



**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee Meeting
February 20, 2020**

Minutes

Participants:

- ANR – Clarence Bunch
- COM – Michelle Olgers, Lisa Stearns
- CRD – Gill Finley, Mark Waller
- FCS – Mike Gutter (Deborah Bell), Leslie Speller-Henderson
- 4-H Youth Development— Mitzi Downing
- IT – Steve Garner
- MM – Gerald Jones
- PSD – Celeste Allgood

1862 Advisor: Randy Taylor

1890 Advisor:

1862 Appointee: Robert Burns

1890 Appointee:

AEA: Albert Essel

ASRED: Ron Brown

MSU/SRDC: Samantha Clardy/Russ Garner/Rachel Welborn

1. Welcome:

Leslie Speller-Henderson, PLC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves.

The minutes were reviewed and approved as read with no changes. Mitzi Downing made the motion to accept the minutes as read, Gerald Jones seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed, and there were no additional agenda items to be added.

2. Update from AEA:

Dr. Albert Essel reported for AEA:

New AEA Officers for 2020/2021:

- Mrs. Vonda Richardson, Chair, Associate Extension Administrator, Florida A&M University
- Dr. Rosalind Dale, Vice Chair, Associate Dean/Extension Administrator, North Carolina A&T State University



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- Dr. Allen Malone, Secretary, Extension Administrator, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Alabama A&M University
 - Dr. Carolyn Williams, Immediate Past Chair, Executive Associate Director, Prairie View A&M University
 - Dr. Mark Latimore, Treasurer, Extension Administrator, Fort Valley State University

2020 Joint AEA-ARD Winter Business Meeting

In January 2020, members of the Association of Research Directors (ARD), the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), and the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture held their third annual joint business meeting at the Westin Georgetown Hotel in Washington, D.C. Again, this gathering of 1890 administrators was very engaging and productive and, by design, engaged in critical discussions about pressing issues confronting the 1890 universities. The meeting focused specifically on the 1890s centers of excellence, the 1890 scholarship program, FY 2020/2021 appropriations and advocacy, the NIFA reimagining process, entrepreneurship, successful collaborations between research and Extension, and communications and marketing. These sessions were very impactful, both content-rich and allowed sufficient time for discussion of other concerns crucial not only to the 1890s but to the land grant system.

NIFA Reimagining Input

Dr. J. Scott Angle, NIFA Director, posed four questions for the land grant community to respond to relative to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of NIFA. In addition to email inquiries to the 1890 community, Albert Essel (AEA Executive Administrator) and Alton Thompson (ARD Executive Director) convened a session of 1890 administrators at the recent 2020 AEA-ARD Joint Business Meeting to augment written responses to these questions and to inquire about any other concerns and/or pertinent issues. The major concern of the 1890 administrators was the extent to which NIFA can be responsive, effective and efficient given the significant loss of key personnel because of the relocation to Kansas City. A related concern is the one or two persons remaining who are articulate and knowledgeable of 1890 programs.

Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) Spring Meeting

Dr. Mark Latimore, Jr., Extension Administrator, Fort Valley State University, will host members of ECOP at the 2020 ECOP Spring Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on March 17-19, 2020. Dr. Latimore is the ECOP Chair for 2020. The Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) is the representative leadership body for the Cooperative Extension System, a Board of Directors representing all 1862 and 1890 Extension Directors and Administrators in the nation.

2020 AEA System Wide Conference

Plans continue for AEA to host a System-Wide 1890 Extension Conference in June 2020. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida on June 21-25, 2020. The goal is to provide a forum for Extension educators, specialists, administrators, research professionals, public and private partners to learn, share innovative ideas, best practices and explore collaboration opportunities for advancing impact-driven extension programs in the 1890 Extension System. Professional development workshops, exhibits and presentations on innovations and best practices will dominate the 3-day conference. Last held in 2012, the conference is expected to draw wide range participation from 1890 Land-Grant institutions, 1862 Land-Grant partners, USDA agencies, other public and private sector partners. Registration and other conference information are provided on the AEA website at 1890aea.org.

President's FY2021 Executive Budget Proposal

With last month's release of the President's Executive Budget for FY 2021, there is a lot of review and strategy planning taking place among the 1890s. Simply stated, all of the gains in capacity funding



achieved by the 1890s noted in FY2020 were eliminated in the FY 2021 President's Budget. Specifically, the Evans- Allen Program (research and education) was cut by 19.4% (-\$13 million) and 1890 Extension was cut by 14% (-\$8 million). These proposed budget cuts are clearly draconian. In addition, the Capacity Building Program was also reduced by 19% (-\$3.7million) and the 1890 Facilities Program was reduced by 4% (-\$770,000). The President also proposed to eliminate the 1890 Centers of Excellence; however, the President proposed to increase the 1890 Scholarship Program from \$5 million to \$10 million.

3. Update from ASRED:

Dr. Ron Brown reported for ASRED.

