

**Executive Committee and Committee Chair**  
National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

**Notes/Minutes**

**August 8, 2008**

(via conference call)

**2:00 – 3:30 Eastern (1:00 Central, 12:00 Mountain, 11:00 Pacific)**

**PRESENT**

Mike Woods, Hank Cothran, Ed Jones, Charlie French, Deborah Tootle, Kay Lynn Tettleton Lorie Higgins, Lynette Flage, Cynthia Pilcher, Sally Maggard, Louise Franck Cyr, Connie Wagner, Michelle Eley

**OPENING**

Mike called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Deborah moved and Ed seconded to accept the agenda, motion passed.

Minutes – Deborah Tootle moved and Lorie Higgins seconded to approve the minutes with the following correction, motion passed.

“There was a call last week with the JCEP committee to put the right words into an integrated fashion to catch the eye of the program leaders.”

Financials – Hank Cothran reviewed the information that was sent out. Deborah Tootle moved and Lorie Higgins seconded to accept the financials, motion passed. Ed Jones moved and Deb Tootle seconded to accept the affirm the expenses, motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

NE – Charlie French reported that several NE Institutions, in collaboration with the NE Regional Center for Rural Development will be sponsoring a "Local Foods" Conference next year. The tentative date and location are May 19-20 at the Hudson Valley Resort, NY. They will be releasing more details in the coming months.

S – Cynthia Pilcher reported that the Rural Tourism is in October

W – Lorie Higgins Reported that the Horizon's Program completed Phase II in June and has started Phase III.

Galaxy – Gae Broadwater stated that over 2300 people are registered for the conference. Mike Woods asked for items for the agenda at the Monday meeting in Indianapolis for the Board. He also needs, by August 15, a list of who will be attending.

At the Business Meeting on Wednesday, the Awards will be presented. The abstract will be read and pictures taken. There are a couple items for the web that will be available after the meeting, including the list of Award Winners and a generic press release. Additional help is needed to decorate for this.

At the Galaxy Awards, only the name of the award and the winner(s) name(s) will be announced.

Mike will send a note to the membership about Galaxy, auction item and volunteers. He will also inform the members that there will be some bylaws changes coming.

At the Thursday morning NACDEP breakfast, the regions will hold their meetings and new members will be recognized. Connie Will provide a new member list to Cynthia & Michelle

Galaxy profits are to be equally divided amongst the six participating organizations.

AT Industries – Hank Cothran is reviewing the contact. AT Industries believes that this is a NACDEP Conference and we are responsible to provide their representative with booth space and possibly a room. Mike Woods told Hank to proceed with his views that this is a JCEP conference.

Operations Guidebook – It will be posted to the web and the members will be asked for input. The Board will systematically review and revise, possibly every three months. When the information is initially sent out to the members, it will be referred to as a ‘draft’ and it will be noted that, after input and modifications, the Board will adopt.

Conference 2009 – Will people have enough money to attend? With insurance costs, will we need to change fees? Connie Wagner spoke about insurance for other conferences that she had worked on. Deborah Tootle stated that she felt more comfortable once she had the insurance information. Deborah Tootle also stated that she liked the look of the Galaxy E-Mails that are going out. Perhaps we can arrange for something like this.

The 2009 Conference hotel contract was reviewed. Hank Cothran moved and Deborah Tootle seconded to approve the contract, motion passed.

PILD – Lynette Flage sent out an E-Mail asking for suggestions for speakers. Perhaps this needs to be added to the Business Meeting agenda at Galaxy.

Website – Hank Cothran moved to increase the web budget to \$2100, Ed Jones seconded and the motion passed. Connie will begin working on a design and then get everything transferred and new items added.

Federal Update from Sally Maggard

The “Farm Bill” is named the “Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008” or **FCEA**

The FCEA is creating the NIFA and getting rid of CSREES, and the FCEA is getting rid of the NRI and IFAFS and replacing the NRI/IFAFS with the AFRI.

