



**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee Meeting**  
**June 20, 2024**  
**Minutes**

- ANR – no representatives on call
- COM – no representatives on call
- CRD – Rachel Welborn reporting for PLC reps
- FCS – no representatives on call
- 4-H Youth Development— Melanie Biersmith
- IT –Brian Watson
- MM –Blake Lanford
- PSD – no representatives on call

AEA: Vonda Richardson  
ASRED: Mike Gutter

SRDC: Mary Grace Frost, Carmen Kelly, Rachel Welborn

1. Welcome – Blake Lanford (PLC Vice-Chair) facilitated the meeting as Uma is out of the country.
2. Approval of PLC April 18, 2024: Minutes were approved as presented.
3. Update from AEA – Vonda Richardson
  - Funding for FY2024 is flat and requests for 2025 are in place with modest increases.
  - Work continues on the Farm Bill, but it is not likely to pass with an election year.
  - Prairie View A&M University is currently hosting NACDEP in Houston.
  - AEA will have its summer meeting next week in North Carolina.
4. Update from ASRED - Mike Gutter
  - The interview process for an executive director is continuing as Dr. Brown nears retirement. Hopefully, ASRED will make an announcement soon with the new person in place for PLN.
  - Mike echoed funding concerns shared by Vonda. Some states have been able to increase capacity while others are losing.
  - Collaborations across state lines to accomplish common goals is central to ASRED conversations right now.
  - ECOP Program Action Teams continue to be a national focus. The Workforce PAT has received the Agri-prospects Grant.
5. Annual Meeting Planning:
  - Pre-Meeting Update: Brian Watson (Chair) & Michelle Burchett - The plan for the pre-meeting virtual session is to have 10 minute presentations related to the joint meeting theme. Brian reported they had eight proposals for sessions. All except one seem to be a good fit, with one seeming to be more focused on industry vs. Extension. Brian will check on that one to see if he is understanding correctly. Roseanne will set up the Zoom and registration.
  - Newcomers Update: Cheryl Newberry (Chair) – Cheryl was not on the call, but Brian reminded everyone that each committee was asked to have representatives to meet new participants.



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- Committee Officer Training Update: Blake Lanford (Chair) – This is scheduled for next Monday at 9:00 CT/ 10:00 ET. Blake and Roseanne will facilitate.

6. Program Committee Reports

- ANR – James Henderson – no representative on call today
- COM – Michelle Burchett and Lyndall Stout – no representative on call today
- CRD – Rachel reporting for Adam Hodges and Dan Kahl – NACDEP conference is going on right now. Rachel reported that the event was exceptional with this marking the first time an 1890 has ever hosted a JCEP organization conference.
- FCS – Andrea Morris and Michelle Parisi – no representative on call today
- 4-H Youth Development— Melanie Biersmith and Demier Richardson-Sanders – The committee will meet again in July, no updates for now.
- IT –Lalit Rainey and Brian Watson – nothing new to report
- MM –Blake Lanford - MM met last week for our quarterly call. Lonnie shared their recent Market Adjustment Project. One particularly interesting piece was how they are thinking about cost-of-living adjustments for higher cost areas within the state. Upcoming MM Conference will be in Huntsville AL. Middle Managers also discussed volunteer coordination and management strategies in the Southern Region. Brian updated the MM committee on progress on establishment of the Microsoft Teams page for PLN committees. The MM committee will be the pilot group.
- PSD – Cheryl Newberry and Cynthia Pierfax – no representative on call today

7. Other Business – no other business

8. Closing Remarks and adjourn- Blake Landford reminded everyone of the July 18<sup>th</sup> call noted below.

**REMINDER – The 2024 conference call schedule is: July 18**

All calls are scheduled for 9:00 am – 10:30 am Central / 10:00 – 11:30 am Eastern  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://msstateextension.zoom.us/j/98790849449?pwd=WCT3ckpReFo0T2Q1T3pDakt0N1YvUT09>

Meeting ID: 987 9084 9449

Passcode: SRPLC