

# **Southern Region Program Leadership Network (PLN)**

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

August 23- 26, 2010

Memphis, Tennessee

*August 24, 2010*

## **Present:**

Angela McKenzie-Jakes (*Secretary*), *Florida A&M University*

Arvazena Clardy, *Tennessee State University*

Bill Hubbard, *CES- SO. Reg.*

Cal Sawyer, *Clemson University*

Cass Gardner, *Florida A&M University*

Dawn Mellion-Patin, *Southern University*

Ed Jones, *North Carolina State University*

Edoe Ajbodan, *South Carolina State University*

Franklin Chukwuma, *Alcorn State University*

Gary Palmer, *University of Kentucky*

James Trapp, *Oklahoma State University*

Joan Dusky, *University of Florida*

Keith Baldwin, *North Carolina A&T University*

Ken Andries, *Kentucky State University*

Leonard Githinji, *Tuskegee University*

Michael Spranger, *University of Florida*

Nelson Daniels, *Prairie View A&M University*

Paul Coreil, *Louisiana State University*

Paul Mask, *Auburn University*

Pete G. Gibbs, *Texas A&M University*

Rafel Olmeda, *University of Puerto Rico*

Ray McKinney, *North Carolina A&T State University*

Richard Winston, *Tennessee State University*

Robert Burns, *University of Tennessee*

Ross Love, *Oklahoma State University*

Scott Byars, *West Virginia State University*

Steve Brown (*ANR Vice- Chair*), *University of Georgia*

Tony Windham, *University of Arkansas*

Wayne Buhler, *North Carolina State University*

Will Getz, *Fort Valley State University*

*Steve Brown (ANR Vice- Chair)* called the meeting to order at 10:17am on August 24, 2010 with the introduction of Jim Trapp. The Chair, Mr. William Hodge was not in attendance.

*Jim Trapp (Administrative Advisor)* began his discussion by addressing the lack of directors present in the land grant institutions. Fifteen states are in this association, but six of these schools now have interim directors.

- Dr. Alan Grant is serving as Director while VPI searches for an Associate Dean and Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension.
- Dr. Joe Street is serving as Interim Director at MSU while they search for a Director of the Mississippi State Extension Service.
- NCSU is searching for an Associate Dean and Director of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development; Dr. Joe Zublena is serving in the interim.
- Dr. Tony Windham has been named Associate Vice President for Agriculture and Director of Extension in Arkansas.
- Dr. Steve Meadows is serving as Interim Chief Operating Officer at Clemson
- Dr. Millie Ferrer - Chancey is serving as Interim Dean and Director at Florida
- Dr. Rafael Olmeda is serving as Acting Associate Dean for Extension in PR.

He further stated that there are only three senior ASREED directors including himself, Paul Coreil from (Louisiana State University) and Ed Smith from Texas. Other information he provided included the current federal appropriations priority areas, the Farm Bill for FY12 and ECOP's organizational restructuring which are bulleted below.

- **Federal Appropriations Priorities** – ASREED's federal funding priorities for FY12 are Smith-Lever 3 (b) & (c) funds, along with eXtension (eXtension is a separate priority if not included with SL); EFNEP; and IPM.
- **Appropriations:** The US House of Representatives appropriations committee has marked up the ag. appropriations bill and it appears that they will include a small increase in Smith-Lever 3 (b) & (c) funding, an increase for AFRI and will leave all other Extension lines flat. The Senate has not acted, but early indications are that all lines will be flat, with possibly an increase for AFRI.
- **FY12 Farm Bill:** Work has begun on the FY12 Farm Bill. Dr. Ed Smith, TX, is our representative on the Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) and has distributed a survey to all Extension Directors and Administrators seeking input about ideas for improving the Farm Bill. Response rates from Southern Region directors has been excellent.
- **ECOP:** ECOP is in the process of restaffing. There will only be one person at the national level and two people at the regional level this change will cause the regional staff will have 25% of their assignments on national issues. We have 15 applications for the position now and we hope to have someone to fill the position by the end of the year. ECOP is also heading up a task force to make recommendations to a consultant company regarding branding extension at the national level.

*Ray McKinney (1890 Advisor)* gave a report by addressing the number of activities that were held throughout the system 1890 system during the summer. This summer the AEA program team leaders met in Baltimore, MD. Two program teams were merged (i.e., small farms and ANR) and when the group met they identified some issues they planned to focus on for the year. One of the main events they will be supporting is the National Goat Conference. McKinney further stated that he would like to encourage everyone to attend the National Goat Conference that is coming up on September 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, FL.

