



**Southern Region Program Leadership Committee Meeting  
April 16, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Participants:**

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

**1862 Advisor:** Randy Taylor

**1890 Advisor:** Vonda Richardson

**1862 Appointee:**

**1890 Appointee:** Carolyn Williams

**AEA:** Vonda Richardson for Albert Essel

**ASRED:** Randy Taylor for 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. Gerald Jones made the motion to accept the minutes as read, Mitzi Downing 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:**

Vonda Richardson reported for AEA (Dr. Albert Essel)

- All universities are teleworking, with distance learning and non-person-to-person contact. This seems to be doing well with a seamless transition, with no problems in delivering programs.
- AEA System-wide conference in that was planned in June has been pushed forward to July of 2021. Be looking in the next few months for registration.
- APLU ECOP-additional resources that will go to Extension programming at county level. Ask is at \$80M.



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- Dr. Williams added: follow up for program committee chair on programs. Presenters are going to provide more information coming into the 2021 Conference

### 3. Update from ASRED:

Randy Taylor reported for ASRED (Dr. Ron Brown).

- Southern region and other directors nationwide are working on an \$80M funding request for Extension's use in coping with COVID-19. This request is being submitted for consideration as a part of the next potential stimulus bill. If funded, allocations will be made based on an institution's share of formula funds. (Smith Lever for 1862s and 1890 Extension for the 1890s).
- ECOP is collecting brief notes about innovative programs and practices that Extension may be using in remote Extension. Any reports of innovative ideas that have been implemented would be welcomed
- As Extension agents, specialists and others are commended for fantastic work in moving programming online and serving even more than normal of our clientele in some cases. As we move from the hard work of this transition, it will be wise to consider:
  - How we will measure and report impacts of these programming efforts?
  - Of the programs and methodologies we are now using in the COVID-19 environment, what can we learn that will help for the future? Extension will be forever changed as a result of our current success in working remotely.

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

- COVID-19 and the Conference-Some thoughts:
  - We need to watch dates-hotels have certain dates that we need to make decisions before penalties.
  - It will be helpful for us to have some key dates in mind whenever we do make the decisions that we have to make.
  - Planning is very difficult with the pandemic as these are unprecedented times (at least in our lifetime).
  - We need to note travel bans with our states/universities.
  - Many summer programs are either being moved to virtual or outright cancelled.
  - There would be a learning curve in going to a virtual conference.
  - A virtual conference would have to be very interactive.
  - Some universities are already talking about having online Fall classes.
  - Financial penalties if SR-PLN is cancelled?
    - 90-0 days prior to date-Full payment of guest rooms, room rental & 75% of estimated banquet charges.
    - 91-180 days prior to date- 75% of the above.
    - There are conditions, such as force majeure that would come into play if travel restrictions were still in place due to COVID-19.
  - It would be helpful to canvas the leadership of AEA and ASRED to capture their thoughts on the subject. Randy Taylor to reach out to the 1862 Directors regarding PLN options.

- Currently there are 6 options:
  - Conference is face-to-face (normal operations)
  - Cancel this year's conference
  - Postpone until later in the Fall
  - Have an "all-virtual" conference
  - Do something virtual in August-perhaps COVID-19 related and postpone until Fall with a face-to-face.
    - Variation to this choice-COVID-19 virtual in August, with cancellation until next year of the face-to-face conference.
  - Keep on until the next meeting. There is the possibility of a specially called meeting of the PLC sooner than the next scheduled meeting if decisions need to be made.
- Review of draft conference agenda:
  - Everyone pleased with the schedule as it reads.
- Review of assigned tasks for conference:
  - Mitzi reached out to Marshall Stewart of University of Missouri about speaking. She said that he was thrilled to be asked and understood the current situation with the pandemic and the options that we are considering. He recently spoke at the PILD conference, which was held virtually.
  - Committee briefings to be called EXT-Talks
  - Michelle reported that the Fun Run is still on the table, and that there were shorter options available. There is also the option of virtual Fun Runs as well if we get to that point.
  - Celeste reported that Goose Chase is still on, and that it can be done virtually, with participants taking pictures, sharing videos, and answering questions.
  - One additional item that was discussed was the possibility of the addition of guided talks on mental health. Several of the group shared aspects of including GEM-yoga for kids. Manola said that she would find out more about it and share that with the group.

## 5. Program Committee Reports

- ANR –Clarence Bunch/Mike Phillips- ANR will be meeting in a couple of weeks. Planning committee structure. The Plan of Work is making progress. Addressing the issue of disaster management, and getting county agents involved.
- COM – Lisa Stearns/Michelle Olgers- No report.
- CRD – Mark Waller/Gill Finley- CRD met April 8. No NIFA update. NACDEP conference-looking at a virtual delivery, SRDC gave updates on projects.
- FCS – Mike Gutter/Leslie Speller-Henderson- No report-meeting next week.
- 4-H Youth Development—Mitzi Downing/Manola Erby-Committee has not met since the meeting in Florida. Many efforts have been going on in regards to virtual learning-proud of Extension and its efforts across the nation. National 4-H Council-did a grab and go breakfast. Keeping in touch albeit virtual is key with the clientele.
- IT – Steve Garner/Brian D. McGhee- No report-committee is meeting as we meet, and Steve will let our group know details later. Brian stated that they felt good about the response to the COVID-19 response from an IT perspective.



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- MM – Gerald Jones/Jim Stewart- Met, conference planned April 5-8, 2021 in Nashville. Have gone over the Plan of Work, going well. presented a webinar on on-boarding. It was recorded and put on the website
  - PSD – Celeste Allgood/Meredith Weinstein-Had meeting, moving ahead with our Plan of Work. Currently compiling evaluation trainings online. Going ahead with planning for Virtual Summer School. Having a discussion on changes to Federal POW and educational contact hours, and how the best way to track that. Competency-based resources, finding a baseline. Sharing with ASRED how we are collecting reporting data, how to collect the data on virtual meetings, social media analytics, number of people contacted, and looking at what else to add in reporting.

## **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**