

Southern Region PLN FCS Committee Call  
Minutes  
June 8, 2017

Callers present: (in addition, see attachment)  
Leslie Speller-Henderson, Tennessee State University  
Claudette Smith, North Carolina A & T State University  
Melissa ?? Virginia Tech University  
Virginie Zoumenou, University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Joanne Bankston, Kentucky State University  
Mattie Rasco, Alcorn State University  
Martha Ray Sartor, University of Arkansas  
Rosemary Rodibaugh, University of Arkansas  
Jacquelyn White, Prairie View A&M University  
Rich Bonano, North Carolina State University  
Mike Yoder, North Carolina State University  
Beverly Samuel, Southern Region USDA – NIFA

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am (eastern)

Minutes:

Chair, Leslie Speller-Henderson, called for approval of minutes from the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Rosemary Rodibaugh and seconded by Virginie Zoumenou to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

New Business:

Leslie reminded members that Cherry K. Smith sent out the template for the state reports which should be completed and returned to Cherry by July 15. Examples of previous reports are on the website: <http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/fcs.html>.

Leslie mentioned that there would be a discussion at the August meeting on the Marketing Report and what is going on with it.

NIFA Update:

Leslie introduced Beverly Samuel, Southern Region Liaison from USDA – NIFA, who discussed the NIFA Calls to Conversation. There is an upcoming Call to Conversation being held June 14-15 in St. Louis to gather information and stakeholder input on the EFNEP program. She mentioned that two calls have been held over the past year: one on “Engagement and Success of Land-Grant Universities and Colleges – Respecting Sovereignty, Serving the People and the Land,” and one on Tactical Sciences. NIFA is putting together a team to address threats to the food system. In August, the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University, and NIFA will undertake a Call to Conversation regarding Positive Youth Development (PYD). More information on the Calls to Conversation can be found at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/nifa-calls-conversation-meeting-series>. Infographics on areas of emphasis can be found at: [https://nifa.usda.gov/search?keyword=Infographics&sort\\_by=search\\_api\\_relevance](https://nifa.usda.gov/search?keyword=Infographics&sort_by=search_api_relevance).

Budget: Dr. Ramaswamy is happy that the proposed budget from the White House only cut NIFA funding by 5%. They are still waiting on the outcome from Congress. NIFA has approval to fund 18 new positions. FCS is in the next round for position requests.

Grants: RFA announcements operating on the premise that they'll get the same amount of funding in FY18 as in FY17. FY17 funds have to be awarded by Sept. 30. We all need to take advantage of grant funding.

Upcoming meetings:

NEAFCS Ignite sessions: Will accept up to 8 Ignite sessions for the State Leaders meeting at NEAFCS. Make sure to submit to Michael Gutter.

CAFCS meeting in Biloxi, MS on Feb 13-16, 2018: Joanne Bankston, co-chair of the meeting asked for input on any special interests to address at the meeting.

SRPLN FCS: Leslie is working on the agenda for the August meeting in Ft. Worth.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.