He furthered explained that the 1890 institutions are continually identifying alternative opportunities in ANR which are now being implementing across the system. There also have been a number of workshops and field days this summer particularly in North Carolina A&T State University. McKinney also added that one highly successful program this year was the summer tours in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Mellion-Patin provides leadership across the 1890 system for the Small Farms Agriculture Leadership Institute. This summer an agriculture farmer group had an opportunity to visit with producers from an urban environment. The producers were able to see that there were other people in urban settings that were working as hard as they were in producing and promoting healthy foods from a traditional standpoint. McKinney also noted that this group of farmers will be the third cohort to graduate from the institute since 2005. The program provides opportunities for producers to embrace entrepreneurship and business management concepts while enhancing their farm operations and developing skills to become actively involved in their community. He went on to say that there are a number of graduates that have become active in their communities and are serving on committees at the local, state and national level. One farmer from the first cohort class was selected by the Secretary of Agriculture to serve on a national committee.

*Steve Brown (ANR Vice- Chair)* next discussed the current structure of the ANR group. The leadership in this committee has not been what it should be he stated. He further questioned the ANR members about the accomplishments of the committee from the previous years, and he asked if the accomplishments could be used as a model for the current committee if accomplishments were made.

The following action items were suggested by the committee to address this issue:

- Meet quarterly (Nov., 10, 2010, Feb. 9, 2010, May 11, 2010 from 3:00pm EST)
- The officer slate should include the former chair, the current chair, the vice-chair, and the secretary.
- If the chair is unable to fulfill his/her obligations, then the vice-chair should resume his responsibilities.
- Members need to review the by-laws of the committee.
- Need to rebuild relationships among the land grant institutions.
- Need to know what we are meeting about.
- Need to collaborate on multi-state proposals together, particularly new emerging issues in the U.S.

- Compare programs that are alike across the 1890 and 1862's system such as water quality, organic production for the purpose of compiling impacts across the land grant institutions.

*Paul Mask (Auburn University)* addressed the current composition of the ANR committee by stating that the committee was composed of administrators as well as specialist. He wanted to know if a second agenda should be developed for the two different groups that serve on the ANR committee.

*Ross Love (Oklahoma)* asked the committee if they were not administrators why were they at this meeting.

*Ray McKinney (North Carolina State University)* answered the question by stating that although most of the committee members that are from the 1890 system at this meeting today may not handle fiscal matter at their universities, they still serve in leadership roles at their respective institutions. Therefore, they are also involved in the decision making process for there respective program areas.

*Faith Pepper (Guest Speaker)* began her discussion on recent issues facing land grant universities (LGU)/agriculture such as budget cuts, animal rights vs. activist organizations, environmental concerns and baby boomers retiring. She further stated that if extension would like to influence public opinion it will need to develop a strategic framework for land grant universities to make sure the public has accurate information on agriculture production. One of the current challenges for the universities is how to deal with activist groups that question the integrity of research developed from the universities. To address these issues, Ms. Pepper offered the following suggestions: 1.) develop strategic responses to issues, 2.) redefine the role of research and extension, 3.) start monitoring what issues that are being brought up by the local government, 4.) form local issues management teams, 5.) monitor the issues progression from state to state, 6.) be familiar with strategic tactics used, 7.) check current BMP's and publications, 8.) have solid impact data and 9.) stay in touch with your neighbors.

*Jimmy Henning (Guest Speaker)* encouraged committee members to use eXtension to provide information for the producers on the web.

### ***August 25, 2010***

*Mr. James Hill (1890 SARE Liaison)* gave an update on the SARE and NIFA programs. The President's FY2011 Budget Request to Congress was released on Monday (2/01/2010). The request included SARE and all other NIFA programs. The request included a \$500,000 increase in Chapter 1 and a \$263,000 increase Chapter 3 activities. The budget request also included \$10 million of additional money to launch a Federal State Matching grants program. This matching grants program is authorized in the original SARE legislation, but it has never been funded. Implementation can only occur if Congress includes funding in the final Agricultural Appropriations bill which is supposed to be passed by September 30. At this point the House Agricultural Appropriations subcommittee has included the full \$10,000,000 for the Matching

Grants program and the Senate full appropriations committee has included \$3,000,000. Neither the house or Senate versions have been approved by their full chamber.

