

ANR PLN 2014 Meeting Minutes

8/19 and 8/21 2014 – Hilton Fort Worth

Attending:

Paul Mask	Auburn University
Rick Cartwright	University of Arkansas
Niki Whitley	North Carolina A&T University
M. Ray McKinnie	North Carolina A&T University
Jim Trapp	Oklahoma State University
Bobby Grisso	Virginia Tech
Uma Karki	Tuskegee University
Ross Love	Oklahoma State University
Gary Sherrer	Oklahoma State University
Tom Dobbins	South Carolina
Travis Miller	Texas A&M University
Edoe Agbodjan	South Carolina State University
Bill Hubbard	Southern Region Extension Forestry
Dawn Mellini Patton	Southern University
Melissa Stewart	West Virginia State University
Billy Lawton	Prairie View A&M University
Steve Brown	University of Georgia Athens
Joan Dusky	University of Florida
Martin Main	University of Florida
Rogers Leonard	Louisiana State University Ag Center
Joe Street	Mississippi State University
Robert Burns	University of Tennessee
Henry English	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
Rodulfo Pacumbaba	Alabama A&M University
Gary Palmer	University of Kentucky
Tom Melton	North Carolina State
Todd Hurt	University of Georgia

Guest:

Larry Pierce	Texas A&M University
Matt Elmore	Texas A&M University
Mike Merchant	Texas A&M University
Michael Gavazzi	USDA SRS Raleigh N.C.
Mark McFarland	Texas A&M University
Hurley Miller	Texas A&M University
Anne Adrian	

Call to Order - The meeting called to order at 1:30pm on 8/19 by ANR-PLN Committee Chair Edoe Agbodjan.

Roll Call - Each individual in attendance introduced themselves and identified their position and university.

New Business - Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas (*presentations attached*)

Travis Millers introduced guest from the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas.

Hurley Miller, District Extension Director, Presented a brief overview of the Center and its mission.

Urban Water Program (*Presentation Attached*)

Larry Pierce Regional Program Director gave an overview of the Urban Water Team introducing us to the members and their roles and mission.

Key goals of this initiative are:

- Urban Water Public Outreach
- Extension Agent Training,
- Professional Training of Commercial Irrigation
- CEU
- Master Gardner Training,
- Rainwater Harvesting
- On/Off campus Demos.

Extending the Reach of the Texas A&M Turf Program (*Presentation Attached*)

Matt Elmore, Turf Specialist, the goal of his program is to expanding the reach of the Turf program and to advance the professionalism of the Lawn Care Profession. There is over 1.6 million acres of turf in Texas. Major concerns are weed control and water conservation.

Urban Entomology (*Presentation Attached*)

Mike Merchant is the Urban Entomology at the Center his main focus has been on controlling Bed Bugs in homeless shelters, Fire Ant Control, Pesticide use in Public Schools, West Nile virus. The Team is utilizing Master Gardeners to educate the public in many of these areas. They also offer pesticide training to both privative and professionals applicators.

Water Southern Extension and Research Activity- Information Exchange Group (Water SERA-IEG) (*Presentation Attached*)

Mark McFarland provided a review of the history of the group and update on the group's activities. Established in 1988 for the purpose of sharing resources and collaborating on current and future issues relating to water. Key points from Mark's update were:

Establish a team concept of conducting project; some examples of this are Regional Soil Testing website, Multistate Research trials, National Projects with NRCS.

Program Teams

- Animal Waste Management
- Nutrient Management
- Irrigation Water Management
- Water Policy and Economics
- Drinking Water and Rural/Urban Interface

- Watershed Education and Restoration
- Watershed Assessment and Management
- Youth Water Education

Team Goals

- Promote information sharing and resource exchange
- Technology transfer, training/capacity building
- Coordinate resource development
- Build/strengthen external partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations (industry/commodity)
- Enhance delivery of LGU resources to clientele

Old Business:

