

**CRD Conference Call**  
**Minutes**  
**January 21, 2015 10:00 Eastern/ 9:00 Central**  
**Committee info: <http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/crd.html>**

Participants:

Susan Jakes	Rachel Welborn
Tom Chestnut	Susan Kelly (Southern Reg. Rep – NACDEP)
Stacey McCullough	Charles Artis
Buddhi Raj Gyawali	Joy Moten-Thomas
Mark Waller	Dave Lamie
Alison Davis	Greg Davis
Sarah Holstead	Crystal Tyler-Mackey

Roll Call - Crystal Tyler-Mackey

Minutes Update – Crystal will email minutes.

Update from Advisors - None on the call

Update re: SRDC Director Status – Rachel Welborn

The North Central Regional Rural Development Center is stepping down. The SRDC director position is still open. An offer was made but declined. SRDC has a good staff and is being rebuilt with a half-time programmatic person, webmaster, grants and contracts position and two interns.

NIFA Update – Not on the call

NACDEP Update - Stacey McCullough

NACDEP conference – There were 108 proposals submitted; responses will be sent to applicants by February 2. Suggestions for an opening speaker from land-grant institution to talk about the future of Extension and how to thrive as we move forward. Registration will be ready by the end of this week for the conference. Awards applications are due February 16. The Innovation Award is new to showcase Extension work that is “out of the box”. Awards are being reviewed by a national group. NACDEP combined 2 categories this year, and there was a change in the number of members needed for awards.

PLC Committee Report – Not on the call

Documenting Impacts and Telling our Story:

- NIFA’s interest in measures of Rural Vitality – Rachel Welborn
  - The Regional Rural Development directors are scheduled to meet in Washington DC the first week of March. Rachel has asked Brent Elrod to check in with this interest.
- State Level Indicators Collection - Susan Jakes

- There will be no numerical data collected on community/civic engagement. Susan will meet with the national team to talk about it at the CDS meeting.

#### Plan of Work Update –

- Further development of regional CD indicators-Susan Jakes
  - The committee will be again in February to prepare the revised outcomes to be sent out.
- Southern CD agent training (Institute for Sustainable Development) - Alison Davis
  - It seems that there is a lot of interest in the CD agent training, but no firm plans have been made yet. The Sustainable Development Training will possibly be held next year. West Virginia, Georgia, and South Carolina have all expressed interest. Alison will get the conversation going.
- Recruit 1890 Institutional Partners to Attend a Ready Community Training for Agents and EM Partners-Alison
  - The training was held in Nashville with 5 states at the start of the year. There was a lot of energy and each team got \$3500 to start the program. By the end of the August, plans need to be completed.
- Determine next steps for we can continue to engage county commissioners–Not on call
- Utilize to [landgrantimpacts.org](http://landgrantimpacts.org) to distribute impacts – Not on the call
- Hold a Southern Region meeting to assess gaps and key opportunities (incl. urban & local foods focus) for CRD programming to build capacity across the Southern Region-Rachel
  - There was a local foods meeting held in December and most states attended. A plan was set for moving forward. There are over 300 names of people that will receive a survey to assess who is doing what in the region. Once that is received, SRDC will put the teams together. There is a meeting to be held mid-February to help think about CRD programming/training in food systems.

#### New Opportunities:

- Food systems interest - Rachel Welborn
  - See previous bullet
- CRD listserv for all Southern professionals – Rachel
  - The listserv is growing
- PLC planning meeting – not on the call
- Ag Marketing Services grant – capacity building – Stacy
  - The 4 Regional Rural Development centers working collectively on this. Stacey is taking the lead in the Southern region. The Train the Trainer session is being held in Nashville, Tennessee on February 25. There will be subsequent trainings held in each state to improve the quality of AMS grants.
- New SET funding - Rachel Welborn
  - The SET state-level applications are open. State Extension services and USDA Rural Development centers have to agree/sign to work on it. A team conducted 10 site visits over the summer and is currently working on changes. The process will be

shorter, with 4 core modules and it will be adaptable, with additional tracks to choose. There is a group working on a civic engagement piece, as well. The new process will include the coach staying with the groups for one year. The money will stay in the region. An applicant can apply for up to two regions. The deadline is at the end of January.

Upcoming call Schedule:

Conference Call Schedule: All calls scheduled for 9:00 am Central / 10:00 am Eastern. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Month, every 2 months

Oct 15, 2014

Nov 19, 2014

Jan 21, 2015

Mar 18, 2015

May 27, 2015\* (held on 4<sup>th</sup> Wed due to NACDEP conf.)

July 15, 2015

PLN Meeting: August 17-21, 2015 (**Orlando, FL**)

<http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/crd.html>