



**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee Meeting**  
**July 16th, 2020**  
**Minutes**

Participants

- ANR – no representatives
- COM – Michelle Olgers and Lisa Stearns
- CRD – Gill Finley and Mark Waller
- FCS – Mike Gutter and Leslie Speller-Henderson
- 4-H Youth Development—no representatives
- IT – Steve Garner
- MM – Gerald Jones and Jim Stewart
- PSD – Celeste Allgood and Meredith Weinstein

AEA: Vonda Richardson

ASRED: Gina Eubanks, Randy Taylor, Ron Brown

SRDC/MSU: Samantha Clardy, Katherine Spiering, Rachel Welborn

1. June 18<sup>th</sup> minutes and today's agenda were approved as presented.
2. Update from AEA –Vonda Richardson
  - A session on Coming Together for Racial Understanding (CTRU) will be part of the AEA/ASRED joint session in August
  - Joint COPS meet next week virtually, including the ECOP meeting
  - Carolyn Williams participated on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics (NAREEE) Board panel discussing the future of Extension
  - eXtension is facilitating a discussion on Extension infrastructure needs around virtual training and educational programs. This will include a discussion on broadband infrastructure. Rachel added that some resources on broadband and digital literacy are also on the National Extension Education Team site: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/>
  - Three 1890 Centers of Excellence have been funded that include research and academic integrated efforts. All 19 institutions participate in all three. Topics and host institutions are:
    - International engagement – University of Maryland Eastern Shore
    - Small farms – Tuskegee University
    - Student success – North Carolina A&T University
3. Update from ASRED – Ron Brown, Gina Eubanks, and Randy Taylor
  - The South is the only region where all states have CTRU teams. AEA/ASRED is eager to build on that strength.
  - ASRED, along with the other four regions, is working on a new initiative to build capacity funds (Smith-Lever and Hatch). Both 1890 and 1994 funding showed good increases in the proposed House budget.
  - Chris Watkins is the incoming chair of ECOP. A strategic directions document is being built to guide the upcoming 3 years.
  - Dr. Bob Scott is the new CES director at University of Arkansas.



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- Dr. Rick Cartwright, recently retired CES Director for Univ. of Arkansas, was honored for his work in supporting 4-H throughout his career by the contribution of over \$40,000 in scholarship funding for the 4-H Foundation.
  - Dr. Scott Sensemen has been named University of Tennessee's interim CES director. A search will begin soon.
4. 2020 PLN Conference – *Opportunities in Transition: Driving Change*
- COVID-19 and pivoting towards a virtual conference
  - Review of conference agenda – revised agenda is posted:  
[http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/files/2020\\_conference/pln-agenda-2020-7-1.pdf](http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/files/2020_conference/pln-agenda-2020-7-1.pdf)
    - Rachel and Katherine will work to ensure time zones are clear.
    - Adaptations to Thursday schedule:
      - PLC meeting will move to 8:30 – 9:30, with a little time built in (9:30 – 10:00) to ensure final edits can be completed before the joint AEA/ASRED meetings begin.
      - PLC presentation to AEA/ASRED will move to 11:30 – noon.
  - Review of assigned tasks for conference
    - Mitzi Downing/Russ Garner-Marshall Stewart to speak – Mitzi and Russ met with Marshall last week.
    - Newcomers-Mitzi, Leslie, Gill, & Russ
    - Registration/Marketing – 150 registrants to date.
    - Committee Representatives- “EXTension Talks” Committees will each select a representative to give a short talk (virtually) on meeting challenges of COVID-19, i.e. transformative change, implementation/challenges/learnings, etc. The EXTension Talk Guidelines will be shared with PLC to share with their committees.
    - Michele- Virtual Fun Run Marketing – Michele will have a certificate to share for folks that participate. SRDC will send Michele the list of people signed up.
    - Extra Technical help/platforms for virtual conference-ensure all committees will have virtual access platforms. Will need Zoom site addresses for registered members of committees. SRDC will send out a note of what is needed. The same password will be used for all sessions: **PLN2020**. All committees will be responsible for their own committee links using the same password so people can easily move from room to room as needed. SRDC will support the Zoom links for:
      - Monday afternoon
      - Tuesday general session
      - Thursday morning PLC meeting – 8:30 – 9:30
    - SR-PLN Officer Briefing-Resources available-Leslie & Russ – This session was held on July 9<sup>th</sup> with about 20 participants.
5. Program Committee Reports – reports were not given due to time constraints.
6. Adjourn