

[DRAFT MINUTES – submitted to members for approval.]

North Central Region, Extension Deans and Directors Monthly Conference Call



Meeting Minutes: January 15, 2009 (1:30 pm, Central Time)

Attending:

Buchholz (Chair, KS),
Hibberd (Vice Chair, Purdue),
Campion (IL)
Payne (IA)
Coon (MI)
Ouart (MO)
Dickey (NE)
Hauck (ND)
Smith (OH)
Lighari (SD)
Klemme (WI), and
Broussard (CSREES).

Next Conference Call:

March 19, 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

- I. The National Extension Directors Association meeting in New Orleans February 16-19, 2009.**
 - A. Nine (9) of the North Central States plan to attend some portion of the NEDA meetings, however, arrival and departure times make it difficult for everyone to meet. It was determined that if a meeting is needed, Wednesday evening or Thursday morning (breakfast) might provide an opportunity for a majority of the states to meeting if necessary.
 - B. The NCCEA Executive Committee will determine if a North Central Meeting is needed, and if so, mostly likely Thursday morning would be the meeting time.
 - C. ACTIONS:**
 1. None at this time.
- II. ECOP Staffing and Transition Task Force.**
 - A. The North Central Region was asked to provide a representative to the Staffing Transition Task Force.
 - B. The Transition Task Force will assist in determining how to implement the ECOP Staffing Plan.
 - C. ACTIONS:**
 1. Elbert Dickey was appointed as the North Central Region's Representative to the Transition Task Force. [Moved by Coon; Seconded by Payne; unanimous.]
 2. Daryl Buchholz, NCCEA Chair, will send a note confirming this action to ECOP Chair Paul Coreil.
- III. Bio-renewables Conference.**
 - A. Jack Payne led the discussion on this topic – for additional details see *December 30, 2008* memo from Jack Payne and Paul Brown.
 - B. The goal is to implement conference changes in 2009.
 - C. The changed format could involve joint sponsorship across 14 states and two Sun Grant Regions.
 - D. Participating institutions are invited to organize one concurrent session, which will be available "live" at the home institution and by webcast at the other sites.
 - E. ACTIONS:**
 1. By February 1st, states who are interested in participating are asked to indicate such interest to Jack Payne via email.

IV. Energy Programming in the North Central Region.

- A. Update was provided by Duane Hauck (ND), Rick Klemme (WI) and Robin Shepard – for additional detail see *January 15, 2009* Conference Call summary titled “Energy Programming – specifically agricultural energy audits” [Distributed with the conference call agenda].
 - 1. The 2008 Farm Bill Provided mandatory funding in 2009 for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP, Section 9007). Under this program, producers and rural small businesses can apply for grants.
 - 2. USDA is expected to have approximately \$2.8M for producer energy audit assistance, and will need to commit the funding by April 2009; therefore, a Request for Assistance is likely within the next few weeks.
 - 3. A conference call was held with Duane Hauck, Rick Klemme, Rick Koelsch, Paul Brown and Robin Shepard. The group requested NCCEA consideration that a writing group be supported to develop a North Central proposal for providing outreach and Extension programming to address energy audits and conservation.
- B. NCCEA discussion focused on support needs to develop the proposal, including expanding participation in the writing team and supporting travel for the team to meet face-to-face.
- C. **ACTIONS:**
 - 1. Robin Shepard, NCCEA Executive Director, was authorized to use a limited amount of NCCEA fund (Budget Line: Regional Initiatives & Program Priorities) to support a writing team of 6-8 persons. That writing team is expected to hold as many conference calls as necessary and at least one face-to-face meeting in February 2009. [Moved by Payne; Seconded by Quart; unanimous.]

V. North Central Region – Center for Rural Development.

- A. This discussion focused on the coordination of announcements indicating Michigan State University as Host Institution for the North Central Region Center for Rural Development. Michigan State’s Scott Lovridge will also begin state visits in April for the purpose of ensuring a transition, keeping all intuitions involved in the transition and beyond, and exploring NCRCD Center Director needs from stakeholders in the region.
- B. **ACTIONS:**
 - 1. NCCEA (Robin Shepard), NCRA (Arlen Leholm) and CSREES (Sally Maggard) will work with both Michigan State University and Iowa State University to coordinate respective public announcement needs. Sally Maggard and CSREES Staff will be developing a national announcement that will become part of the Administrator’s Newsletter that will be distributed around February 1st. NCCEA and NCRA may have announcement ready a little sooner, but will work directly with CSREES to insure a consistent approach and information.

VI. State Budget – Outlooks and challenges.

- A. Group discussion focused on ways to foster sharing of information and ideas across the North Central States. Ways to achieve this included formation of a committee or task force, creation of a special list serve, using the password protected areas of the NCCEA website. Overall, group consensus focused on a need for a more open way of talking through ideas in a collegial setting where feedback could be interactive and in certain instances confidential.
- B. **ACTIONS**
 - 1. Robin was directed to find a date when a face-to-face Directors meeting could be held in the form of a budget summit or retreat. Most likely location would be Kansas City. The consensus of the group was to look for dates in February or early March.

VII. NELD.

- A. During the December call Robin was asked to individually poll institutions regarding their interest for hosting the National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) program. Five states have indicated they are interested, or are checking with faculty and staff to

determine the level of internal interest for taking a lead coordinative role. However, three of those states need more time to more thoroughly involve their faculty.

B. ACTIONS

1. Robin will meeting with Chuck Hibberd during the NEDA meeting to offer an update and summarize interest. States still in the process of evaluating internal support and interest should communicate their interest by early February to Robin.
2. This may become a future issue on an upcoming NCCEA Monthly Conference call. Once a determination is made as to the number of institutions willing/interested in hosting, then more discussion may be needed to determine a process for selecting the NELD Host Institution.

VIII. Regional Mini-grant Concepts.

- A. See attachment to the conference call agenda titled "North Central Region – Program Area Support Funds.
- B. This document is submitted by the subgroup of Michael O., Steve L. and Robin.

C. ACTIONS

- a. Please pay particular attention to sections titled: Funds Available (page 1); Requests for support should focus on A or B (page 1-2); and submission guidelines (page 2).
- b. Please return your comments to Robin (robin.shepard@uwex.edu) by end of January.
- c. A final decision/approval of the proposal materials may need action by NCCEA Members in February.

IX. CSREES Update.

- A. Meryl Broussard offered a brief overview of the National Transition Committee/Task Force that he has been asked to chair. This committee will be working on the issue of transitioning CSREES to NIFA. Meryl distributed several documents that describe in more detail the goals of the transition and the challenges for the federal agency.
- B. Meryl and Robin also discussed recent conversations with Ellen Danus, Branch Chief in the Office of Extramural Programs. A conference call is tentatively being planned for the week of February 4th with Ellen to discuss matching issues with AREERA funding.

X. Other Issues.

- A. Minutes of the December 18, 2008 conference call were approved for posting on the NCCEA website [Moved by Hauck; Seconded by Smith; unanimous.]

*Summary by R. Shepard
Prepared January 15, 2009*