

**[DRAFT MINUTES – submitted to members for approval.]**

**North Central Region, Extension Deans and Directors  
Monthly Conference Call**



*Meeting Minutes: May 20, 2010 (1:30 p.m. Central Time)*

**Attending:**

R. Klemme (WI) – chaired call  
T. Coon (MI)  
B. Durgan (MN)  
M. Quart (MO) / B. Coberly (MO)  
D. Hauck (ND)  
K. Smith (OH)  
L. Lingham (SD)

**Next Conference Call:**

June 17, 2010  
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. Reviewed Meeting Minutes – April 15<sup>th</sup> Call**

- A. Acting Chair Rick Klemme asked for review and comment on the previous meeting minutes.
- B. ACTIONS:**
1. Motion to approve minutes by Lingham, Seconded by Coon.
  2. Approved unanimously.

**II. Bioenergy/Biofuels (Keith Smith)**

- A. The CES Directors had previously voted unanimously to approach the Battelle Study design.
- B. OSU will coordinate the assessment process and collect state payments.
- C. Robin Shepard will work with Arlen Leholm to review proposed scope of work from Battelle.
- D. ACTIONS:**
1. NCR Directors expressing interest to serve on an advisory committee included: Rick Klemme, Keith Smith and Duane Hauck.
  2. Robin Shepard was asked to coordinate with Arlen Leholm and NCRA on their names and geographic representation.

**III. The Federal Funds – status of funding through  
NCR Directors (Keith Smith)**

- A. Keith Smith asked members on the call about FY10 funds and their ability for being able to draw against those funds. This includes Smith-Lever funding.
- B. ACTIONS:**
1. Directors were encouraged to talk with the budget officers to inquire about the status of federal funds.

**IV. SNAP-Ed Update (Duane Hauck and Rick Klemme)**

- A. The NCR CES Directors have developed a letter (via NCCEA) that has been sent to ECOP-BLC Chair Duane Hauck. The letter was attached to the agenda.
- B. The BLC met the previous week and discussed similar input from other regions. BLC is working on an overall letter to be submitted by ECOP calling on Cornerstone Government Affairs to work with the BLC to make necessary congressional contacts pertaining to the points in the letter and reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act (S.3307).
- C. There is some indication that this bill may not be introduced as quickly as initially thought because of the election in Arkansas and challenge to Senator Blanche Lincoln (AR).

- D. Key Issues: (a) CES should be identified in the bill as the preferred provider; (b) prefer not to have a cap on funding, however if a cap is necessary use FY11; and (c) not uniform agreement on requiring match, however states feel that match provides a competitive edge to CES and it insures additional leverage is in place to actually expand the work that gets done.

E. **ACTIONS:**

1. None required at this time.

V. **ECOP and BLC Issues (All)**

- A. ECOP and ECOP-BLC Conference Calls – update was provided from the most recent conference calls
- B. Excellence in Extension Award materials are due June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. FY12 Budget discussions are underway inside NIFA.
- D. National Staffing Update – approximately 10 applications for the Washington DC based Executive Director.

VI. **AFRI in the North Central Region - Update**

- A. Robin Shepard continues to work with Program Area Chairs on encouraging NCR representation on panels.
- B. Attachments to the agenda provided an indication of: (a) number of Letters of Intent coming from NCR; and (b) a list of names [at this time only included FCS] of known specialists who had offered their name for panel consideration.
- C. Discussion by Directors focused on development of a NCR Comment Letter addressing AFRI – preparations for June 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting in Washington DC addressing AFRI.

D. **ACTIONS:**

1. Robin Shepard will work with Tom Coon, Keith Smith and Duane Hauck to develop a comment letter from the NCR region.

VII. **Fall NCCEA Conference (Rick Klemme)**

- A. Wisconsin is host and meeting location will be Milwaukee.
  1. Date is September 28-30, 2010 (Noon Tuesday to Noon Thursday)
  2. Location: Milwaukee – Hilton
  3. Draft agenda was provided as an attachment and it was reviewed. Comments included:
    - On last morning –let’s make sure that all are together that final morning and agenda should reinforce the point they should be in attendance that morning.
    - Make sure we emphasize working across program areas – the agenda needs to have items that make sure this occurs.

B. **ACTIONS:**

- a. None at this time – expect an update on the next regional conference call (June 17).

VIII. **Mini Land Grant Conference (All)**

- A. Program Theme: Food and Health
- B. Register ASAP at: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/minilandgrant>
- C. Directors’ Roundtable will be July 14-15 (noon to noon).
- D. **ACTIONS:**

1. Robin Shepard provided an overview of the Roundtable and will circulate a draft agenda before the June 17<sup>th</sup> Conference call.

IX. **Regional Reporting and Evaluation (Robin Shepard)**

- A. The Directors received a request from a group of Evaluators and State Program Leaders to meet and to address cross state indicator compatibility.
- B. That request was attached to the conference call agenda.

C. **ACTIONS:**

1. By consensus, the Directors instructed Robin Shepard to move ahead with the meeting.

X. **eXtension Financial Task Force Update (Michael Quart)**

- A. Michael Quart reported that Greg Crosby and Dan Cotton had recently made a presentation to United Nations staffers about eXtension.
- B. A recent webinar on international opportunities for eXtension was held on May 13. It was recorded and can be accessed via the “About eXtension” page.

- C. USAID discussions continue: (1) there is currently a \$9M RFA out for modernizing Extension services with responses due June 16<sup>th</sup> and Michael Quart has written a letter to the Directors suggesting opportunities for collaboration with eXtension and Extension; (2) the Task Force continuing to look at how additional Smith-Lever dollars might help eXtension; and (3) a second briefing for USAID staff and potential partners is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup>
- D. **ACTIONS:**
  - 1. None, this was informational only.

**XI. Next NCCEA call is scheduled for June 17, 2010 (1:30pm CT).**

*Summary by R. Shepard  
Prepared May 31, 2010*