

**Western Association of
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors**

Western Region Joint Spring Meeting

Agendas & Agenda Briefs



ALASKA • AMERICAN SAMOA • ARIZONA • CALIFORNIA • COLORADO • GUAM
HAWAII • IDAHO • MICRONESIA • MONTANA • NEVADA • NEW MEXICO
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS • OREGON • UTAH • WASHINGTON • WYOMING

**Embassy Suites Downtown Portland
Portland, OR
April 28 - May 1, 2015**

Western Region Joint WAAESD-WEDA-WRPLC Spring Meeting

April 28 – May 1, 2015

Embassy Suites Downtown Portland

Portland, OR

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, April 28		
8:00am-3:00pm	Multistate Review Committee	Roy Yates Room
3:30pm-5:00pm	WAAESD Executive Committee	Roy Yates Room
5:00-7:00pm	Welcome Reception	Multnomah Wine Cellar
Wednesday, April 29		
8:00am-12:00pm	WEDA	Roy Yates Room
8:00am-12:00pm	WAAESD	Sam Hill Room
8:00am-12:00pm	WRPLC	Marshall Joffre Room
12:00pm-1:00pm	Group Lunch	Arcadian Garden – Cellar Side
1:00pm-3:30pm	WEDA	Roy Yates Room
1:00pm-3:30pm	WAAESD	Sam Hill Room
1:00pm-3:30pm	WRPLC	Marshall Joffre Room
4:00pm-6:00pm	Tours of the WMC/FIC	
Dinner	Bridgeport Brewing	
Thursday, April 30		
8:00am-10:00am	WAAESD	Roy Yates Room
8:00am-10:00am	WEDA/WRPLC	Sam Hill Room
10:00am-12:00pm	WRPLC	Sam Hill Room
10:00am-12:00pm	WAAESD/WEDA	Roy Yates Room
12:00pm-1:00pm	Group Lunch	Arcadian Garden – Cellar Side
1:00pm-5:00pm	WAAESD/WEDA	Roy Yates Room
Dinner	On Own	
Friday, May 1		
8:00am-Noon	WEDA	Roy Yates Room

Agenda Brief 2.0: Approval of agenda and minutes of September 2014 meeting

Presenter: Larry Curtis

Action Requested: Approve agenda for today, September 2014 minutes

Background:

WAAESD Agenda

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 – Sam Hill Room			
Agenda Item	Time (all times Pacific)	Description	Presenter
1.0	8:00 AM – 8:05 AM	Call to Order	Larry Curtis
2.0	8:05 AM – 8:10 AM	Approval of Agenda and Minutes of September 2014 meeting	Larry Curtis
3.0	8:10 AM – 8:20 AM	Chair’s Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report	Larry Curtis
4.0	8:20 AM – 8:45 AM	Treasurer’s Report	Charles Boyer
5.0	8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	WAAESD Budget Report	Sarah Lupis
6.0	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Alternative Assessment Models	Mike Harrington
BREAK			
7.0	10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Off-the-Top Funding Requests (NRSPs)	Bret Hess
7.1	10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	NRSP_TEMP9, National Animal Nutrition Program	Gary Cromwell (859 257-7534-O) (859-223-2496-H) (859-321-7534-C)
7.2	11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	NRSP_TEMP7, A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	John Babish
7.3	11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	NRSP_TEMP6, The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (<i>Solanum</i>) Germplasm	Larry Curtis
7.4	11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	NRSP_TEMP4, Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses	Jerry Baron (908-627-4213-C)
7.0 (continued)	11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	NRSP Feedback to RC members	Bret Hess
LUNCH – Arcadian Garden, Cellar Side			
Welcome Remarks:			
Dan Arp, Dean and Reub Long Professor, College of Agricultural Sciences, Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, Oregon State University			
8.0	1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	ARS Report	Andy Hammond

Agenda Item	Time (all times Pacific)	Description	Presenter
9.0	1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	Climate HUBS Update	Justin Derner 307-772-2433 Ext. 113 307-631-5928
10.0	2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	WAAESD-CSU MOU	Mike Harrington, Jeff Steiner
11.0	2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	ED Annual/1 st Quarter Report Highlights	Mike Harrington
12.0	2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	AD Annual/1 st Quarter Report Highlights	Sarah Lupis
13.0	2:45 PM – 3:30 PM	Executive Session: AD/ED Evaluations	Mike Harrington/Dave Thompson
Thursday, April 30, 2015 – Roy Yates Room			
14.0	8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Capacity funds matching requirement	Mike Harrington
15.0	8:30 AM – 8:45 AM	NIFA POW/reporting requirements	Mike Harrington/Steve Loring
16.0	8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	MRF Update (MRC report, NIMSS redesign, AA responsibilities)	Sarah Lupis
17.0	9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Committee Appointments	Larry Curtis
18.0	9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	2016 Spring Meeting	Sarah Lupis
19.0	9:0 AM – 9:55 AM	Western Agenda Joint Session Prep	Bret Hess
20.0	9:55 AM – 10:00 AM	Resolutions	Rachel Leon-Guerrero
BREAK			
Joint Session	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	WAAESD/WEDA Joint Session	See Joint Session Agenda
LUNCH – Arcadian Garden, Cellar Side			
Joint Session	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	WAAESD/WEDA Joint Session continued	See Joint Session Agenda
BREAK			
Joint Session	2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	WAAESD/WEDA Joint Session continued	See Joint Session Agenda

September 2014 Minutes: http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/WAAESDFallMeeting2014_MINUTES_20141010.pdf

Agenda Item 3.0: Chair's report

Presenter: Larry Curtis

Action Requested: For information

Background:

Since the September 2014 meeting when Larry Curtis assumed the role of WAAESD Chair, he has:

- Participated in the regularly scheduled WAAESD Executive Committee conference calls,
- Major revision of white paper on food and nutrition for the Western Perspective,
- Provided oversight on logistics for Spring 2015 Joint Meeting, and
- Coordinated response to FY15 budget shortfall

Other topics discussed by the Executive Committee in their meeting will be reported on during their agenda items in the Association meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report
 Presenter: Charles Boyer
 Action Requested: For Information
 Background:

**WESTERN DIRECTOR EXPERIMENT STATION
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 FY2015**

8-Apr-15

ASSESSMENTS	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Refund of Overpayment¹	Balance Due
Alaska	\$ 11,308.19		\$ 12,134.86	\$ 826.67	\$ -
Am Samoa	\$ 600.00	600.00			\$ 1,200.00
Arizona	\$ 19,716.89				\$ 19,716.89
California	\$ 32,312.94		34,675.14	2,362.20	\$ -
Colorado	\$ 23,583.43		17,507.47	1,724.04	\$ 7,800.00
CSU Rent	\$ (7,800.00)				\$ (7,800.00)
Guam	\$ 11,026.25		11,832.31	806.06	\$ -
Hawaii	\$ 14,605.46		14,605.46		\$ -
Idaho	\$ 17,522.78		18,803.77	1,280.99	\$ -
Micronesia	\$ 600.00		600.00		\$ -
Montana	\$ 18,503.37		18,503.37		\$ -
Nevada	\$ 14,360.33		15,410.13	1,049.80	\$ -
New Mexico	\$ 14,862.87		14,862.87		\$ -
Northern Marianas	\$ 600.00	1,800.00	1,800.00		\$ 600.00
Oregon	\$ 22,315.50		23,946.85	1,631.35	\$ -
Utah	\$ 19,449.03		20,870.83	1,421.80	\$ -
Washington	\$ 25,495.13		27,358.92	1,863.79	\$ -
Wyoming	\$ 16,652.47		16,652.47		\$ -
Assessment Total	\$ 255,714.64	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 249,564.45	\$ 12,966.70	\$ 21,516.89