In other words, the legislation structures us in these ways:

- The legislation creates the “National Institute of Food and Agriculture” (**NIFA**)
  - This is where CSREES programs are going. NIFA is easier to say than CSREES – don’t you think? All but one of the CSREES programs are re-authorized in the Bill.
  -
- The **Director** of the NIFA is appointed by the President.
  - This is a big change, as the leadership moves from a career Civil Service administrator hired by a competitive search to a political appointee.

- The appointment is for 6 years and may be renewed for 6 more years. Thus, the political appointment will span different administrations.
- The Director will report to the Secretary of Agriculture, or a designee -- likely to be the Under Secretary of the Research, Education, and Economics (**REE**) Mission Area [the current reporting structure].
- In **NIFA**, the National Research Initiative (**NRI**) and the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (**IFAFS**) are combined to become the core competitive grant program – for research, education, and extension. It is named the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (**AFRI**). The goal is to elevate funding for agricultural and food sciences to a level on par with NIH or NSF.
  - The Bill authorizes \$700 million in grants for FY 2008 – 2012 under the AFRI.
  - Of AFRI funds allocated to research, 60% goes to fundamental and 40% goes to applied research.
  - Of the money allocated to fundamental research, 30% will go to research by multidisciplinary teams.
  - The law specifies that not less than 30% of the AFRI appropriation goes to integrated programs.
  - NIFA must be established no later than October 1, 2009.
- The Under Secretary's office will establish the **Research, Education, and Extension Office (REEO)** to coordinate Agricultural Research. There will be six **Divisions**, with **Directors** for each Division in place by September 15, 2008. The Directors will develop a **Roadmap for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education** that identifies major opportunities and knowledge gaps, receives stakeholder input, and recommends funding levels. The Roadmap is mandated to be started by September 15, 2008 and completed 270 days after that date.
  - Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment;
  - Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health;
  - Plant Health and Production and Plant Products;
  - Animal Health and Production and Animal Products;
  - Agricultural Systems and Technology;
  - Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities.
- This restructuring is to become effective in **FY 2009** (October implementation is called for in the law). So the clock is ticking.
  - A USDA implementation team, with representatives from each Mission Area, meets weekly.
  - Programs have been assigned to appropriate agencies and delegations of authority are nearly complete. Agencies have set timelines for what is needed and implementation for each of their programs.
  - A REE Farm Bill Implementation team is meeting, usually on Mondays. This includes all the REE agencies – like CSREES (NIFA), ERS, ARS, etc.
- New programs include:
  - Specialty Crops - \$230 million for research, with \$30 million for 2008 (the RFA was rapidly developed and released); for 2009 through 2012 allocations are \$50 million per year.
  - Organic Agriculture: \$3 million for FY 2008, \$18 million in 2009, \$20 million yearly from 2010 through 2012.

- Beginning Farmers/Ranchers: \$18 million in 2009 and \$19 million a year for 2010 through 2012.
- Other changes include:
  - EFNEP has its authorization level raised to \$90 million per year, and the 1890 Institutions receive a base allocation plus 10%, increasing to 15% of appropriations above the FY07 level
  - A new category of Hispanic Serving Institutions will address agriculture; 5 new HSACU programs include Endowment, Equity, Capacity, Extension, Research (the last 3 are competitive).
  - McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act is amended to include 1890 institutions.
  - A ten year duration is authorized for certain grants.
- A new **Office for Outreach** is created and may administer the “2501 Grant Program” for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

Keep in mind as you ponder these developments that final NIFA organizational changes require the Secretary’s approval. Further, “mandatory” funding does not require that the Appropriations Committees actually allocate the funds.

I believe that there are many new opportunities for NACDEP members and their colleagues in the Bill. This is a moment of change for the structure of research and the production of agricultural knowledge. Sally Maggard will do her best to keep you posted.

Managers Evaluation – Mike Woods and Ed Jones are asking for input from everyone over the next two weeks.

Management Contract for the 2009 Conference – Ed Jones will work with Connie Wagner (Q & E, Inc.) to negotiate a contract.

Cynthia Pilcher and Michelle Eley will send updated information on the state/multi-state chapters/charters.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Connie Wagner  
Association manager