The NIFA program will allow indirect cost recovery cooperative agreements for 2011 FY, however, extension statutory authority prohibits indirect cost recovery. Therefore, there will be no changes for the Chapter 3 PDP program in 2011. However, the SARE's Research and Education grants will have indirect cost taken out. Hill further stated that there were only a few SARE/PDP grants submitted this year. PDP usually funds projects between \$60,000 - \$100,000. The National Goat Conference was one of the initiatives funded by the SARE/PDP grant. Hill further stated that the SARE program gives preferences to multi-state projects and he would love to see a multi-state consortium.

*Steve Brown (ANR Vice- Chair)* asked the committee members if anyone had any ideas on a multi-state consortium. Since there was no response to his question he asked the group whether they would like to look at organic sustainability .

*Paul Mask (Auburn University)* suggested the group put a proposal together.

*Steve Brown (ANR Vice- Chair)* also agreed and asked the group to put together a list to identify which schools provided organic training in their state and who where the contact people in organic training at the respective universities [*please see the list on page 7*]. Next, Steve asked the committee to identify what challenges and opportunities their states has, what are some the benefits the committee will need to fully develop regional impact indicators and what are 3 regional impact indicators that can be measured?

Regional impact indicators that can be measured from each state were identified as the following:

- Small Ruminant Health
- Forestry
- Food Safety

*Paul Mask (Auburn University)* stated he didn't know how we could evaluate the impact of these program areas.

*Robert Burns (University of Tennessee)* explained the evaluation system that UT uses for reporting and he agreed to provide a copy of this evaluation system to the group.

### ***August 26, 2010***

The action items that were identified by the committee were the following:

- Identify an evaluation system to measure impact indicators

Meet with Food and Consumer Science to form a working group to address current organic standards to better help consumers understand what the labels on their food

products mean and to share areas both groups can work together on such as childhood obesity, pesticide safety and locally grown community based food systems

- Host a national meeting.

Below is the list of individuals that were identified by the committee to assist in addressing the each area:

Locally grown community based food systems

- Karen Gehert – VSU
- Susan Barefoot – Clemson University
- Joan Dusky – ANR/UF
- Lue Jolly – FAMU
- Keith Baldwin – NCAT
- Steve Brown – UGA
- Elizabeth Anderson - UGA
- Pesticide Safety
  - Wayne Bellard – NCSU
  - Karen Noble – Texas A&M University
  - Jorge Atile – Oklahoma State University
  - Paul Mask - AU
- Childhood obesity
  - Chris Grind – KT
  - Vivian Fullen – FVSU
  - Eunice Bonsi – TU
  - Evenly Cranger – AU
  - Mike Springer – UF

*Steve Brown (Vice-Chair)* announced the new officer's slate for 2010 -2011 he also asked that all state reports be emailed to Angela McKenzie-Jakes ([angela.mckenziejakes@famuedu](mailto:angela.mckenziejakes@famuedu)).

Secretary: Paul Mask (elected unanimously)

Vice-Chair: Angela McKenzie-Jakes

Chair: Steve Brown

Former Chair: Steve Brown chaired the 2010 meeting

PLC Representative (1890): Nelson Daniels

PLC Representative (1862): Joan Dusky

Meeting Adjourned August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 by Steve Brown

- *The next meeting will be held on Nov., 10, 2010 at 2:00 CST (3:00pm EST). Please call 712-451-6150 and enter participant code 789360*

## Sustainability/ Organic Contact Person

<b>NO.</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>
1.	GA	Julia Gaskin
2.	TN	Annette Wszelaki
3.	NC	Nancy Creamer – Center for Env. Farming Systems
4.	KY	Mike Bomford
5.	KY	Mark Williams
6.	KY	Tim Coolong
7.	GA- FVSU	James E. Brown via. Will Getz
8.	SC	Geoff Zender
9.	TN (TSU)	Owus Bandele/ Chris Robichauy
10.	LA (Southern)	Skip Richter And Joe Masabni – Co-Chair of Organic WG
11.	TX (TX AgriLife Extension)	Justin Dunean
12.	TX – (PVAM)	Kefy Desta
13.	OK	Warren Roberts
14.	OK	Terry Gipson (Langston)
15.	VA	Andy Hankins (VSU)
16.	NC	John O’Sullivad
17.	NC	Keith Baldwin (NCAT)
18.	GA	James Hill – SARE- FVSU
19.	MS	Franklin Chukwuma (ASU)
20.	FL	Joan Dusky (UF)
21.	FL	Danielle Treadwell (UF)
22.	FL	Mickie Swisher (UF)
23.	AL	Leonard Githinji (TU)
24.	WV	Scott Byars (WVSU)