

# Community Rural Development (CRD) Conference Call

January 26, 2011

Minutes

James Barnes, Chair  
Brian Calhoun  
Lawrence Carter, Administrative Advisor AEA  
Rod Clouser  
Jenny Fertig, Vice-Chair  
Adolphus Johnson  
Tom Riley  
Joe Sumners  
Sandra Thompson  
Deborah Tootle  
Rachel Welborn  
Michael Wilcox, Jr.

**Approval of minutes:** October minutes were approved as presented

## Reports:

- NACDEP-Deborah Tootle – March 7-9 conference early bird registration extended until the end of January. Ed is working to release the slate of candidates for officers.
- Lawrence Carter (AEA) – Developing a 5 year plan to consider how to do things differently with less. AEA meets next week to discuss community development issues. Much of the discussion from the Budget Committee has centered on how the money will be divided. This will impact future programming. Potentially, the Federal budget may roll back to 2008 levels.

## Work Plan Reports

- Foundations of Practice, Training Delivery of Level 1,2,3:  
Rachel – Level 3 Community Sustainability series was launched this month. This is the first of Foundation of Practice trainings on this level. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development has taken leadership on this training.
- Seeking funding for regional initiatives:  
Rachel – The SRDC is seeking people interested in working jointly on a NIFA proposal to explore the impacts of broadband funding. We have a call scheduled for tomorrow for those that are interested.
- Expanded delivery of public deliberation projects: Turning the Tide on Poverty and NIF Economic Security:  
Rachel – This past December the SRDC trained 7 new state teams to launch Turning the Tide on Poverty this spring (AR, KY, TN, FL, NC, VA, WV). Farm Foundation and Kettering Foundation are providing support for this initiative. All 13 states are planning to host at least one NIF Economic Security forum to contribute to a regional report on this issue. Anyone interested in pursuing this that is not already involved, please let Rachel know and she will provide the contacts.
- Further development of E-Commerce trainings:  
Rachel – a new round of curriculum RFPs will be released soon. Contact Shannon Turner for more information ([shannont@srcd.msstate.edu](mailto:shannont@srcd.msstate.edu)) .
- State tracking of PLC indicators:  
Rachel – A national meeting to discuss NIFA indicators is being held in February. PLC has decided to hold off on decisions about including time in the formal agenda for PLN on regional indicators until after this meeting. It is not certain yet whether regional indicators will be mandated or not. This meeting should provide insights.

- 4-H cross-committee work in entrepreneurship:  
Sandra Thompson – The committee is finalizing a survey that should be released soon to help launch this work.
- Develop overview of middle mgmt., ASRED, AEA that highlights results from regional national staffing and funding survey:  
Michael Wilcox – The graduate student that has worked on this project has not defended yet. Once that step is complete, then Michael hopes to be able to move forward in March.
- Provide entrepreneurship and other small business development related training or support services:  
Al Myles is working with Mary Peabody on some avenues to use Cashing in on Business in this realm. Sandra asked about the focus of this group. This may be one avenue for regional indicators.
- Implement newly funded regional projects (including SET) and explore additional state participation:  
Rachel – SET will be expanded in the spring to include new states. For the South it will be states impacted by the oil spill (TX, AL, MS, LA, and possibly FL).
- Regional roundtables – 5 year review of stakeholder needs/desires:  
The SRDC Technical & Advisory Committee and Board of Directors recommended that the Center stay the course with the current priorities. Thus, there will be no need right now for repeating the roundtables.
- CoP on Disaster Resilient Communities:  
Deborah – We are working on ways to align the Disaster Resilient Communities CoP, Sea Grant, EDEN and SRDC's partnership with FEMA.

**Call Schedule:**

- March 30, 2011
- May 25, 2011
- July 27, 2011