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$ 137,745.75
	YTD Assessments Received	\$ 236,597.75		374,343.50
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	18.34		374,361.84
	August	16.13		374,377.97
	September	17.75		374,395.72
	October	11.80		374,407.52
	November	23.49		374,431.01
	December	14.80		374,445.81
	January	22.20		374,468.01
	February	23.52		374,491.53
	March	11.43		374,502.96
	April			374,502.96
	May			374,502.96
	June			374,502.96
7/1/14	MT Accounting Fee		\$ 3,500.00	371,002.96
7/30/14	Non-employee travel		\$ 359.34	370,643.62
4/7/15	Christina Hamilton-admin support		\$ 1,000.00	369,643.62
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			
7/31/14	FY14 Fourth Quarter		63,873.10	305,770.52
2/17/15	First Quarter		63,551.22	242,219.30
2/17/15	Second Quarter		66,712.94	175,506.36
	Third Quarter		63,671.17	111,835.19
	Fourth Quarter			111,835.19
Total		\$ 236,757.21	\$ 262,667.77	\$ 111,835.19

1. Initial FY15 assessment invoices were incorrect resulting in overpayments. These excess funds were refunded to each respective school.

**WESTERN DIRECTOR SPECIAL ACCOUNT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2015**

8-Apr-15

ASSESSMENTS	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska				\$ -
Am Samoa				-
Arizona				-
California				-
Colorado				-
CSU Rent				-
Guam				-
Hawaii				-
Idaho				-
Micronesia				-
Montana				-
Nevada				-
New Mexico				-
Northern Marianas				-
Oregon				-
Utah				-
Washington				-
Wyoming				-
Assessment Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$ 21,738.06
	YTD Assessments Received			21,738.06
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	2.06		21,740.12
	August	1.21		21,741.33
	September	1.24		21,742.57
	October	0.79		21,743.36
	November	1.48		21,744.84
	December	0.87		21,745.71
	January	1.30		21,747.01
	February	1.70		21,748.71
	March	1.15		21,749.86
	April			21,749.86
	May			21,749.86
	June			21,749.86
10/23/2014	Jan Leach Travel		1,446.48	20,303.38
11/26/14	Kelley Eversole Travel		1,643.62	18,659.76
Total		\$ 11.80	\$ 3,090.10	\$ 18,659.76

NOTE: 2008 Grant workshop net from regional workshop plus interest (\$4388.28)

**WESTERN DIRECTOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2015**

8-Apr-15

ASSESSMENTS	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska	\$ 1,323.71		\$ 1,323.71	\$ -
Am Samoa	\$ 200.00	200.00		400.00
Arizona	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
California	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Colorado	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Guam	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Hawaii	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Idaho	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Micronesia	\$ 200.00	200.00		400.00
Montana	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Nevada	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
New Mexico	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Northern Marianas	\$ 200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	200.00
Oregon	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Utah	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Washington	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Wyoming	\$ 1,323.71		1,323.71	-
Assessment Total	\$19,132.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$19,731.94	\$ 1,000.00

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$13,448.29
	YTD Assessments Received	\$19,731.94		33,180.23
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	1.05		33,181.28
	August	1.33		33,182.61
	September	1.46		33,184.07
	October	1.01		33,185.08
	November	2.10		33,187.18
	December	1.32		33,188.50
	January	1.98		33,190.48
	February	2.39		33,192.87
	March	1.20		33,194.07
	April			33,194.07
	May			33,194.07
	June			33,194.07
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			
7/31/14	FY14 Fourth Quarter		4,783.00	28,411.07
2/17/15	First Quarter		4,783.00	23,628.07
2/17/15	Second Quarter		4,783.00	18,845.07
	Third Quarter		4,783.00	14,062.07
	Fourth Quarter			14,062.07
Total		\$19,745.78	\$19,132.00	\$14,062.07

currently being processed

**WESTERN DIRECTOR JOINT SUMMER MEETING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2015**

8-Apr-15

ASSESSMENTS	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Balance Due
Alaska	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	\$ -
Am Samoa	\$ 250.00			250.00
Arizona	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
California	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Colorado	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Guam	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Hawaii	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Idaho	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Micronesia	\$ 250.00		250.00	-
Montana	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Nevada	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
New Mexico	\$ 1,400.00		1,400.00	-
Northern Marianas	\$ -			-
Oregon	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Utah	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Washington	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Wyoming	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 1,400.00	-
Assessment Total	\$20,100.00	\$ -	\$19,850.00	\$ 250.00

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$ -
	YTD Assessments Received	\$19,850.00		19,850.00
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July			19,850.00
	August	0.57		19,850.57
	September	0.14		19,850.71
	October	0.02		19,850.73
	November	0.25		19,850.98
	December	0.17		19,851.15
	January	0.26		19,851.41
	February	0.33		19,851.74
	March	0.23		19,851.97
	April			19,851.97
	May			19,851.97
	June			19,851.97
9/16/14	Univ of Nevada pmt		19,072.59	779.38
11/5/14	Refund Univ of NV overpmt		(2,913.69)	3,693.07
Total		\$19,851.97	\$16,158.90	\$ 3,693.07

Agenda Brief 7.0: NRSP Review Committee

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

Action Requested : For information only

Background:

NRSP Review Committee Members

<p>Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fred Servello (NERA)• Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD)• Doug Buhler (NCRA)• Tom Bewick (NIFA)• Clarence Watson (SAAESD)• L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)	<p>Executive Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric Young (SAAESD)• Mike Harrington, Executive Vice-Chair (WAAESD) <p>Interim Delegate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Phipps (NERA) <p>Stakeholder Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don Latham (CARET)
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Background:

The NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC) will meet in Denver, CO on May 28, 2015 for its annual meeting to review proposals, budgets, and guidelines and make recommendations for funding. Recommendations will be presented at the Fall ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting.

A summary of the NRSP portfolio, including proposed projects, follows.

NRSP 2015-2016 Requests for Off-the-Top Funding

Project	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Authorized FY2014	Request FY2015	Approved FY2015	†Request FY2016	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1 ¹	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	300,000	300,000	183,500	
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
NRSP9	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	
NRSP10 ²					398,631	398,631	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP_TEMP004 (NRSP4)							481,182	<i>Pending May 28th meeting</i>
NRSP_TEMP006 (NRSP6)							150,000	<i>Pending May 28th meeting</i>
NRSP_TEMP7 ³ (NRSP7)							325,408	<i>Pending May 28th meeting</i>
NRSP_TEMP9 (NRSP9_							225,000	<i>Pending May 28th meeting</i>

†Assuming an acceptable midterm review, all NRSP budgets were approved during 2012 Fall ESS Meeting for the duration of their current, five-year cycles.

²Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP10 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591

³As required by the NRSP Review Committee, NRSP_TEMP7 has demonstrated that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested. The 5-year budget is as follows:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
MRF Funding	325,408	325,408	325,408	325,408	325,408
Other Funding	1,204,857	1,204,857	1,204,857	1,204,857	1,204,857
Total Project Budget	1,530,265	1,530,265	1,530,265	1,530,265	1,530,265

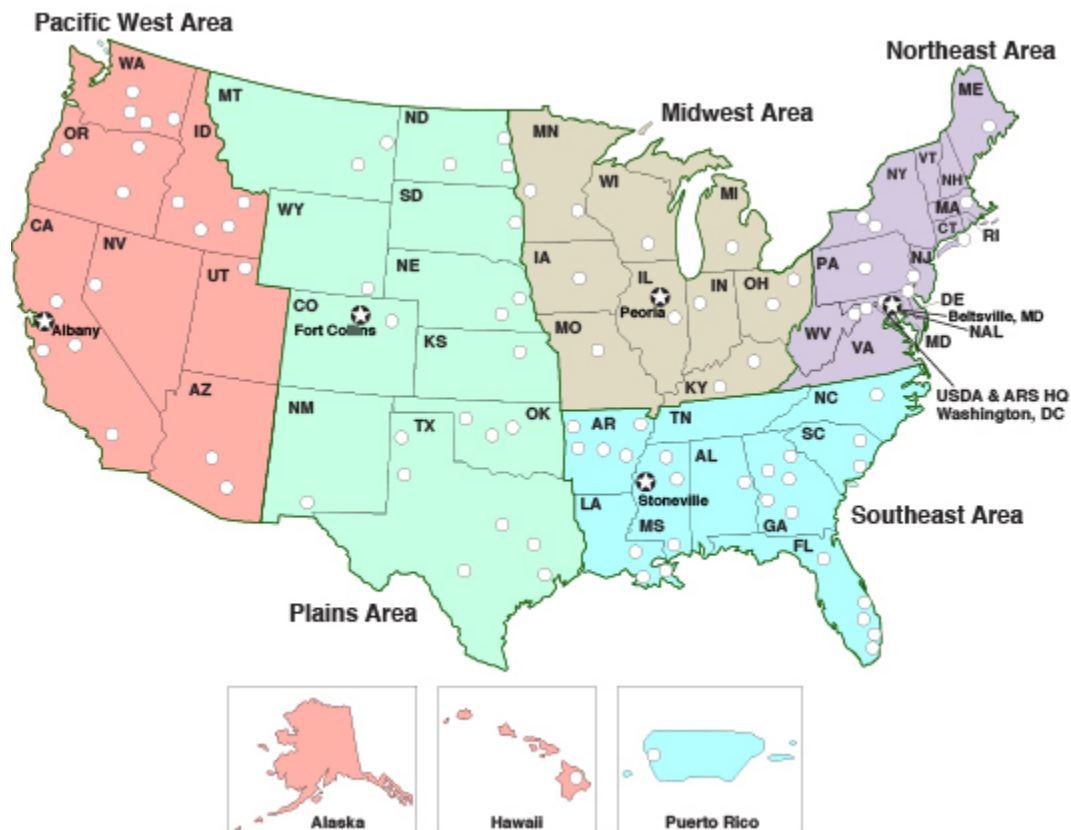
Summary of NRSPs

Project Number	Project Name	Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
NRSP-3	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
NRSP-4 (NRSP_TEMP4)	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-6 (NRSP_TEMP6)	The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-7 (NRSP_TEMP7)	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
NRSP-9 (NRSP_TEMP9)	National Animal Nutrition Program	2015-2020	2018
NRSP10	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	2014-2019	2017

Agenda Brief 8.0: ARS Report
Presenter: Andrew Hammond
Action Requested: For information
Background:

ARS REPORT (Western) April 2015

NEW AREA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



AREA LEADERSHIP

Pacific West Area

- Area Director: Andrew Hammond
- Associate Area Director: Maureen Whalen
- Associate Area Director: Tom Shanower
- **Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington**

Plains Area

- Area Director: Larry Chandler
- Acting Associate Area Director: Bryan Kaphammer
- Associate Area Director: John McMurtry

- **Colorado**, Kansas, **Montana**, Nebraska, **New Mexico**, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, **Wyoming**

BUDGET

FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriation

- ARS Salaries and Expenses:
 - \$1,132,625,000
 - Represents an increase of \$105 million over the FY 2013 spending level
- ARS Buildings and Facilities:
 - \$45 million
 - Rescinds \$1.5 million of existing unobligated balances

FY 2016 President's Budget

Salaries and Expenses: (\$000s)

Increases:

FY 2016 Pay Cost	9,025
Climate Change	11,000
Transformational Genetics	11,100
Apprentice Farmer Program	150
Antimicrobial Resistance	7,000
Agricultural Sustainability	8,000
Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change	8,000
Big Data, Earth Sciences, and Earth Observation	2,523
Combating Antimicrobial Resistant Bacteria	10,000
Pollinators	7,000
Vertical Farming	5,000
Sustainable Small Farms	7,500
Repair and Maintenance	20,000
Subtotal Increases	97,273

Decreases:

Proposed Redirections	(25,986)
Proposed Terminations	(21,397)
Subtotal Decreases	(47,383)

Total Salaries and Expenses 1,191,540

Buildings and Facilities:

Athens, GA: Poultry Research Facility	113,701
Beltsville, MD: Building #307	37,100
Ames, IA: National Laboratory for the Environment	13,500

Tucson, AZ: Southwest Watershed Research Laboratory	12,400
Houston, TX: Children's Nutrition Research Center	29,200

Total Buildings and Facilities **205,901**

ARS Total **1,397,441**

Note: The FY 2016 President's Budget also includes the proposed consolidation of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho, with ARS laboratories in Aberdeen, Boise, and Kimberly, Idaho.

NEW LEADERSHIP AND VACANCIES

California

- Western Regional Research Center, Albany
 - Crop Improvement and Genetics Research Unit, Ann Blechl
 - Produce Safety & Microbiology Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Lisa Gorski)
 - Foodborne Toxin Detection and Prevention Research Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Luisa Cheng)
 - Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Brenda Grewell)

Colorado

- Soil Plant and Nutrient Research Unit, Ft. Collins, VACANT (Jorge Delgado, Acting Research Leader)
- Plant and Animal Genetic Resources Preservation, Ft. Collins, VACANT (Harvey Blackburn, Acting Research Leader)
- Water Management Research Unit, Ft. Collins, VACANT (Dana Blumenthal, Acting Research Leader)

Hawaii

- Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center (PBARC), Hilo, Center Director, Marisa Wall
 - Tropical Plants, Genetics and Disease Research Unit, Research Leader, Tracie Matsumoto-Brower

Idaho

- U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Bret Taylor)

Kansas

- Center for Grain and Animal Health Research, Manhattan, VACANT (Tom Herald, Acting Center Director)
- Stored Product Insect and Engineering Research Unit, Manhattan, James Campbell, Research Leader

Montana

- Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, Agricultural Systems Research Unit, Sidney, VACANT (John Gaskin, Acting Research Leader)

Oklahoma

- Forage and Livestock Production Research Unit, El Reno, VACANT (Patrick Starks, Acting Research Leader)
- Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit, Stillwater, Sherry Hunt, Research Leader

Oregon

- Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit, Corvallis, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Ruth Martin)

Utah

- Pollinating Insect-Biology, Management, Systematics Research Unit, Logan, VACANT (Jim Cane, Acting Research Leader)

Agenda Item 10.0: CSU-WAAESD MOU
Presenter: Mike Harrington
Action Requested: For information
Background:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System, acting by and through Colorado State University, for the benefit of the Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Ft. Collins CO 80523-2002, hereinafter referred to as the UNIVERSITY, and the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors comprised of the Agricultural Experiment Stations (or the equivalent units) of the following states in the Western region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming plus the United States possessions of Guam, American Samoa and Micronesia, hereinafter referred to as the ASSOCIATION.

WHEREAS, the ASSOCIATION needs to maintain an appointment for an Executive Director located at one of the experiment stations within the Western region to serve the regional needs of all stations within the region; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station is a member in good standing of the Association, which was established in 1967, and also is an integral part of the State-Federal cooperative agricultural research system; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to enter into this agreement for the purpose of enhancing the research activities and mission of the cooperative State-Federal agricultural research system by continuing to provide a liaison procedure for planning, coordinating and evaluating the research activities among the states in the Western region, between the Western region and the other three regions, between the Western region and the USDA research and extension agency units both within the region and the appropriate agency offices in Washington, D.C., and between the Western region and several public and private research granting and/or performing agencies and groups; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the parties to this agreement that the research liaison activities shall be for the mutual benefit of the people of the western region and of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the promises and mutual covenants herein specified, the parties hereby mutually agree to the following:

A. THE UNIVERSITY agrees:

- . To provide the services -of Dr. Harvey Michael Harrington -to serve the ASSOCIATION as Executive Director for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021+6. Dr. Harrington will be an administrative professional employee of the UNIVERSITY housed in the Agricultural Experiment Station, and shall perform the functions generally described in the Position Description, attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated by this reference. The parties

acknowledge_ and agree that, as a UNIVERSITY -employee, -Dr. Harrington serves at will and in accordance with the employment policies and practices of the UNIVERSITY. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as a modification of such policies and procedures. UNIVERSITY shall at all times remain the employer of Dr. Harrington and shall be solely responsible for providing all supervision, compensation and benefits to Dr. Harrington. This is not an employment contract. In the event that Dr. Harrington is no longer assigned to serve in his present position at the UNIVERSITY, the parties shall meet and confer regarding any necessary modifications to this MOU, and may, at the option of either party, terminate this MOU as further provided herein below.

2. To establish a separate account number(s) for all ASSOCIATION expenses incurred, including the full salary and associated fringe benefits of the Executive Director, one full-time ~~Assistant to the Director-Administrative Analyst/clerical position~~, and additional part-time support, travel, office supplies, telecommunications -and networking charges, equipment, and other operating expenses, as needed. The parties shall establish an estimated annual budget by mutual agreement prior to June 1 for the following Fiscal Year (July 1 through June 30). The initial annual budget is attached hereto as "Exhibit B" and incorporated by this reference.
3. To provide office and work space, not to exceed 350 square feet, together with office furnishings for the use of the Executive Director, ~~Administrative Analyst/clerical~~ Assistant Director, and ~~part time support persons~~ other staff, as appropriate. The occasional -use of a conference room, when available, will also be provided. The Office of the ASSOCIATION shall be co-located with the Agricultural Experiment Station Director's Office. UNIVERSITY reserves the right to relocate the office from time to time, as necessary to meet the needs of the UNIVERSITY, so long as reasonably equivalent and convenient space is provided for purposes of this MOU.

Comment [MM1]: The agreement was amended in April 2012 to create the Assistant to the Director position. I think the amendment changed the title of the admin/clerical and designated it an Admin. Pro. Position.

B. The ASSOCIATION agrees:

1. To pay the UNIVERSITY for invoices submitted by the UNIVERSITY on a quarterly, cost reimbursable basis. Invoices for actual expenses will be sent to the Association Treasurer the month following the end of each quarter, i.e. July-September expenses will be billed in October; October-December expenses will be billed in January; January-March expenses will be billed in April; and April-June expenses will be billed in July. Invoices shall be sent to the Treasurer at the following address:

~~Dr. Jeffery Jacobsen~~
Montana State University
College of Agriculture
PO Box 172860
Bozeman MT 59717-2860

Attn: Treasurer, WAAESD

Payments shall be made to:

Colorado State University
Cashier's Office
6015 Campus Delivery - OSP
Colorado State- University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-6015

2. To charge the UNIVERSITY a reduced assessment in exchange for the UNIVERSITY's provision of office and work space, office furnishings, and use of a conference room, as described in A.3. above, said assessment to be determined and agreed upon by the ASSOCIATION and the Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station.

C. It is further mutually understood and agreed:

1. Checks covering payment under this agreement shall be sent to the Colorado State University Cashier's Office at the address shown in B.1. above, and shall include the University account number established for this purpose.
2. The ASSOCIATION will conduct an evaluation of performance annually and provide input to the UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY may consider such evaluations with respect to any aspect of this MOU, including ~~Dr. Harrington's~~ the Executive Director's and Assistant Director's salary.
3. This MOU shall be effective as of July 1, 201~~6~~⁴ and shall continue through June 30, 20~~14~~¹⁶. The parties may extend this MOU for an additional five-year term by mutual agreement signed prior to the expiration of the initial term. Either party may terminate this MOU upon 90 days written notice to the other party, without cause. Termination pursuant to this section shall not relieve a party of its obligations incurred prior to the termination date, including any non-cancelable obligations to third parties incurred prior to the termination notice.
4. The parties agree that, among other functions, the Executive Director will participate in seminars and workshops on research planning, management and coordination for administrators, faculty and graduate students, as mutually agreed during the term of this MOU.
5. Each ~~-Party~~ Responsible for Its Own Acts. Each party hereto agrees to be responsible for its own wrongful or negligent acts or omissions, or those of its officers, agents, or employees to the full extent required by law. The UNIVERSITY is an institution of higher education of the State of Colorado and is governed by the provisions of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act (C.R.S. ¹24-10-101 ~~-et seq.~~). Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the protections of said Act. This Agreement shall not be construed to create any partnership, joint venture, nor other agency relationship between the parties, who are independent of one another.

6. Use of Trade Names and Service-Marks. Neither party obtains ~~by this~~ Agreement any right, title, or interest in, or any right to reproduce or to use for any purpose, the name, trade names, trade- or service marks, logos or copyrights of the other party. The ASSOCIATION will not include the name of Colorado State University, or of any member of CSU project staff or other employees, in any advertising, sales promotion, or publication without the prior written approval of the UNIVERSITY.
7. Compliance with Laws. Each party agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, codes, regulations, rules, and orders.
8. Assignment. Neither party shall assign or transfer any interest in this Agreement, delegate any of its obligations, or assign any claims for money due or to become due under this Agreement, without the prior written approval of the other party. An assignment of intellectual property rights by UNIVERSITY to the Colorado State University Research Foundation shall not be prohibited by this section.
9. Force Majeure. If a party's performance under this Agreement or any obligation hereunder is delayed or prevented by reason of circumstances beyond that party's control, including without limitation, fire, explosion, power failure, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, or acts of public enemies; any law, order, regulation, ordinance, or requirement of any government or legal body, labor unrest, strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts, then that party will be excused from its performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference. If such force *majeure* continues for a period of thirty (30) days, either party may then elect to terminate this Agreement, provided that the parties shall fulfill their obligations, to the extent not rendered impracticable, through the termination date.
10. Default. A party will be considered in default of its obligations under this Agreement if such party should fail to observe, to comply with, or to perform any term, condition, or covenant contained in this Agreement and such failure continues for ten (10) days after the non-defaulting party gives the defaulting party written notice thereof. In the event of default, the non-defaulting party, upon written notice to the defaulting party, may terminate this Agreement as of the date specified in the notice, and may seek such other and further relief as may be provided by law.
11. Termination. Each party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, without cause, upon not less than sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party. If notice is so given, this Agreement shall terminate on the expiration of the specified time period, and the liability of the parties hereunder for further performance of the terms of this Agreement shall thereupon cease, but the parties shall not be released from the duty to perform their obligations up to the date of termination.
12. Binding Nature; ~~Entire~~ Agreement; Waiver. Except as herein provided, this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns. None of the terms or conditions in this

Agreement shall give rise to any claim, benefit, or right of action by any third person not a party hereto. Any person, other than ASSOCIATION or UNIVERSITY, receiving services or benefits under this Agreement shall be deemed only an incidental beneficiary. This Agreement is executed and delivered with the understanding that it constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and that there are no prior representations, warranties, or agreements, oral or written, relating hereto. The failure of either party to insist upon performance of any covenant or condition hereof upon one or more occasions shall not constitute a waiver thereof.

