**Southern Region ANR – PLN Committee Meeting**

**Conference Call**

**May 11, 2015**

**Tasks**

1. Billy Lawton will send out the list of non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) that the group would like to have in attendance in Washington DC. Please review to see if any personal contacts could be made and let Billy know that you will follow up with inviting someone from the NGO list.
2. Robert Burns will draft an agenda for the Southern Region ANR-PLN portion of the joint meeting program in Washington DC and email it to the listserv for edits and additions.
3. Robert Burns will email the shared on-line agent training resources report to the listserv.
4. Each member should check with the person from their state who is responsible for submitting the Farm Bill Education report to see that a summary of results/impacts is completed and sent in to Ron Brown’s gathering tool.
5. The sub-committee will follow up with Ron Brown to check on reporting by the states.
6. Robert Burns will send a draft agenda for the ANR-PLN meeting in Florida to the listserv and will add the Orlando agenda to the DC agenda for continued discussion.
7. Robert Burns will email a link to a Doodle poll to the listserv to confirm a date for an additional conference call before the meeting in Orlando.

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Edoe Agbodjan South Carolina State University

Robert Burns\* University of Tennessee

Bobby Grisso\* Virginia Tech

Billy Lawton\* Prairie View A&M University

Marty Main University of Florida

Paul Mask Auburn University

Dawn Mellion-Patin Louisiana State University Ag Center

Tom Melton North Carolina State University

Sokuf Muktar Florida State University

Louie Rivers Kentucky State University

Marion Simon Kentucky State University

\*SE-ANR-PLN Officers

 **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by ANR-PLN Committee Chair Robert Burns

**Roll Call** was taken by Robert Burns (see list of attendees above).

1. The North Central and Southern Region Joint ANR-PLN meeting will be held in Washington, DC, June 2-4, 2015.
	* June 2 and 3 will be joint North Central and Southern Region meetings
	* June 4 each region will meet separately from 8 am – 12 pm.
	* Missouri is handling reservations. Please register ASAP - <https://extweb.missouri.edu/NewWebReg/Login.aspx?uid=3&pid=125844> PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR ONLINE MEETING REGRISTION BY May 20th.
	* Hotel room block is closed but you should still be able to get the state or government rate of $229 per night.
	* Members may want to invite other people that you are working with that are interested learning more of the federal agencies.
	* A draft agenda was sent out to the listserv prior to conference call.
	* Billy Lawton will send out the list of non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) that the group would like to have in attendance. Please see if there is anyone on the list that you could contact and let Billy know that you will follow up with inviting someone from that NGO.
	* There are two sponsors for the DC meeting – Office Depot and The Fertilizer Institute (TFI). Each are sponsoring at $1,500.
2. The Southern Region ANR-PLN portion of the joint meeting program in DC was discussed. This meeting will be from 8 am – 12 pm on Thursday, June 4.
	* Agenda items included were:
		+ Agenda for the ANR-PLN portion of the Joint ASRED meeting in Orlando, FL
		+ Update of shared on-line agent training resources by Marty Main
		+ Discussion of reporting on Extension Farm Bill Education efforts and impact
	* It was discussed and decided that there would not be room on the agenda for additional discussions with NGO’s that did not give presentations earlier such as APHIS and Homeland Security.
	* Robert Burns will draft an agenda and email it to the listserv for comments, edits, and additions.
3. An update on shared on-line agent training resources was given by Marty Main, FL. The sub-committee has been working on an on-line system of professional development that is more collaborative for agents and specialists.
	* They are looking at utilizing eXtension Moodle courses.
	* These would need to be made more consistent, standardized and of high quality.
	* This could be done by having courses reviewed by a review committee before being posted.
	* Agents and specialists would get a certificate of achievement and professional development credit once the course is completed and an on-line competency test is passed. The Weeds of the South course in an example of how this could work.
	* There would be a fee for the course which would be distributed to
		+ eXtension
		+ the institute/faculty member creating the course
		+ review committee
	* It was mentioned that eXtension just came out with some grants that may fit with this program.
	* Marty Main emailed the sub-committee’s report to Robert Burns. Burns will email the report to the listserv.
	* The sub-committee’s report will be added to the agenda to be discussed in Washington, DC.
	* It was also suggested to hold a discussion, at the ANR-PLN meeting in Orlando, FL, with eXtension concerning the training resources. Usually eXtension representation is present at PLN.
4. Reporting on Farm Bill education efforts was discussed.
	* Ron Brown sent an email (ASRED) asking for state reports and giving a link to post the results.
	* Each member should check with the person from their state who is responsible for submitting the report to see that it is completed and sent in.
	* The ANR-PLN wanted to be able to show the value of formula funds to the states.
	* The sub-committee may only need a one or two page report of impacts.
	* The sub-committee will follow up with Ron Brown to check on reporting by the states.
	* The Farm Bill education efforts and impacts report should be added to the DC agenda.
5. The Joint ASRED meeting in Orlando, FL, August 24-28 was discussed.
	* Registration is open and a draft agenda has been posted.
		+ <http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/2015_srpln_conference.html>
	* The ANR PLN format will be the same as last year. 1:30 pm Tuesday, August 25 through 12:00 pm, Thursday, August 27.
	* Agenda items discussed were –
		+ Regional on-line training discussion with eXtension
		+ Farm Bill reporting based on discussion from DC meeting
		+ Open discussion possibly coinciding with state reports
		+ Impacts/Outcomes – Joseph Donaldson
		+ Fescue initiative
		+ Peer review for Extension specialists
			- Impacts, scholarship, similar to the evaluation of teaching
	* State Reports were discussed
		+ It was decided to keep the state reports on the agenda
		+ Written reports will not be required
		+ The reports generate good discussion of topics not otherwise on the agenda.
		+ It was suggested that there be a topic for the state report so that the discussion is more beneficial to everyone.
		+ It was decided to add topical discussions to the agenda.
	* Robert Burns will send a draft agenda to the listserv and will add this topic to the DC agenda for continued discussion.
6. It was decided to add another conference call to the schedule. Three dates will be proposed in a Doodle poll. The dates will be after the DC meeting and prior to the Orlando meeting. The proposed Orlando meeting agenda will be discussed. Robert Burns will email the Doodle poll to the listserv.
7. For the Good of the Order – no comments were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.