Officer nominating committee was appointed by the Chair comprised of

- Joan Dusky
- Robert Burns
- Steve Brown
- Billy Lawton

Updates on 2013-2014 Plan of Work *(each presenter provide written update)*

- Farm Bill Workshop Ross Love
 - With the delay in passing the Farm Bill not much activate to date. Some programs are being planned to deliver training on the “Decision Aid” being developed.
- White Paper on Shared Specialist Robert Burns & Steve Brown
 - Discussion centered around shared specialist model in other states, Regional Specialist might be more practical as with forestry
 - Joint Position
 - MOU/Contracts
 - Consortiums
- System Wide Evaluation of Local Food Systems Bobby Grisso
 - The group met three times with a forth meeting planned in a few weeks in North Carolina. Tenn. Was recently added to group. Key outcomes to date are;
 - Evaluated Resources that each state has developed
 - Established Common Measures
 - Submitted grants to support activities.
- Climate and weather In-Service Plans Joan Dusky
 - Joan gave an update on the Regional Climate Change Workshop.

USDA South East Regional Climate Hub *(Presentation Attached)*

Michael Gavazzi led a discussion and presentation on this issue: The mission of the South East Regional Climate Hub is to: Develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies to agricultural and natural resource managers that enable climate-smart decision-making and provide assistance to enable land managers to implement those decisions.

Key learnings to date:

- Land managers don't come to meetings unless they have a role at the meeting
- It is much easier to teach the teachers than to start from scratch at building relationships
- Now matters, tomorrow does not
- My backyard matters, your backyard does not
- Climate variability impacts resonate, climate change does not

Item moved up in the agenda:

UGA's Online Agent Training – Todd Hurt led this discussion

- Ability to deliver training to new agents online
- Can this concept be shared across the Southern Region

Adjoin

Wednesday Aug. 20

Call to Order - The meeting called to order at 8:05am on 8/20 by ANR-PLN Committee Chair Edoe Agbodjan.

Rachelle made a presentation on Local Food needs. Agriculture Marketing Services (AMS) has contacted the center with grants to "Regional Food Systems" Training on how to write and manage these grants is needed.

Farm Bill Update

Extension & Research Title *(Presentation Attached)*

Adell Brown from Southern University presented on Title VII Research & Related Matters of the 2014 Farm Bill. Dr. Brown made the analogy it like a Swiss Army Knife, Something for everybody. Dr. Brown's presentation led to a lengthy discussion on the RREA Funding and Appropriated Vs. Authorized.

Farm Bill Education *(Presentation Attached)*

Joe Outlaw discussed used the "Decision Aid Tool" that was developed by Texas A&M and Missouri to assist Farms in selecting the right crop coverage under the new Farm Bill. Trainings are being scheduled for Extension to train Farmers on how to use it.

eXtension Update (Attachment)

Ann Adrian updated the group on eXtension's plans to transition to "Innovation Foundation" and its plans to create innovative web content. This transition will take place over a three period. She also discussed new funding proposal which will be membership based.

Southern Regional Forestry Update - Bill Hubbard provided update on Southern Regional Forestry (Presentation Attached)

Mission: To serve the southern Land Grant University System by collaborative development of forestry technologies and programs that improve the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of supporting institutions.

- Need for help in writing grants to support efforts
- Regional Programs continue to be a bright spot
- ASRED to sponsor ½ position failed

Robert Burns Conducted session on developing action and informational items for Directors.

Lunch

Develop Accomplishments and Plan of Work Update 2014-2015

New Officer Discussion:

Nominating Committee Report – Nominating committee recommends Bill Grisso from Virginia Tech to server as Secretary for the coming year. His nomination was approved by the AgNR Committee. Robert Burns Will move to President and Billy Lawton will become Vice President.

US Tobacco GAP Program Jane Starnes

Key point: In the past each company has had its own program starting in Aug. 2013 all programs were unified into one. (Robert Jane Presentation may be on your Computer)

Administrative Advisors Update:

Evening Committee Night Out (Cattlemen's Steakhouse Stockyards)

Thursday, Aug 21

Finalize 2014-2015 Plan of Work

State Reports:

If you wish to send in state reports, forward to Billy Lawton and he will have them posted.

Verbal state reports were given by all states present. Each state also provided a written copy.

2014 – 2015 AgNR PLN Committee Conference call dates -

Calls are scheduled for an hour and are to begin at 2:00 PM Central / 3:00 PM Eastern on the following dates:

- November 12, 2014
- February 11, 2015
- May 13, 2015

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 pm on 8/21

Minutes submitted by Billy Lawton – 2013-2014 AgNR PLN Secretary