension Update

A. The national eXtension Conference was held in St. Louis on October 22-23, several of our directors were in attendance. Ron Brown and Dan Cotton were recognized for their contributions.

B. Keith Smith noted that the animal welfare issue is our regional top priority for an eXtension community of practice.

C. Michael Quart provided an update on the eXtension Task Force.

1. The committee plans to hold a face-to-face meeting following the APLU meeting, with a follow up meeting in February at the NEDA meetings.
2. The Task Force is working on diversifying the funding sources – public and private partnerships. They are working with DOE on a possible partnership. Michael and Dan have a meeting planned with USAID on December 2nd. Michael noted that 20% of the hits to the site are international.
3. Michael Quart and Duane Hauck reviewed BAC and BLC conversations around eXtension's place in the FY11 budget priorities. eXtension funding request remains uncertain with respect to being added to Smith-Lever request. There's no language that allows eXtension to be funded off the top of Smith-Lever, like the regional committees are funded off the top of Hatch funding.

D. ACTIONS:

1. None. Information only.

D. NCCEA 2010 Budget.

A. Printed budget was included in the packet.

B. This was the second review of the budget.

C. ACTIONS:

1. Motion to approve by Coon; Seconded by Hibberd.
2. Approved unanimously

E. NCCEA Mini Grants.

A. Robin Shepard presented the revised request for proposals.

B. ACTIONS:

1. Motion to approve and send out in early December by Smith; seconded by Quart.
2. Approved unanimously.

F. National Updates.

A. Meryl Broussard discussed REE and NIFA Transition issues, but little is known at this point given the proposed move of Dr. Shah to USAID.

B. On October 29th a group of ECOP members and the Extension EDs met with Under Secretary Shah and NIFA Director Roger Beachy. Elbert Dickey and Robin Shepard provided a short overview. A written summary of the meeting (written by ECOP Chair Paul Coriel) was distributed to the group.

C. General discussion was held about budget and policy issues (e.g., Policy Board, BAC and BLC). ECOP has endorsed the concept of an equal funding increase approach for competitive and capacity funds, with a \$200 million increase in capacity funding. The underlying principle is a balanced approach to the mix of competitive and capacity funding. During the BAC meeting (previous Saturday), the committee established priorities that included an AFRI request of \$500 million, Smith Lever at \$345 million, EFNEP at \$70 million, and CYFAR and eXtension staying at current levels of \$10 million and \$5 million, respectively. Cornerstone Government Affairs has developed an advocacy plan with ECOP to support an increase in Smith-Lever. Extension Directors from targeted states will work together to support Smith-Lever and AFRI increases. Bev Durgan stated the PBD and the BAC does eventually make recommendations to Cornerstone and they can direct Cornerstone to focus on any number of budget lines (with respect to the 13 lines that have been identified for growth).

D. ECOP Staffing and Transition Task Force continues to support the transition to a new national staffing model. Elbert and Robin reported that the Northeast has decided to move forward on plans for a half-time Executive Director. The Western Region has not yet decided if it will increase the current ED time to half-time.

E. ACTIONS

1. None taken. These items were informational.

G. Energy Programming in the North Central Region.

A. Robin Shepard provided an overview of activity pertaining to Cooperative Extension programming addressing energy issues. The discussion focused on the positive aspects of our faculty and staff involvement; however concern was expressed about overloading the same faculty members by asking them to be included in multiple groups.

B. ACTIONS:

1. Duane Hauck and Robin Shepard will organize a collaboration meeting for the project leaders sometime in January. The use of distance technology will be explored.

H. Director's Working Group on 4h/Youth Development.

A. Tom Coon provided an update on the working group's recommendations. While the Directors have leadership responsibilities in their individual states, Tom noted that they are working with program leaders. Bev Durgan raised the issue of SET versus STEM. ECOP decision was focused on SET because of the issue of the lack of connectivity to a math curriculum. The Directors' committee (with Tom as our representative) will serve for another year.

B. ACTIONS:

1. None taken. This was an information item.

- I. Nominations to serve on the Measuring in Excellence in Extension Task Force**
- A. The current NCR Representative has been Tom Archer from OSU. However, his job has changed and we've been asked to name another representative.
- B. Actions:**
1. Robin Shepard was directed to follow up with Bruce Haas (Michigan State) and Ellen Taylor Powell (Wisconsin).
- J. AFRI/NIFA – previous project analysis.**
- A. Robin Shepard has been working with our Program Area Chairs to better describe how and what we do can be described within the goals of REE and AFRI. A handout was distributed with the results of this effort.
- B. ACTIONS:**
1. Robin will be using the document to create interest in future NIFA/AFRI submittals, and to improve how we communicate our regional work with respect to the five priorities of REE. Robin plans to work with the Regional Program Area Chairs and Director Liaisons to provide teleconferences after the first of the year about AFRI.
 2. Recommendations were made to Robin to work directly with state-level communications and reporting staff to find available data on program impacts that can be added to the summary document that he distributed. Mike Schmitt and a MSU representative will be assisting Robin as he works with the state reporting staff.
- K. NACo Update**
- A. Keith Neimann provided an update of NACo issues and activities. *Keith summarized two priority initiatives: a) strengthening the relationships between NaCO and USDA/NIFA and supporting Cooperative Extension in the process, and b) leadership development and building capacities in both organizations. He noted a partnership with the dark side company from Arkansas. He wants us to help him by a) letting him know when there is a potential collaboration between NaCO and NIFA, b) build the state relationship, and c) work to find a replacement for Keith. They are looking to have applications in by 12/18 with letters of interest by 11/30.*
- B. ACTIONS:**
1. None taken. This was informational only.
- L. Meeting Adjourned at 9:10pm (Eastern Time)**

*Summary by R. Klemme and R. Shepard
Prepared November 18, 2009*