13. Changes and Amendments. No modification or amendment to this Agreement shall be effective unless made in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of all parties hereto.
14. Notice. All notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be deemed given when delivered by certified mail, return receipt, or on the next business day following delivery by facsimile transmission if a facsimile telephone number is shown below, to the designated representatives of the parties. A party may change its designated representative or address at any time by written notice in the same manner as for any other notice. The initial representatives of the parties are as follows:

University:

Marilyn Morrissey

Senior Research Administrator
Colorado State University
Office of Sponsored Programs
2002 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-2002
Tele: (970) 491-6355
Fax: (970) 491-6147

Association:

H. Michael Harrington

Western Association of Agricultural
Experiment Station Directors
206 University Square
3001 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-3001
Tele: (970) 491-6280
Fax: (970) 491-7396

Jeffrey J. Steiner

Lee Sommers

Deputy Director, Ag Experiment Stations
Colorado State University
102 University Square
3001 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-3001
Tele: (970) 491-~~68395374~~
Fax: (970) 491-7396

15. Governing Law; Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Colorado, without regard to its conflicts of laws rules; and any legal action arising under this Agreement shall be brought in the Colorado District Court in and for the City and County of Denver, State of Colorado.

16. Captions, Construction, and Agreement Effect; Severability. The captions and headings used in the Agreement are for identification only, and will be disregarded in any construction of the contract provisions. All of the terms of this Agreement will inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the respective heirs, successors, and assigns of both parties. If any portion, clause, paragraph, or section of this Agreement will be determined to be invalid, illegal, or without force by a court of law or rendered so by legislative act, then the remaining portions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.


17. No Beneficial Interest. The signatories aver that to their knowledge, no state employee has any personal or beneficial interest whatsoever in the service or property described herein.

18. Ability to contract. Each party represents, to the other, that it is not subject to any restrictive obligations imposed by former or present clients or other persons that would impair its ability to perform its obligations hereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the day and year written first above.

Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System, Acting By and Through Colorado State University

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

By: 

By: 

Betty Eckert

Chairman

Associate Director, Office of

C. L. Jensen

Sponsored Programs

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June 28, 2006

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
AND ACADEMIC PROGRAM DIRECTORS

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
Western Academic Programs Section

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) and the Western Academic Programs Section (WAPS) have responsibility for multi-state research and education integration and the management of the Regional Coordination and Implementation Committee. The Executive Director assists the directors and facilitates the accomplishment of their responsibilities associated with multistate research, multistate extension and multistate integrated activities.

Responsibilities: The Executive Director is an employee of the WAAESD (95%) and WAPS (5%) as an employee at one of the universities in the Western Region. Administratively the Executive Director is responsible to the Chair and Executive Committee of the WAAESD. Duties and responsibilities relate to regional issues and include:

Develop policies and programs of the WAAESD and its constituent institutions

- Promote, articulate and advocate the priorities of the WAAESD and WAPS for multistate integrated activities within the framework of USDA and other agencies, both regionally and nationally as appropriate
- Develop, organize and maintain a management information system and communication network that provides current information on technical and administrative matters important to WAAESD and multistate integrated activities
- Facilitate communications for WAAESD with the USDA and other agencies and facilitate participation with other Executive Directors in their separate and joint functions in the support of the overall research system at the national level
- Provide leadership for developing and integrating multistate activities of the WAAESD, WAPS and WEDA and the regional priorities of the WAAESD.
- Encourage integration of Experiment Stations, Academic Programs, Extension and other qualifying entities, including international programs
- Facilitate operation of ESCOP and support the Chair when these responsibilities reside with the [Western Region](#) Western Region.
- Provide leadership and support for special initiatives and activities at both the regional and national levels.
- Develop and maintain communications between WAAESD members and ACOP, AHS, ECOP, ESCOP, Forestry, Home Economics, ICOP, NASULGC, and Veterinary Medicine and NRCS
- Serving as a resource to individual Directors, Administrative Advisors, and committee chairs in the planning and management of RCIC
- To the extent possible, observe and become knowledgeable about individual state programs through site visits and contact with individual Directors.
- Providing leadership to special projects and assignments as needed

Employment Conditions: The position is a 12 month, full time appointment.

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Agenda Item 11.1: ED Annual Report, 2014

Presenter: H. Michael Harrington

Action Requested: For information

Background:

I. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WAAESD

Executive Committee: Participate in monthly conference calls to address immediate business of the association.

Meeting Support and Logistics

- **Joint WAAESD- WEDA Meeting:** Bret Hess and Executive Committee to finalize agenda. Worked with Bret Hess, Bill Frost, Sarah Lupis and Lyla Houglum to develop agenda for combined session.
- **Joint Summer Meeting:** Worked with Chair and Executive Committee to finalize WAAESD agenda. With Sarah, identified a facilitation team for the workshop. Worked with Bill Payne, Ron Pardini and Melissa Glenn to address logistics including facilitators and overall agenda. Invited Western Governors Association and Western Council of State Governments speakers for panel discussion. Developed and coordinated the “Ask” for support for the summer meeting due to low registration number failing to meet projected costs. This included logistics, a management plan and subsequent distribution of invoices. Approved UNR request for payment.
- **Building Strength in Unity:** Writing Production Systems white paper. Collected background data on production from the NASS
- **Northern Marianas Assessments:** Worked with Patty Coleman (NMC) to collect all back assessments.
- **Fall Meeting:** Worked with Dave Thompson and Executive Committee to develop the WAAESD meeting agenda.

Committee Activities

- **Western SARE Administrative Council:** I serve as the Western Directors’ representative on this committee. I assumed committee chairmanship in August. Worked with Utah State officials to approve an evaluation procedure for the W-SARE Director that reflects the change in time commitment. Provided reviews for 12 Chapter 1 R&E program preproposals and reviewed/ranked 13 graduate student proposals. Attended AC meeting in Boise, ID Aug 4-7.
- **Western Rural Development Center Board:** I represent the Western Directors on this activity. Serve as the recruiting chairman responsible to identifying new board members.
- **Western IPM Center:** I serve as the Western Directors’ representative on this committee.
- **Southern Rockies LCC:** Serve on the Science Committee and participated in several calls to rank priorities. Distribute relevant information on RFAs, etc. to Directors.

Western Academic Program Directors

- Met with WAPD members at the Joint Summer Meeting to present priorities survey results

II. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ESCOP

Assistance to Steve Slack ESCOP Chair

- Work with Steve Slack and Bret Hess (B&L Chair) to facilitate discussions of joint budget initiatives with Extension.
- Developed ESCOP response to questions from OMB: “What is the appropriate ration of competitive to formula funds” and, “What can be done to improve performance on individual formula funded projects?” (See attached)
- Participate in “Strategic Alliance” call with Steve S, Jeff J, Jimmy Henning and others

ESS Annual Meeting 2014: Worked with the other EDs to develop the all meeting agendas and the ESS workshop agenda. Secured participation of Kelley Eversole and Dr. Jan Leach who will speak on Phytobioime research in one of the workshops.

ESS Annual Meeting 2016: Sarah and I are working with Bret Hess and his staff on initial planning for the 2016 meeting to be held in Jackson Hole WY

Committee Activities

- **Chair’s Advisory Committee:** Participate in monthly conference calls
 - **ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee:** Support Chairman Bret Hess (Wyoming) as the Executive Vice Chair on this important committee. Organize monthly conference calls.
 - Led development of the Big Audacious Ask concept
 - Continue to track 2014, ‘15 budgets
 - Developed and deployed survey to determine how Directors were using the Science Roadmap
 - Work with Bret Hess Steve Slack, Rick Klemme Robin Shepard and Jimmy Henning on joint budget initiatives with Extension.
- **BAA-Budget and Advocacy Committee:** Participate in monthly conference calls
- **BAA-BAC Crop Protection Working Group**
 - With Robin Shepard, Jeff Jacobsen and representatives from the IPM Community to developed Rules of Operation for the National IPM Coordinating Council which will be a Subcommittee of the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee.
 - Working with Cornerstone to seek legislative solution for 2015 addressing the budget problems that have resulted from how NIFA implemented the Pest Management Program
 - Attended committee organization meeting Sept 22-24.
- **BAA-BAC Water Quality Working Group**
 - Working with Steve Slack, Jimmy Henning and Robin Shepard to facilitate activities of the Water Quality Working Group. An initial draft overview, approved by ESCOP, ECOP, BAC and PBD, was presented to NIFA and others in REE. A final document was presented at the Joint COPS meeting and approved by the above BAA parties.

