

## MINUTES FOR THE 5/12/2021 SR-PLN CONFERENCE CALL

### Attendees:

Randy Taylor, Chair	Oklahoma State
Vic Ford, Secretary	Arkansas
Laura Perry Johnson, Administrative Advisor	Georgia
Nathan Smith	Clemson
Uma Karki	Tuskegee
Mike Salassi	LSU
Dan Goerlich	Virginia Cooperative Extension
Mark McCann	Georgia
Jason de Koff	Tennessee State University
Saqib Mukhtar	Florida
Blair Herbert	LSU
Rob Holland	Tennessee
Alex Bolques	Florida A&M
Cindy Folck	Central State

### Minutes of the previous meeting was approved.

Mike Salassi (LSU) motioned and Rob Holland (Tennessee) seconded.

### Dr. Perry-Johnson – Administrative Update

Comparing states response to COVID, ANR doing better than FCS than 4-H. The CDC has allocated \$9 million for Extension programs. States are working on vaccine education and every Land Grant is eligible. Participation is lagging but Southern Region is leading the way with involvement.

All are waiting on the priorities of the Biden administration and anticipating programs.

Most conferences are still virtual because of fear of booking hotels and associated penalties. Face-to-face conference will occur later in the year. Most states are eligible to travel.

Lots of trade hearings are being held for vegetables. Southern states always combine for these hearings.

### Vice Chair

Marion Simon (Kentucky State) has accepted the Vice Chair role. Saqib Mukhtar (Florida) motioned that the committee elect Marion as Vice Chair, Dan seconded, and motion carried.

### Joint ~~PLN~~NC/S Meeting

Zippy Duval, American Farm Bureau President, is the lead for policy discussion based on his schedule. Various discussions are planned including a representative from the Extension Climate Hubs. There may be discussion on virtual agents and what programs look like post-COVID. There will be a debriefing after the meeting to determine the lessons learned. The members appreciate Mark McCann (Georgia) for his hard work.

## **Plan of Work**

Farm worker safety plan. Saqib Mukhtar (Florida) is working with interested parties on the project. The emphasis is from COVID safety to vaccination promotion. They are holding bimonthly meetings with health organizations. Podcasts and webinars are being developed and disseminated. There are Spanish and Haitian Creole programs being developed along with the English versions. Georgia is also developing Spanish programs. Contractors and farm workers are both being trained in vaccination promotion.

Virtual Working Group. Twenty-seven ~~committees~~ people across the Southern Region responded and was a bit disappointing in the number. Responses were similar across committees. A draft of the document was presented to the committee. It was a worthwhile undertaking and final draft in preparation.

## **Review and Finalize AR-PLN Meeting**

See proposed agenda. We will start at 8:00 AM on Tuesday and will complete the meeting on Wednesday at 4:00 PM. Lunch will be long and will allow time for participants to check emails. We will need to elect a secretary from and 1890 institutions. Innovative programs will be discussed, and we will need examples. Southern Economics Advisor Committee report will be added to the agenda.

## **University of Florida**

Dr. Shirley Baker is the new Associate Program Leader of Natural Resources. The first search for Director has not found any acceptable candidates and the position has been readvertised.