[DRAFT MINUTES – submitted to members for approval.]

North Central Region, Extension Deans and Directors
Monthly Conference Call

Meeting Minutes: March 19, 2009 (1:30 pm, Central Time)

Attending:

Buchholz (Chair, KS),
Hibberd (Vice Chair, Purdue),
Campion (IL)
Payne (IA)
Coon (MI)
Ouart (MO)
Earnest (OH)
Lighari (SD)
Broussard (CSREES).

Next Conference Call:
April 16, 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. ECOP – update.

A. Transition Team is meeting and moving ahead
B. Announcements will be forthcoming for the Excellence in Extension Awards and Diversity Awards.
C. Financial Security is an emerging initiative/issue for us nationally
D. Monday, (3/23) is the webinar on "Organizational Responses to Budget Reductions (11:00am CT)
E. Emerging Issues Task Force is working on a series of white paper issue briefs for REEO Directors. Those drafts are expected to be completed by March 31st
F. The Policy Board is considering several recommendations regarding membership and voting status.
G. The Policy Board is working on a MOU with NASULGC regarding services.
H. ACTIONS:
1. None at this time.

II. Budget Summit – follow up.

A. The March 9th Budget Summit was attended by all 12 states.
B. A number of follow up documents, information being shared by participants have been circulated during the past week – those documents are also located on the NCCEA website [www.nccea.org].
C. ACTIONS:
1. None at this time.

III. NELD.

A. Purdue University has been hosting of NELD since 2005. NC Extension Directors were recently asked for an informal expression of interest in hosting NELD beginning in 2011. Five states responded.
B. Chuck Hibberd and Robin Shepard will be sending the NC Directors a letter asking for a more formal indication of your institution's willingness to host. That letter will have three short questions that will be used for a comparative assessment and decision by NCCEA members during their May meeting.
C. ACTIONS:
1. Responses from interested states will be due by May 1, 2009.

IV. Rural Energy For America Program (REAP) Grant Writing Progress.

A. A nine member group met in Kansas City on March 9-10 to prioritize potential areas of outreach and research that could relate, support and collaborate with the REAP. That group identified three general areas, and goals were drafted for how Extension and Research faculty might collaborate in two-to-three grant requests.

B. The RFA (following much delay) was released on March 11th, and the writing group is now focusing its priorities more specifically on the components listed in the RFA. Responses to the RFA are due June 9, 2009.

C. ACTIONS:

1. A follow-up conference call of the writing group is scheduled for March 26, 2009.

V. PILD.

A. Four (4) states that were participating in the call said they would be participating in the PILD (MI, KS, IL, and WI). A general discussion provided an update on different approaches by those states to supporting PILD participants.

B. ACTIONS:

1. None at this time.

VI. CSREES – update.

A. Meryl Broussard provided information about status of the Transitional Team and its efforts; REEO Directors are facilitating key discussions as they develop their roadmap; no names have been announced for the USDA Deputy Under Secretary position; and budget issues have been more focused on the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for FY09, the FY10 discussion are just beginning to become more know.

B. ACTIONS:

1. None at this time.

VII. Mini Land Grant Meeting, July 13-15, 2009.

A. Garee Earnest offered a reminder of this summer's Mini Land Grant Meeting that will be held in Wooster, Ohio on July 13-15.

B. ACTIONS

1. Robin will circulate the latest agenda for the meeting, and you are asked for feedback and program ideas prior to April 1st.

VIII. Regional Mini-grant Concepts.

A. Call for proposals is out – with a deadline of March 31, 2009

B. ACTIONS

1. Robin Shepard will circulate the responses to the full group for a decision during our May meeting.

IX. North Central Region Center for Rural Development

A. NCCEA members discussed recognition of key faculty as the Center moves from Iowa State to Michigan State University

B. ACTIONS

1. Robin Shepard was asked to work with Ken Martin.

X. eXtension.

A. Michael Ouart offered an update on eXtension and the Financial Task Force. Michael described how the Task Force is approaching a funding strategy, and in its conversations with CSREES and OMB.

B. ACTIONS

1. States are being asked to keep their attention on eXtension and its funding needs during their congressional visits. This should also include PILD visits.

XI. May 5th – meeting in conjunction with the Urban Extension Conference (Milwaukee).

A. Several NCCEA members will be attending the Urban Extension Conference and will meet in person on the afternoon of May 5th.

B. Those not planning to attend the Urban Extension Conference will have an opportunity to join the meeting via conference call (most likely mid-afternoon).

C. ACTIONS

1. Robin Shepard will set up the conference call to allow NCCEA members to join for at least two decision items (requiring a quorum of our membership).
2. Key decisions (among others) will include:
   a. Decisions on program area supporting mini-grants
   b. NELD host institution

Summary by R. Shepard
Prepared March 20, 2009