- The President's budget recommends reductions in all capacity lines, moving all Extension and Research capacity lines to what they were prior to last year's increases. Those units who received larger percent increases last year are recommended for larger decrease percentages this year. The Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) is recommending 8% increases for all capacity lines and for AFRI. The 1994 recommendation is larger since their budgets are smaller.
- Directors are responding to a survey to determine ECOP Strategic Initiatives for the next 3-5 years.
- NIFA has a Reporting Work Group for Extension with the goal of simplifying and streamlining the reporting system. Dr. Robert Burns represents ASRED.
- Directors have responded to four questions issued by NIFA that will help in a NIFA Re-Imagining effort. Feedback from Dr. Angle indicates that good, usable information has been received and will be used in improving NIFA services.
- ECOP is discussing ways that Programmatic Leadership can be improved. In the past, NIFA provided program leadership via National Program Leaders, but has discontinued this function. National leadership for Extension is now a concern. ECOP will discuss three models: Regional leadership, Initiative Leadership (Health), and 4-H ECOP Leadership Committee.
- The search for a National Extension Executive Director to replace Dr. Rick Klemme is nearing the end.
- The deadline for Excellence in Extension and National Diversity Award nominations/applications is May 1. Our regions (1862 and 1890) have been well represented in the past and should be again this year.
- Dr. Tom Dobbins, Clemson University, is ASRED's Chair for 2020. Dr. Nick Place, Florida, was elected to join Drs. Ed Jones and Gary Jackson on ECOP for 2020.

4. 2020 PLN Conference – *Opportunities in Transition: Driving Change:*

- Review of draft conference agenda
 - The conference logo was discussed, and the group was pleased with the design. A special thanks to Michelle, and her colleague Brittany Hughes for this work.
 - Robert Burns approached Gordon Gee about speaking at PLN, but Dr. Gee declined citing pressing responsibilities. Mitzi will reach out to Marshall Stewart of University of Missouri.

- The “TED Talk” type presentations and format were discussed. Due to possible copyright infringement, we cannot use the same terminology, and therefore several ideas for branding were presented: EXT Talks, Extension Talks, EXT Change Talks, and EXChange Talks. Russ will send out a Doodle poll to canvas the group.
- Michelle gave a brief overview of the potential Fun Run on Wednesday, August 26, providing two routes that can be followed. There will be waivers provided, and a facilitator will be coordinating the run. It will be scheduled to be completed by the time breakfast is served (7am).
- The subject of tours was discussed, and it was decided to let the program areas communicate tour information among their own networks. It was emphasized to let Samantha know as soon as possible the details of the tours, as far as when, how many, ect. in order to plan accordingly for mealtimes.
- Newcomer Session- Team to keep the same format. Increased time together to an hour. Gill to come up with an icebreaker exercise.
- “Goose Chase” interactive social media was discussed. Celeste said still in early stages and that not much had been done but did say an initial goose chase test run worked out well. Mark Klingman of Virginia State to help. We need to decide whether to include Goose Chase in the conference agenda.
- Scott to work again with Qualtrics. Thinks he could do whatever we waned in regards to releasing the survey earlier. Celeste suggested that we set aside five minutes during the committee meeting times to complete the survey.
- Poll Everywhere-we need to think on how best it can be used. May not be best used for evaluation information we are used to gathering. We need to continue this conversation to see for what we are looking.

5. Conference Budget:

Samantha mentioned that there may be a need to raise registration price perhaps \$20 to Early Bird price of \$395. Samantha was to investigate wifi needs for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the Conference.

6. Program Committee Reports

- ANR –Clarence Bunch- Planning committee structure. The Plan of Work is making progress.
- COM – Lisa Stearns/Michelle Olgers- No report.
- CRD – Mark Waller/Gill Finley- CRD met February 12. No NIFA update. NACDEP update given, SRDC gave updates on projects, Plan of Work making progress. CRD 101 was well attended.
- FCS – Mike Gutter/Leslie Speller-Henderson-Healthy Extension initiative, new mapping activities Looking for the South to leverage their training capabilities. Trying to identify a common set or core competencies, as well as online training available in the South.
- 4-H Youth Development—Mitzi Downing-PLWG webinar series-reporting practices on what is needed at the federal level. Trying to mirror the new requirements.NPL meeting next week in St. Petersburg, FL



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- IT – Steve Garner- No report.
 - MM – Gerald Jones- Jeff Young gave update from National Urban Extension Leaders. Working towards identifying an Urban Extension representative at each institution. Eight people gave state reports. Middle Managers' Conference April 5-8 2021. The conference will be held at the Cambria Hotel in downtown Nashville
 - PSD – Celeste Allgood-Currently gathering and exploring educational best practices. Beginning the process of planning for Virtual Summer School. Looking at topics, dates, recommendations for presenters as well as seeking input from other organizations and stakeholder. Exploring resources available to host the PSD collection of competency-based resources. Currently investigating eXtension, Google, and Microsoft platforms to store materials and have them readily available for committee members. Looking for a no-cost or low-cost platform.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Closing Remarks-Leslie Speller-Henderson, PLC Chair

Leslie commended the group on a great meeting and wished the group well.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned