

**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee
Conference Call
June 15, 2017 9:00 am Central Daylight Time**

Participants

ANR: Tom Melton, Louie Rivers
COM: Elizabeth Gregory North
CRD: Dave Shideler
FCS: no representative
4-H: Pam Ardern
IT: Rhonda Conlon, Terrence Wolkfork
MM: Lonnie Johnson
PSD: Celeste Allgood

AEA: Carolyn Williams
ASRED: Paul Brown, Ed Jones
MSU-ES/SRDC: Vicki Vaughn

Meeting was opened by Chair Elizabeth Gregory North.

The group reviewed the April minutes. The minutes were approved as distributed.

The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

Reports

AEA Report: Carolyn Williams reported that Dr. Lyons was contacted with a request for an 1890 representative to testify before the House Agriculture Committee on June 21. Dr. Walter Hill from Tuskegee will participate in this hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill, using talking points prepared by Dr. Lyons, Dr. Williams, and others.

Dr. Lyons will be retiring on July 1, and AEA will be searching for someone to fill his position. Dr. Williams expressed gratitude for Dr. Lyons's leadership and dedication and the inspirational example he has provided to the entire 1890 and Extension community. His legacy is immeasurable; he has been a true champion for the 1890 programs and for Extension. A position description is in development, but it will be difficult to find someone to fill Dr. Lyons's shoes.

The AEA Summer Meeting will be next week, June 19-22, in Charleston, West Virginia. Representatives from NIFA and the 1890 Foundation will attend.

ASRED Report: Ed Jones reported that ASRED is focusing on a big push for funding. The President's budget included cuts to Smith-Lever and 1890 funding. The real push is for the NIFA One Ask: a 20-percent increase in funding to all budget lines affecting land-grant universities

and programs. They are working to get these requests before the House and Senate Committees. The President's budget also zeroed out funding for the Rural Development Centers, Aquaculture Centers, and others; but these recommendations still need to be considered by the House and Senate. Dr. Juliette Bell, of the University of Maryland—Eastern Shore, and Dr. Jones are participating in an Agriculture Panel on Diversity and Inclusion, a new initiative which includes corporate partners such as Monsanto and ADM.

On behalf of ASRED, Ed also expressed gratitude for the leadership provided by Dr. Lyons and remarked that he will be greatly missed by all in the Extension system.

SRPLN CONFERENCE PLANNING:

Theme: Engaging Communities: Worth Doing Together

Our priorities:

- Promote multi-state cooperation
- Anticipate emerging issues
- Implement actions to address these issues
- Promoting cross committee work

The draft agenda:

Opening General Session

- 8:00 Introductions and Welcome
- 8:15 Charge: Carolyn Williams, related to theme, keynote, and PLN
- 8:30 Keynote Presentation & Interaction: Rich Harwood
- 10:00 Break
- 11:45 Lunch (with 4 Ignite Sessions)

Rich Harwood will be keynote. Paul Brown, Dave Shideler, and Elizabeth participated in a web conference with Rich Harwood and his assistant Grady Lenkin on June 8. The group is very excited about the content Rich is planning, and he will develop questions/tasks for the committees to carry his themes through the rest of our work at the PLN and beyond

Design/refine Newcomer Orientation (Iris, ChaNae, Dave, Elizabeth) – The group met on May 30 and discussed refining the PowerPoint used at the previous two orientations to make it more visually interesting. The group plans to offer an online version of the training prior to PLN, to send the PowerPoint to everyone who is registered as a refresher, and provide an in-person meeting, perhaps after the PLN starts, to provide support and answer questions from newcomers.

Design/refine Program Committee Chair Training (Laura, Celeste, Elizabeth, Rachel) – The group is waiting to receive the questions from Rich Harwood.

Ignite Sessions (Rachel, Iris, Celeste, Tom, Rhonda). The group reported that only three proposals have been received. Their recommendation is that we schedule these for presentation at one luncheon, rather than breaking them up over two.

Pre-Conference Session – Jeannette Johnson, the Organizational Development Officer for Tarrant County, Texas, will be leading a pre-conference session on leadership development and succession planning.

Future Joint Meeting Site Plans – Vicki Vaughn

- 2017: Fort Worth, Fort Worth Hilton, August 22-26
- 2018: Orlando
- 2019: New Orleans

Program Committee Reports

ANR: Tom Melton and Louie Rivers. Their joint meeting with North Central program leaders will be held June 27-29 in Washington, DC. They have a great program planned, including presentations from USDA staffers. Subject-matter core competency training for Extension agents is a priority. They want to share across all the states in the Region. They are planning a retreat prior to PLN 2018 in Orlando to coordinate the development of this training. At their last meeting, they heard a valuable presentation from the Florida group on invasive plants.

COM: Elizabeth Gregory North reported that the Committee is continuing to work on the five modules of their communications competency training. They plan to have more to share, including draft content, at PLN in August.

CRD: Dave Shideler reported that their Committee met last week, and that most of them are at NACDEP this week. There was also a national program leaders meeting, which went well. The new format was well received, focusing on an innovative partnerships funding model. The discussion has been very fruitful and has provided inspiration for moving forward despite limited resources. Plan of Work indicators are due to Rachel Welborn on July 1. She will compile them and create a report for the Committee to review at PLN. Many CRD professional are involved in SERA 47 (Local Foods), whose annual meeting is August 1-2 in Atlanta. They encourage all who are interested to sign up through NIMMS to request travel support to participate. The Committee is continuing their webinar series to showcase their work. Typically, 20 to 30 people participate live, and 40 to 50 view the recording.

FCS: No representatives

4-H: Pam Ardern reported that the Committee had a conference call on May 9. They are continuing work on their Plan of Work, including a Volunteer Conference in October. They are

also planning a survey on retention of 4-H agents. They would like a joint meeting with FCS and MM.

IT: Rhonda Conlon and Terrence Wolkfork reported that the IT Committee would be meeting after this meeting, so they had no new developments to share at this time.

MM: Lonnie Johnson reported that the Mid-Management Committee cancelled their last scheduled call (last week) because most of their Plan of Work has already been accomplished. In March, they held their Mid-Managers Conference in North Carolina. The Center for Creative Leadership, based in North Carolina, provided a great session. Their newsletter has been sent out, and they have updated their document on Best Practices for Mid-Managers. It should be on their Committee page on the SRPLN web site.

PSD: Celeste Allgood reported that there has not been a lot of change with PSD since our last call. Their Areas of Expertise survey has been sent out to the various states, and their annual Virtual Summer School is being planned.

Other Business:

Future PLN Agenda Study Group: (Paul Brown, Ron Brown, L. Washington Lyons, Vonda Richardson, Iris Crosby, Tom Melton, Pam Ardern, Celeste Allgood, Terrence Wolkfork, and Laura Stephenson.) Paul Brown reported that the Future PLN Agenda Study Group ideas were discussed at the joint meeting of ASRED and AEA. The need for effective leadership for PLN committees and an improved election process were also discussed. Ron Brown will be communicating ideas with AEA. We need training for committee chairs, including an overview of roles and responsibilities. We have a great agenda planned for August 2017. We need to use the time to energize and advance our work in the Region and capture regional impacts. It was a good, positive conversation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 am CDT.

**REMINDER – The next conference call will be held Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 9:00 Central.
Please call 641-715-3276 and enter participant code 1068380#**