



**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee Special Meeting
June 18, 2020**

Minutes

Participants:

- ANR – Mike Phillips
- COM – Michelle Olgers, Lisa Stearns
- CRD – Gill Finley, Mark Waller
- FCS – Mike Gutter, Leslie Speller-Henderson
- 4-H Youth Development – Manola Erby
- IT – Steven Garner, Brian D. McGhee
- MM – Gerald Jones, Jim Stewart
- PSD – Celeste Allgood, Meredith Weinstein

1862 Advisor: Randy Taylor

1890 Advisor: Vonda Richardson

1862 Appointee: Gina Eubanks

1890 Appointee:

AEA:

ASRED: Ron Brown

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

1. Welcome:

Leslie Speller-Henderson, PLC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a roll call was taken. The minutes from the June 8 special meeting were reviewed and approved as read with no changes. Randy Taylor made the motion to accept the minutes as read, Celeste Allgood seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed, and one agenda item to be added was a reminder to watch the video on conducting a successful virtual conference.

2. Update from AEA:

Vonda Richardson reported:

- The AEA Systemwide Conference that was supposed to take place next week has been postponed until July of next year. Planning continues. We are having a virtual summer meeting next week, and are meeting virtually bi-weekly to get updates, support each other, etc. 1890 Centers of Excellence—all three of the existing centers that were initially authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill have been funded, and up and going. Expecting good

things to come from the Centers. They are joint research, teaching, and extension efforts in Student Success, International Engagement, and Small Farms.

3. Update from ASRED:

Dr. Ron Brown reported:

- Not much as far as updates as he had reported at the special meeting, Dr. Brown reported that Dr. Gina Eubanks of Louisiana has been appointed to fill out the remainder of Dr. Robert Burns' appointment as 1862 appointee.

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

- Will be a virtual conference. Graphic that we were using was of Texas. Thought is to change to reflect either the change to a virtual conference or less Texas-centric since we will no longer be physically meeting there. Michelle's team will present alternate graphics for the meeting. Ideas? What represents virtual? Email Michelle any thoughts. Will add the words "Joint Virtual Meeting". Manola suggested using the shape of the states of the region. Katherine will provide regional maps to Michelle's team that include Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Leslie mentioned the webinar link that was shared that discussed having successful virtual conferences and that engagement, even virtually was important to the success of the meeting. How do we engage and avoid being a "talking head"? Pictures while the speaker is talking is helpful, other important tips, such as learning how to utilize the polls, having adequate breaks to prevent camera fatigue. Encouragement of having camera on for better interaction. Could have problem with broadband connections/camera on. Is this true? Steve posted in the chat section an article concerning that. Recommend not running video if on a slow connection.
- Review of draft conference agenda. As a group, times in the agenda were discussed and streamlined. Will need to clarify time zones before and throughout the meeting to ensure everyone is there. The Texas hosts will not have to provide a welcome. Russ will contact them to let them know.
- Dr. Marshall Stewart is confirmed as a speaker. It is clarified that he will speak for 30 minutes, and answer questions for 15 minutes. It may be a good idea to seed questions and assign folks to ask questions to avoid "dead" time. Would there be any handout or other takeaway for Marshall's talk?
- EXTension Talks will be held after. These would be around 3 minutes long. They would be pre-recorded and sent to Russ to create a seamless production. The takeaway from the session would be two or three innovative ways or adaptations from each committee that committees may have developed or discovered in meeting the challenges of COVID-19. Transformative innovations. A guidance document for the EXTension Talk will be developed and sent to Committee Officers after PLC review.
- Awards presentation would be after EXTension Talk.

- During committee time, committees will make their own decisions on breaks. The Committee Chairs will be responsible for setting their own Zoom meetings up. Links would be conveyed to committee members after registration, but before the meeting. Lists of registered committee members will also be sent to Committee Chairs to ensure that members have the correct links to join the meeting. We will send lists to Committee Chairs soon after the deadline to register expires.
- For the general session, we are having people register, provide them the Zoom link, but asking them to not share the link to protect from Zoom “bombers”. It is the committees’ decision on how to approach Zoom security in their own meeting spaces. One area of concern: Since the meeting will be virtual this year, will there be a larger influx of people, and will it be a problem? Registration will be helpful in this part. One thing that could be useful to the committees is to provide Zoom guidance. Should there be two registrations? (The SR-PLN and a Zoom registration for each committee Zoom site). It is also to be noted that there may be people participating in different committees, and the fact that there will be cross-committee collaboration. There may be the need to share the various committee Zoom links within a hidden page. The example of NACDEP’s recent virtual conference was given, with use of a password.
- Social Hour/Social Gathering-an after-hour time where members from across the committees could unwind and socialize. Important in the season we are in. Mike could host using his Zoom. Would do this at 4:15 pm Central/5:15 pm Eastern on Tuesday. Encourage members to wear their school colors.
- Just as a confirmation-there are no costs incurred for the meeting
- Virtual Fun Run. Michelle to develop the marketing language to share on the registration site. She would have those available soon. The run would be done in one contiguous session anytime during the time period of the meeting. Share the results and photos through the listserv as well as on the SR-PLN website. Friendly competition between committees, i.e. most participants, etc..?
- The Officers’ Committee Briefing will be July 9th. 10am-11:30am Central/11am-12:30am. Session will be recorded.

5. Program Committee Reports

- As we have run out of our allotted time, it was decided to defer the Program Committee Reports until the regularly scheduled meeting on July 18. If possible, please send short bullet points to Russ to include in the minutes.
 - **ANR**
 - **COM**
 - **CRD:** The PLN/CRD Committee last met on June 10, 2020 via Zoom, with approximately 20 members of the committee in attendance. The committee received a brief update from AEA/ASRED, but not from NIFA. There was an update from the annual NACDEP conference which was held virtually in early June. A discussion of the some of the positive aspects of a virtual conference



included mention that registration numbers exceeded recent face-to-face NACDEP conferences. An update from SRDC included mention that the Center was in the process of searching for a new director to replace Dr. Steve Turner. Progress continues on plan of work items. Webinars seem to be going well. The annual Indicators survey is in process of data collection from participating States. The CRD 101 training conducted by committee members in Dallas last Fall won a team award at the NACDEP conference. There was discussion of how CRD across the south could reach and serve a more diverse audience as well as addressing social injustice concerns that Extension can assist in resolving and if that should be a plan of work item for the coming year.

- **FCS:** Mike shared that a 40M NIH infrastructure grant for Extension had been applied for. University of Florida took a lead in applying for the grant. The proposal explores the racial disparities during COVID-19. It was written into the grant that all other LGU universities would get a share of the grant if the proposal was accepted. More to come on this.
- **4 H Youth Development**
- **IT**
- **MM**
- **PSD**

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

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

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

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned

Next Teleconference: July 16, 2020 — 9:00 a.m. CDT—10:00 a.m. EDT