



**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee Meeting**  
**February 16, 2023**  
**Minutes**

<https://msstateextension.zoom.us/j/95320639706?pwd=MnRBNHZTV2JUJU1JNVNkV3Y3bEtRUT09>

Meeting ID: 953 2063 9706

Passcode: **PLN2023**

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Committee Representatives on the call

- ANR – Dan Goerlich and Uma Karki
- COM –Michelle Burchett
- CRD – Adam Hodges and Dan Kahl
- FCS –Michelle Parisi and Jaquelyn White
- 4-H Youth Development—Demier Richardson-Sanders
- IT –Brian Watson
- MM –no representative on this call
- PSD – Renysha Harris and Cheryl Newberry

AEA Representative: Vonda Richardson

ASRED Representative: Ron Brown

SRDC/MS State Representatives:

- Carmen Kelly
- Grace Langford
- Vicki Vaughn
- Rachel Welborn

1. Welcome – Dan Kahl, PLC Chair, welcomed the participants and did mike checks all around.
2. Approval of PLC Oct. 31 – November 9 mid-winter meeting minutes were approved as presented.
3. Update from AEA – Vonda Richardson
  - The Association of Extension Administrators and Association of Research Directors held their joint winter meeting in January. Considering how the 1890s could engage in a multi-state proposal on climate change was a key topic. There is interest in convening a regional research and Extension team to explore this issue. Dan Kahl also noted that the CRD committee had climate on its work plan this year and Rachel reported that this was also the case for the SRDC.
  - AEA – new slate of officers: Carolyn Williams – Chair; Vice Chair – Vonda; Raymon Shange - Secretary
  - Excellence in Extension awards nominations are open with a May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline:  
<https://awards.extension.org/>
  - Call to Action from the Board on Agriculture Assembly was released by APLU and announced in the ECOP Monday Minutes.
  - Advocacy opportunities:
    - CARET in March: <https://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/board-on-agriculture-assembly/CARET/caret-ahs-meetings/>



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- PILD in April: <https://www.jcep.org/pild/2023>
  - Scholarships for youth and chaperones to the National 4-H Conference in DC are available.

#### 4. Update from ASRED – Ron Brown

- Question from Dr. Brown: Are there sources for national data on Extension race/ethnicity employees? Rachel reported that the ECOP DEI Program Action Team has looked for a source and has continually been told that there is no national database. However, some LGU institutions are collecting data internally, but often those are voluntary.
- As you know, Dr. Caroline Henney, ECOP/CES Executive Director, retired effective September 30, 2022. A search committee has been appointed and a search was initiated. A high-quality candidate was identified, interviewed and offered the position but then decided to remain with her current employer. The position description has been revised and reposted, with a mid-March closing date on a new search. In the meantime, Ms. Sandy Ruble and the EDA team are taking on the must-do items on behalf of ECOP. If you know individuals who may have interest, please provide their names to Drs. Damona Doye or Ron Brown, both of whom serve on the search committee.
- In September 2022, Dr. Steve Martin assumed the role of Interim Director of Extension in Mississippi as Dr. Gary Jackson moved to the role of Associate Vice President for Outreach and Engagement.
- Early in January, Dr. Rich Bonanno, North Carolina State University, accepted an additional role at NCSU as Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement.
- On January 1, 2023, Dr. Tara Smith became the Interim Director of Extension in Louisiana, replacing Dr. Gina Eubanks following her move to a different role.
- The following elections were held to fill Dr. Eubanks' assignments on behalf of ASRED:
  - ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee – three-year term ends Nov 2026 – Dr. Rich Bonanno, NCSU.
  - Administrative Advisor, Communications PLC – four-year term ends Nov 2027 – Dr. Mike Gutter, Virginia Tech.
- Due to Dr. Angie Freel's move from her position in Arkansas and upon the advice of the SR 4-H Program Leaders, ASRED has selected Dr. Jeremy Johnson of Virginia to serve as our region's Program Leader representative to the ECOP National 4-H Leadership Committee.
- Dr. Chris Geith (now Nygren) retired from her role as CEO of the Extension Foundation Friday, January 13, 2023. Dr. Beverly Coberly will serve in the position on an interim basis.
- The official call is out for nominations and applications for the National Extension Diversity and Excellence in Extension Awards for 2023. We hope to continue to showcase some of the high-quality personnel and programs at our institutions and agencies.
- On April 11-14, ASRED plans to hold its spring meeting in Georgia as a face-to-face meeting that was originally planned for 2020.
- Although naming a Director of NIFA has been stated as imminent, there has been no announcement as of yet. It is expected that a Director will be named soon and that Dr. Dionne Toombs, who is Acting, will move to the role of Associate Director for Programs. Dr. Drenda Williams has been named Associate Director for Operations. Brent Elrod, who has been serving as Acting Director for Programs has timed out and Dr. Williams is now serving in this role. Brent will continue to be the NIFA liaison to ECOP and CES.

