

CRD Conference Call
Minutes
March 19, 2014 10:00 Eastern/ 9:00 Central

Participants:

Brent Elrod, NIFA
Michelle Eley
Alison Davis
Susan Jakes
Stacey McCullough

Joy Moten Thomas
Dave Shideler
Mark Waller
Rachel Welborn

Minutes from last call were approved as presented.

Update from Advisors – not on call

Update re: SRDC Director Status – Interviews complete; selection process moving forward

NIFA Update - Brent Elrod

- FY14 budget and 2014 Farm Bill implementation are underway.
- A number of RFAs are open, see <http://nifa.usda.gov/fo/funding.cfm> for the up to date listing. If you are not responding but are interested in reviewing, contact the National Program Leader responsible for the particular announcement to share your interest. See <https://prs.nifa.usda.gov/preLogin.do;jsessionid=FE59EFE77BBFA5623417B182FAB98E25?page=welcome> to create a peer review account.
- Mandated programs in the Farm Bill include the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers program and for the first time we'll include a 5% set aside for veterans. The goal is to have most competitive RFAs out by June.
- Highlights of the NIFA budget include:
 - An increase of \$9 million above 2014 for a total of \$325 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative;
 - Continued support for capacity funding, minority-serving, and other programs;
 - A new investment creating public-private partnership of Innovation Institutes focused on emerging challenges to agriculture;
 - A new program to engage Veterans in the agricultural sector; and
 - A new program to support training and outreach activities in food safety to assist small producers, processors, and vendors.
- The agency is preparing FY16 budget requests.
- Brent encouraged program leaders to visit him when in DC and share what is going on in their states and to provide input to programming

NACDEP Update

Stacey McCullough

- Member database web portal is now open. Anyone that paid dues last year or this year should have an open portal. Please let NACDEP know if you encounter problems with the system as it is new.

- 2014 NACDEP conference will be in Grand Rapids, MI on June 22-25. Registration will be open soon.
- Notifications have gone out on presentations that were approved and tours are set.
- Panel of almost every previous NACDEP president will be a part of the event.
- NACDEP is looking at co-sponsoring webinars with the RRDCs
- The National CRD Program Leaders' Meeting is June 22nd, at 1:00 p.m. An agenda has been circulated for comments. Everyone on the Southern CRD listserv should have seen it. If not, please let Rachel know so she can check your listing.

Documenting Impacts and Telling our Story: Importance of demonstrating how an increase in funding to CRD strengthens Extension/Research in rural development. NIFA and RD really like the indicators report that the North Central region is producing. The South's work in this area is very important.

- CRD FTE report – Comes from the Plan of Work database and accomplishments (federal)
 - Numbers: Look at these for your institution. Do they seem accurate?
 - Knowledge Areas: Report draws from KA 608. What KAs are CRD using for reporting in your institution? Add these to the indicators database (bottom row)
- State Level Indicators Collection – Make an effort even if for only some indicators and/or for only some people. Second quarter due now.
- National CRD indicators team is meeting monthly and will have a session at NACDEP to continue moving forward
- Southern CRD program survey – Review and edit for your state. Return to Rachel by April 15th. Please track changes or highlight changes for easy identification.

PLN Meeting Overview

Jimmy Henry, Rod Clouser

Registration will be open soon.

Andy Goodman is the keynote presenter and will be leading a workshop following the keynote presentation.

Next Meeting

Next Conference Call, May 21st at 10am Eastern/ 9:00 Central