



**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee Meeting**  
**June 17, 2021**  
**Minutes**

Participants:

- ANR – Dan Goerlich
- COM – Michelle Olgers, Lisa Stearns
- CRD –Iris Cole Crosby, Dan Kahl
- FCS –
- 4-H Youth Development—
- IT –
- MM –Jim Stewart
- PSD – Renysha Harris, Meredith Weinstein

AEA: Rosalind Dale, Vonda Richardson

ASRED: Gina Eubanks, Laura Stephenson

SRDC/MSU: Carmen Kelly/ Russ Garner

1. There were no additional agenda items added. Dan Goerlich made the motion to approve the April 2020 minutes as presented, Dan Kahl seconded, and the motion passed.

**2. Update from AEA – Rosalind Dale, Vonda Richardson**

- EXCITE program: Center for Disease Control (CDC) and NIFA partnered with CES to do a vaccine awareness campaign. There were two rounds of funding for the whole LGU system. First round-every institution, if they applied for the money was awarded upwards of around \$25K to conduct an educational awareness campaign to try to improve the numbers of vaccinated individuals. Second round was more competitive, awarded to 20 projects. Seven or eight 1890s were approved in that round. Excited about the work coming out of that.

**3. Update from ASRED – Gina Eubanks, Laura Stephenson**

- Continuing the 1890/1862 Administrator and Directors CTRU initiative. Pleased with the results of that. Moving towards an action plan together.
- Collecting background information on SNAP-ED and relationships with the Food Trust. Goal is to increase funding for all our LGUs. Partnerships and collaborations are important. How do we leverage that funding across all LGUs?
- National 4-H Leadership Committee is considering a proposal to hire a staff person. Would allow the 4-H Leadership Committee to have someone at 4-H at the national level who is thinking about 4-H all the time. Great opportunity for our organization and the system. The proposal has been put forth to ECOP as a recommendation and potential for funding for a pilot-type program.



- Some of our institutions are collaborating with a USDA climate hub funding proposal-10M available. This RFA was designed specifically for Extension. Excited about having a Southern Region presence in the proposal.

#### 4. **Conference Planning – “Surviving & Thriving: Turning Adversity Into Opportunity”**

- Lisa reported that we are moving along with preparations. Russ shared the registration numbers (159 registrations) and noted that they were good compared to this time of year.

**Zoom Requirements:** Lisa reminded the group to be thinking about acquiring Zoom links for each of the committees and AEA and ASRED to be made available to the attendees for virtual meeting spaces. Send links to Carmen or Russ. Note: If your organization requires you to have a password, please make sure that it is PLN2021.

**Newcomer Orientation:** Meredith reported that the PowerPoint used for the training had been sent to Russ for review. Russ reported just a couple of minor adjustments were needed and will then send back to the subcommittee.

**Committee Chair Training:** Russ reported that a date had been set for the training-Wednesday, June 30 at 1pm Central/2 pm Eastern.

**Keynote:** Dr. M. Christopher Brown II, Kentucky State University President is keynote. Russ stated that it would be good a couple of weeks in advance to touch base and visit with Dr. Brown to discuss logistics. SRDC will send an email to Dr. Brown with the logistics, agenda, etc.

**Virtual Programming Lessons Learned:** The survey is out, sent to the committee chairs to disseminate out to their respective committee membership, inviting proposals for three presentation slots at the meeting. We currently have no entries at this point. Russ will send out another “ask”. Will stick with the June 30 deadline.

#### 5. **Committee Reports –**

- ANR – Dan Goerlich- Finalized and disseminated the Virtual Lessons Learned report to SR-PLN colleagues. Received favorable comments on the report. June 8-10-the Southern Region ANR committee met with ANR colleagues from the North Central Region via Zoom. Wide variety of topics covered: Session on the ag economy, looking forward to the rest of 2021 and beyond; climate-related content and accompanying initiatives; legislative efforts, and much more. Three North Central states gave a presentation on their approach of returning to the workplace.
- COM – Lisa Stearns/Michelle Olgers- ACE’s (Association for Communication Excellence) conference is next week. Elizabeth Gregory North of Mississippi State Extension, Suzanne Street of University of Maryland-Eastern Shore Extension, and Michelle Olgers, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service submitted an abstract-accepted to present at the conference. “Best Practices to Communicate Extension’s Relevance and Credibility”. Billed as a joint effort with 1890 and 1862 partners. Will make available the slide deck



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from the presentation with access on the Communication Committee's page on the SR-PLN website. Plan of Work moving along nicely.

- CRD – Dan Kahl/Iris Cole Crosby- CRD met, NACDEP Conference was held virtually. Heard the NIFA update from Brent Elrod. Community Development Toolkit being developed for Extension Professionals, is available. The CRD group will be sending in their CRD indicators as well as CRD and COVID vignettes. Iris will be joining us as the CRD 1890s representative, taking the place of Gill.
- FCS – Checked with representatives, nothing to report.
- 4-H Youth Development — Checked with representatives, Virtual Positive Youth Development Academy was held May 11-13, 2021. PWLG/ECOP/ National 4-H Council discussed the new operational policies on annual reporting. 4-H emblem and logo. The NIFA Organizational Chart was introduced. New name-Division of Youth and 4-H. NIFA new staff members:
  - Suresh Sureshwaran - Acting Deputy Director of the Institute of Youth, Family and Community
  - Peter Motavalli- Acting Deputy Director of the Division of Community and Education
  - Suzanne Stluka - Acting Division Deputy Director for the Divisions of Family and consumer Sciences, and the Division of Youth and 4-H.
- IT – Checked with representatives, Held committee meeting in April, will have another in July. looking at Spacex Starlink broadband internet Continue to progress on the Plan of Work.
- MM –Jim Stewart- Committee met. Moving ahead with Plan of Work items. Talked about planning wisely our time at PLN. Will have some presentations and a facilitation on virtual agent positions, working through electronic formats, and looking at alternative workplace arrangements, and what the states are doing. Will be facilitating our 2022 Plan of Work using Mural. Very helpful using that tool.
- PSD – Renysha Harris/Meredith Weinstein- Virtual Summer School is coming up, July 12-16. This year's theme is: Moving Extension Forward: Lessons and Strategies from the Pandemic". Looking at everything we experienced and learned over these months. Committees will be receiving information soon on the specifics of the Virtual Summer School. Finished one of our Plan of Work items about reporting and looking at the different ways that the Southern Region states report to NIFA. Moving forward on other aspects of our Plan of Work.

## 6. Other Business–

There was no other business to discuss.

**Meeting was adjourned**