#### 5. Conference Planning:

- **Conference Theme:** "Next Generation: Evolving the Extension Enterprise"



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- **Graphics:** Tracey Courage, UAR, was not on the call. We need to check with her to see how progress is coming.
  - **Confirm speaker slate;** identify someone to reach out.  
Results of the 2023 SR-PLN potential speakers' poll, and here is the ranking:
    1. Ole Pete (Mansfield Key) <http://www.olepetekeyinc.com/about-us.html>  
<https://youtu.be/DMPHw0mHohl> - Dan sent an email to Ole Pete yesterday but has not heard back yet. Vonda will follow up with a contact she has.
    2. Marshall Stewart -Vice Chancellor for extension and engagement at the University of Missouri, spoke at 2020 SR-PLN <https://extension.missouri.edu/people/marshall-stewart-100245>.
    3. Ryan Jenkins – <https://www.ryan-jenkins.com/about/> Generations keynote speaker  
<https://youtu.be/ypJKGxNcmvA> Brian Watson will reach out and check on price and availability.
    4. Another possibility would be to ask the ECOP Program Action Teams to report on what is going on: <https://pats.extension.org/>
  - Registration timeline and fees:
    - For 2022, Vicki reported:
      - PLN fees were: \$420, \$470, \$520
      - PLN and AEA/ASRED together fees were: \$495, \$545, \$595
      - Registration: 255, which is an average of \$588 per person.
    - For 2023 – information needed to determine costs include food costs, AV costs, speaker fees. A subcommittee will work to draft a fee base and share it by email as soon as possible: Vicki, Dan, Brian Watson, Vonda Richardson, Ron Brown. Dan will take lead in coordinating.
  - Drafting the agenda –
    - Tuesday afternoon (1:30 – 5:00 p.m.) – need to add ASRED and AEA to the list of meetings If a preconference is scheduled onsite, we would need to add that in on Monday
    - Cheryl proposed we move the PLC meeting to later on Monday to give people more time to get in. Perhaps starting at 4:00.
    - Need committee rooms to have separate space so everyone can hear well. Vicki noted that last year's issue was because the hotel had overbooked due to COVID.
  - Pre/Post Conference – Dan will convene the group to discuss options.
    - Dan Goerlich – Chair, Michelle Parisi, Vonda Richardson, Brian Watson
  - Newcomers – Cheryl will convene the group to discuss. The time on the agenda will be the same as in the past.
    - Cheryl Newberry (Chair), Adam Hodges, Lyndall Stout, Tom Dobbins
  - Committee Officer Training – be sure to note that committees are required to bring computers and projectors.
    - Uma Karki (chair), Michelle Parisi, Dan Kahl
  - Ensuring IT support for committees or other last-minute issues. Brian Watson will check with IT to see if they can get volunteers to do a set time to assist committees with IT set up.
6. Program Committee Reports
- ANR – Dan Goerlich and Uma Karki – The committee met recently and had presentations on several key topics related to their effort.
  - COM –Lyndall Stout and Michelle Burchett – no report this time



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- CRD – Adam Hodges and Dan Kahl – The committee is making progress on its plan of work including climate; CRD best practices survey; collaboration among 1890, 1862, 1994 institutions; Southern region listening session webinar
  - FCS –Michelle Parisi and Jaquelyn White – We have not met since September. Southern Region went to North Carolina to see their demonstration kitchen. Many FCS professionals attended the conference focusing on Snap-Ed. March 7-10 will be the Board on Human Sciences meeting. Michelle P. is leading a grant proposal focusing on diabetes, collaborating with 5 states.
  - 4-H Youth Development— Melanie Biersmith and Demier Richardson-Sanders – No report this time.
  - IT –Lalit Rainey and Brian Watson – IT is putting together a resource of IT leadership training focusing on succession planning. We have completed an IT staffing survey. IT and COMS are both working on guidelines on accessibility. Work ahead includes collaborating between these two groups. Extension Foundation’s chatbot is coming and there will be a call for reviewing. Policy repositories was a topic to explore how universities are curating policies.
  - MM –Blake Lanford and Lonette Marsh – not on call.
  - PSD – Renysa Harris and Cheryl Newberry – Civil Rights Review committee will be hosting a web-based meeting on what is happening in the different states and how the work is being reported. Cheryl sent an email to this group this morning letting other committees know how the PSD committee can support evaluation for regional projects. Upcoming webinars are here and other committees are invited: <https://naepsdp.wildapricot.org/Upcoming-Webinars> . Previous workshops are here: <https://naepsdp.wildapricot.org/Webinar-Archive>
7. Other business: Given the many action items to complete, PLC agreed to meet an additional time on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 – 10:30 Central/ 10:00 – 11:30 Eastern at the same link as this call. Rachel Welborn will send a calendar invite.
8. Closing Remarks—Dan Kahl, PLC Chair: We are Extension! Our work is very important, and your investment of time is so much appreciated.
9. Adjourn

\*Reminder: 2022-2023 PLN Committee Conference Call Schedule: February 16<sup>th</sup>, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**, April 20<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 10:30 am Central / 10:00 – 11:30 am Eastern

Here is the Jamboard link that we used to help develop a theme and decide speakers:

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/1rJKRh66NRNOwdrYgOVfFK4i9srfafsa\\_ZIN4kEvetB8/viewer?f=0](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1rJKRh66NRNOwdrYgOVfFK4i9srfafsa_ZIN4kEvetB8/viewer?f=0)