- **NIMSS:** Continue to work with the other EDs, Assistants and Management Committee to address problems as the NIMSS is being revamped
- **Communications and Marketing Committee:** I serve as back up to Dan Rossi and also participate on the Joint Committee with Extension
- **Committee on Legislation and Policy:** I am serving on this committee which is developing recommendations for the Farm Bill.
- **NRSP Review Committee:** Our office has assumed leadership for this committee with Bret Hess serving as Chair. Participated in a conference call in August to finalize recommendations for FY 2015.

Summary of Travel

Jan 13-15: W-SARE Technical Review Panel, Salt Lake City

Feb. 9-14: W-SARE Director Search Committee Interviews Logan

Feb. 24-26: W-SARE Advisory Council meeting Salt Lake City

March 1-4: Washington DC

- AHS-CARET meetings
- System Communications and Marketing Committee meeting
- ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee meeting
- ESCOP meeting

April 9-11: WAAESD-WEDA Spring Meeting San Diego

April 30-May 2: Water Working Group Meeting Cincinnati

May 5-7: NMCC (EDs) Meeting Washington DC

May 14-16: Hawaii State Visit

May 17-22: Guam Infrastructure Conference, Mangilao Guam

May 23: Guam State Visit

June 17: NRSP-RC meeting Denver

July 7-11: Western Region Joint Summer Meeting, Lake Tahoe

July 21-24 Joint COPS Meeting, San Diego

July 7-11: Western Region Joint Summer Meeting, Lake Tahoe

July 21-24: Joint COPS Meeting, San Diego.

Aug. 4-7: SARE Administrative Council Meeting, Boise

Sept 23-24: National IPM Coordinating Committee, Washington DC

Sept 29-Oct 3: ESS Annual Meeting Jekyll Island, GA

Agenda Item 11.2: Executive Director Q1 Report, January – April, 2015

Presenter: H. Michael Harrington

Action Requested: For information

Background:

I. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WAAESD

Support to the Chair and Organization

NIFA reporting and accountability: In mid-January was made aware that NIFA had implemented a new policy for project initiation/reporting such that matching funds were to be reported for each Hatch project. This was a huge change from the previous practice of certifying the match for all Hatch funds and would result in a tremendous increase in work burden and transactional costs.

I worked with Meryl Broussard and Bob Holland to have this policy change rescinded.

- **Annual Report and Evaluation:** Submitted annual report for the calendar year 2014 to the chairs of the WAAESD and WAPD. Worked with David Thompson and Larry Curtis and to facilitate the evaluation process.
- **Assistant to the Director Evaluation:** Distributed Sarah Lupis' 2014 annual report; developed evaluation instrument and results summary for the Executive Committee.
- **Budget:** With U-AZ failure to pay the FY 2015 assessment in support of our office, I worked with Larry Curtis and the Executive Committee on a draft memo to Dr. Shane Burgess and possible budget scenarios.
- **Building Strength in Unity:** I drafted the overview of the western production system
- **CSU Research Centers Conference:** Participated in this conference and made invited presentation on funding in the LGU System.

Meeting Support and Logistics

- **Spring Meeting:** With the Executive Committee developed the agendas and arrangements for the April meeting.
- **Joint Summer Meeting:** Participated in several face to face meetings with CSU folks to discuss possible agenda and topics. Worked with Sarah to arrange facilitators, and to develop meeting overview with desired outcomes and objectives.

Committee Activities

- **Western SARE Administrative Council:** I serve as the Western Directors' representative on this group and as the Council Chair. I was principal/secondary reviewer for 10 Chapter 1 Research and Education grant proposals and also reviewed all proposals

submitted. Attended the Administrative Council meeting, Feb 24-26 in Salt Lake City during which funding decisions for 2015 were made.

- **W-SARE Director Evaluation:** I developed a MOU between the AC and Utah State covering the annual review of the Regional SARE Director and subsequently led the evaluation.
- **Western Rural Development Center Board of Directors:** I serve as one of three WAAESD representatives on this group and chair the membership committee. Participate in regular conference calls. Attended 2015 Board meeting in Pasco WA
- **Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Consortium:** Serving on the Science Committee and participate on the Steering Committee meetings as time permits. Continue working with Science Committee on science needs and will attend committee meetings in Fort Collins.

II. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ESCOPE

Committee Activities

- **Chairs Advisory Committee:** Participate in monthly conference calls.
- **ESCOPE Budget and Legislative Committee:** Support Chairman Gary Thompson (PA) as the Executive vice Chair on this important committee. Organize monthly conference calls, produce agenda briefs and meeting notes.
- **Budget and Advocacy Committee:** Support Gary Thompson on this BAA committee. Coordinate ESS input into the BAC. Drafted agenda briefs, summarized impacts data for water projects from NIMSS and REEPort. Organize monthly conference calls.
- **APLU-BAC one-pagers:** Worked with Cornerstone to collect and finalize all one-pagers for 2014.
- **NIMSS/National Impact Writing Project:** Sarah and I oversee a full time writer funded by NRSP-1 who is responsible for writing impact statements as well as press releases about the projects. The annual performance review by the NRSP-1 Committee indicated that Sara Delheimer is doing an excellent job.
- **NRSP-Review Committee:** Our office supports Bret Hess (Chair) in the important effort.
- **System Communications and Marketing Project:** Serve as back up ED on this important joint committee that works with kglobal and Cornerstone to promote high priority impacts to those who need to understand what we do. Participated in the March 2 face to face meeting and participate in group conference calls.

Summary of Travel January-March 2015

Feb. 24-26: W-SARE Advisory Council meeting Salt Lake City, UT

March 2-5: Washington, DC meetings

- AHS-CARET meeting
- ESCOP B&L Committee meeting
- ESCOP Meeting
- NIFA Meetings
 - NPL Seminar
 - Accountability Staff
 - Grants and Financial Management Staff
 - Senior Staff

April 7-9: Western Rural Development Center Board Meeting, Pasco WA

April 14-15: NMCC (EDs meeting), Washington DC

April 27-May 1: Joint WAAESD-WEDA meeting, Portland OR

Agenda Item 12.1: Assistant to the Executive Director Annual Report, January 1 – December 31, 2013

Presenter: Sarah Lupis

Action Requested: For information

Background:

Annual Report

Assistant to the Executive Director

January 1– December 31, 2014

Narrative Self-Assessment & Summary of Activities

This report outlines progress and achievements during 2014. Overall, I am pleased with progress made on the 2014 objectives, as detailed in this report. Below I highlight some accomplishments of particular distinction for the past year.

Western Perspective: In 2014, I played a key role in coordinating the ongoing WAAESD-WEDA joint initiative, “Building Strength in Unity/Western Perspective/Western Agenda.” Behind the scenes of the WAAESD/WEDA Joint Spring meeting and the 2014 WRJSM I helped to develop agendas to guide discussions, arranged for facilitation and helped facilitators to develop appropriate processes to achieve meeting objectives, and compiled information needed to move the process forward. These efforts resulted in a series of successful working meetings with other regional associations and culminated in the drafting of the Western Perspective document in early 2015. In 2015, I look forward to helping the Western Region finalize the Western Perspective and advance the Western Agenda through strategic marketing and communication.

W2128 Campaign: Also in 2014, the Western Region’s W2128, “Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use,” received the ESS Excellence in Multistate Research national award. I helped the committee to craft a winning nomination and then worked with a team of communications professionals to develop and implement a campaign to share the accomplishments and impacts of this project, simultaneously highlighting the importance of agricultural research and extension at land-grant universities in the West and nationwide. Specifically, I worked with Sara Delheimer, the NRSP-1 Impact Writer, kglobal, Steve Loring (W2128 AA), and the W2128 committee to write a press release and an op-ed that was pitched to several major newspapers in California. The press release (attached) was issued on July 11, 2014; it had 301 total media hits, with 71 hits in key university and statewide markets, including the San Jose Mercury News in San Jose, CA which receives 11,000 online visitors per day and has a circulation of 581,532 readers (kglobal Q3/2014 Report, September 25, 2014). kglobal continues to pitch the oped to media outlets.

NEW NIMSS: Finally, in 2014 I was appointed to co-lead (with Chris Hamilton, NCRA) the development of a new National Information Management Support System (NIMSS) database and website. I helped to write a call for proposals for the redesign, evaluate submissions, and select a team; helped to write a proposal and budget for NRSP-1 which was approved during the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting; helped to develop a scope of work for Clemson YLT, the group hired to develop the new site; and provided regular

input on key aspects of functionality, organization, and design for the new system. The new NIMSS is scheduled to launch in Fall of 2015.

Regional Activities

WAAESD Office: I supported activities of the WAAESD office through various ongoing activities, including maintaining electronic mail lists for various groups; developing, maintaining, and reconciling WAAESD budget and expenditures; creation and processing of financial and travel documents; inventory and stocking of office supplies; and maintenance and replacement of office equipment as necessary.

Meeting Support and Logistics:

- I collaborated with Mike Harrington, Lyla Hoglum, Bret Hess, Bill Frost, the WAAESD Executive Committee, and the CSU AES staff to develop the agenda and arrangements for the 2014 Joint Spring Meeting in San Diego, CA, including coordination of continued work on the “Building Strength in Unity” initiative. I coordinated with facilitator Dr. Steve Daniels and helped to develop the facilitated process used in that joint session. In addition, I compiled and distributed post-meeting materials.
- I collaborated with Mike Harrington, Bill Payne, and his staff and CARET reps to develop the agenda and arrangements for the Summer Meeting in Lake Tahoe, NV, including coordination of the fourth “Building Strength in Unity” joint session with a facilitation team led by Dr. Steve McMullin. I worked closely with the facilitation team to develop a process and agenda for achieving meeting objectives and then organized and posted reports and materials generated from the event on the WAAESD web page.
- I collaborated with Mike Harrington, Lyla Hougum, Larry Curtis, and OSU Conference Services staff to develop a schedule and arrangements for the 2015 Joint Spring Meeting in Portland, OR.
- I collaborated with Megan Griffith, Lori Bates, Craig Beyrouy, Lou Swanson, Jeff Steiner and Mike Harrington to develop a tentative agenda and make arrangements for the 2015 Summer meeting in Breckenridge, CO.
- I advised Rhonda Hatzelis and Terri Hee on meeting planning (logistics, agenda, etc.) for the 2014 and 2015 Western Region Administrative Officers Meetings, held in Tucson in 2014 and scheduled for Hawaii in fall of 2015.
- Drafted a WRAOM Meeting Guidelines document to provide host institutions with all the information they need to plan the meeting, avoid confusion, and ensure balanced representation in meeting planning between AES/CE and finance/HR interests. Guidelines will be finalized in Q2 of 2015.
- Worked closely with Joanne Newcomb (UWyo) to evaluate and select a meeting venue for the 2016 Joint Experiment Station Section-Cooperative Extension Section Meeting. Ultimately selected Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park near the town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Created budgets, evaluation spreadsheets, reviewed contracts, and toured facilities as part of this activity.

Multistate Research:

- I facilitated the annual proposal review for new/renewing multistate projects (15 projects) and the mid-term review process (9 projects). I communicated results of each to project Administrative Advisors, AES Directors in the Western Region, and NIFA.
- I coordinated the reassignment of numerous Administrative Advisors and provided training/support to new AAs on the Multistate Research Program and the use of the National Information Management Support System (NIMSS).
- I coordinated the collection and review of nominations for the Excellence in Multistate Research Awards Program and forwarded Western Region winner to the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee.

Western Region's W2128, "Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use," received the ESS Excellence in Multistate Research national award. I helped the committee to craft a winning nomination and then worked with a team of communications professionals to develop and implement a campaign to share the accomplishments and impacts of this project, simultaneously highlighting the importance of agricultural research and extension at land-grant universities in the West and nationwide. Specifically, I worked with Sara Delheimer, the NRSP-1 Impact Writer, kglobal, Steve Loring (W2128 AA), and the W2128 committee to write a press release and an op-ed that was pitched to several major newspapers in California. The press release (attached) was issued on July 11, 2014; it had 301 total media hits, with 71 hits in key university and statewide markets, including the San Jose Mercury News in San Jose, CA which receives 11,000 online visitors per day and has a circulation of 581,532 readers (kglobal Q3/2014 Report, September 25, 2014). kglobal continues to pitch the op-ed to media outlets.

NIMSS: I provided regular ongoing support to western region administrative advisors and administrative staff, helping to troubleshoot and solve issues with the NIMSS. In 2014, I was appointed to co-lead (with Chris Hamilton, NCRA) the development of a new National Information Management Support System (NIMSS) database and website. I helped to write a call for proposals for the redesign, evaluate submissions, and select a team; helped to write a proposal and budget for NRSP-1 which was approved during the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting; helped to develop a scope of work for Clemson YLT, the group hired to develop the new site; and provided regular input on key aspects of functionality, organization, and design for the new system. The new NIMSS is scheduled to launch in Fall of 2015.

Multistate Guidelines: In 2013, I revised the Western Region Multistate Guidelines to be more in line with the new version of the national guidelines. In addition, I collaborated with Mike Harrington to develop regional off-the-top procedures. The Western Region Multistate Review Committee adopted revised MRF regional guidelines during their 2014 spring meeting and the updated version is posted on the WAAESD web site: <http://bit.ly/1Bxt9VE>

WAAESD Web Site: In 2014, I continued to maintain the WAAESD website, adding a secure section to share preliminary information and documents created as part of the Building Strength in Unity/Western Perspective/Western Agenda initiative: <http://www.waaesd.org/the-western-agenda>

Social Media: In 2012, the WAAESD established a presence on social media through the creation of a twitter account, @WAAESD. We currently have approximately 155 followers (up from 136 followers reported last year), including several association colleges and universities, national organizations, government partners, and others. The Twitter account has been used to help promote stories about AES research from our member institutions within the region and also to a broader national audience, including influential decision-makers.

WRAOM: While I was unable to attend the 2014 WRAOC meeting and didn't serve on a planning committee (there wasn't one established), I did help to advise meeting planners at the University of Arizona and resolve issues with the agenda. As a result of challenges experienced with planning for the 2014, I drafted a WRAOM Meeting Guidelines document to provide host institutions with all the information they need to plan the meeting, avoid confusion, and ensure balanced representation in meeting planning between AES/CE and finance/HR interests. Guidelines will be finalized in Q2 of 2015. If adopted, I will serve as Ex Officio Chair of all future WRAOM planning committees and will archive meeting information and post-meeting evaluations in support of future host institutions. In addition, I advised meeting planners from the University of Hawaii on the 2015 event.

Impact Reporting: I continued to supervise the activities of the National Impact Writer, Sara Delheimer. The impact writing program continues to produce excellent impact summaries that are shared with AES Directors, CES Directors, NIFA leadership, and others via email and social media. In 2014, I helped Ms. Delheimer to refine and standardize a workshop for AES scientists/faculty that she then delivered at the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University.

ESS Leadership Award: Organized and served on the ESS Leadership Award selection committee for WAAESD. Coordinated with other regions to select awards and recognize winners at APLU meeting in Orlando, FL. Facilitated travel reimbursement for Western Region award recipient, Colin Kaltenbach.

National Activities

Committee Service:

- I serve on the NRSP001 Management Committee that oversees NIMSS implementation. The committee had 2 conference calls during the reporting period. Since June 2012, when the impact writer, Sara Delheimer, started, I have been responsible for implementing the National Impact Reporting Strategy: editing initial drafts, coordinating distribution, and setting direction, especially for publication in broader media outlets. In 2014, I also served as co-lead for the NIMSS Redesign effort with Chris Hamilton (NCRA) and participated on conference calls for the Redesign Team (a subcommittee of NRSP-1). In addition, I helped to write a call for proposals for the redesign, evaluate submissions, and select a team; helped to write a proposal and budget for NRSP-1 which was approved during the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting; helped to develop a scope of work for Clemson YLT, the group hired to develop the new site; and provided regular input on key aspects of functionality, organization, and design for the new system. The new NIMSS is scheduled to launch in Fall of 2015.

- I serve as the ESCOP representative on the Planning Committee for the annual National Extension Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC) and helped to develop the 2014 conference agenda. At the 2014 conference in Indianapolis, IN I delivered sessions on social media basics and NIMSS, both of which were very well received. In addition, I organized a session on Impact Reporting for the 2014 conference. In 2014, I worked with Tim Nesbit (University of Arizona) to draft guidelines for this meeting to enable LGUs and NIFA to more effectively and efficiently plan this annual event.
- In 2014, I was appointed to the LGU Impact Database/Website Planning Committee. I helped to compile logos from institutions in the Western Region to be used in the new website (www.landgrantimpacts.ramu.edu), compiled information on “inputers” and COOs, and provided input on development of the site, especially the impacts page and research section.

ESCOP:

- **ESCOP/ECOP Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC):** As a member of this committee, I regularly participated in conference calls and in-person meetings. I am responsible for recording minutes of calls and meetings and sending out notices regarding upcoming events and calls. I have continued to work directly with kglobal and Sara Delheimer to ensure that multistate project impact statements are relevant and useful to the education efforts. In 2014, I turned over administrative support duties for this committee to the Northeast Regional Association; NEERA Executive Director Dan Rossi is the executive vice-chair of the committee.
- **Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee:** I served as the recording secretary.
- **LGU Impacts Database Steering Committee:** I served on the LGU Impacts Database Steering Committee where I help to advise development and refinement of the LGU impacts database and website.
- **NRSP Review Committee:** In 2014, I coordinated the activities of the NRSP Review Committee. I organized the annual meeting in June, wrote briefs, prepared materials for the Chair’s presentation at the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting, communicated and coordinated with NRSP committees and AAs, and served as primary point of contact for NIFA.
- **Water Working Group:** Helped H. M. Harrington and Robin Shepard organize conference calls; served as recording secretary; facilitated an in-person meeting of the Water Working Group in Cincinnati, OH; and provided technical editing to the final draft of the white paper.

Status of 2014 Goals and Objectives

Activity	Status
Support the WAAESD and MRC	
Facilitate WAAESD operations and serve as recording secretary; produce meeting minutes	Ongoing
Maintain WAAESD web site; evaluate analytics to improve function	Ongoing
Serve as a liaison with USDA/NIFA , AES Directors, other college of agriculture leaders in region/nation	Ongoing
Maintain electronic mail lists for various groups	Ongoing
Develop, maintain, and reconcile WAAESD budget and expenditures	Ongoing
Create and process financial and travel documents	Ongoing
Facilitate and Expand Use of NIMSS in the Western Region	
Train new administrators, members of the MRC and others in NIMSS use	Ongoing
Maintain a regular email newsletter, NIMS T.I.P.S	Complete
Serve on the NRSP001 Management Committee	Ongoing
Work with other regional system administrators to improve NIMSS performance and meet changing needs	Ongoing
Facilitate review/evaluation of the NIMSS system; implement improvements to enhance functionality and meet changing needs	Ongoing
Provide oversight for the Western Region Project Portfolio	Ongoing
Revise Regional Guidelines to reflect changes in NIMSS, the National Guidelines, and other policy changes	Complete
Develop financial resources commitments report for Western Region projects	Ongoing
Maintain and expand information included in the Virtual Notebook for Directors and Administrative Advisors	Completed draft of Western Region MRF Guidelines. New user guide will be produced by Clemson as part of NIMSS Redesign.
Communications	
Produce periodic narrative summary reports and impact statements for WAAESD project portfolio	Ongoing
Produce "user-friendly" written communications for other regions, APLU, USDA, NIFA, Congress, stakeholders, and others	Ongoing supervision of national impact writer
Develop issues and position paper drafts to increase awareness of important western region issues, positions, policies, and opportunities and/or respond to other regional or national initiatives affecting the region and funding	Continuing
Maintain regional listservs for AES Directors, Deans, APDs, CARET, WROAC, and others	Ongoing
Establish and maintain a WAAESD presence on social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, etc.	Excellent progress, continuing
Support national-level communications and marketing efforts in coordination with the ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee, kglobal, and Cornerstone LLC	Ongoing

Summary of Travel/Meetings Attended

April 8-11, 2014: 2014 Joint Spring Meeting, San Diego, CA

April 27-May 1, 2014: NERAOC 2014, Indianapolis, IN

May 1-2, 2014: Water Working Group, Cincinnati, OH

June 17, 2014: NRSP Review Committee meeting, Denver, CO

June 24-27, 2014: Association of Communication Excellence annual meeting, Portland, OR

July 7-10, 2014: Western Region Joint Summer Meeting, Lake Tahoe, NV

July 22-23, 2014: NERAOC Planning Meeting, San Diego, CA

August 17-20, 2014: 2016 AES/CES venue research, Jackson Hole, WY

August 28, 2014: Presentation of 2016 AES/CES venue research, Laramie, WY

September 29-October 3, 2014: Fall ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting, Jekyll Island Club, GA

Draft Goals and Objectives for 2015

Western Region

- Facilitate WAAESD operations and serve as recording secretary
- Produce minutes of meetings and conference calls
- Maintain WAAESD web site
- Evaluate visitation and use of the WAAESD web site to improve functionality and usefulness
- Serve as a liaison with USDA/NIFA , AES Directors, other college of agriculture leaders in region/nation
- Maintain electronic mail lists for various groups
- Develop, maintain, and reconcile WAAESD budget and expenditures
- Create and process financial and travel documents in support of WAAESD transactions and activities
- Train new administrators, members of the MRC and others in use of NIMSS
- Provide oversight for the Western Region Project Portfolio
- Continue to serve on the WRAOM Planning Committee; encourage inclusion of AES-specific topics at the regional meeting; finalize WRAOM Meeting Guidelines
- Promote Western Region research and integrated activities through various communication outlets including social media sites like Twitter, etc.
- Help WAAESD and WEDA finalize the Western Perspective and advance the Western Agenda
- Coordinate the ESS Leadership Excellence award process and nomination review committee
- Support Western Region nominees for the ESS Excellence in Multistate Research Award and promote regional winners
- Collaborate with Jeff Steiner and AES staff at CSU to develop an agenda and make arrangements for the 2015 summer meeting in Breckenridge, CO
- Collaborate with the Oregon State University to develop an agenda and make arrangements for the 2015 spring meeting
- Collaborate with Chuck Boyer and AES staff at MSU to develop an agenda and make arrangements for the 2016 summer meeting in Montana

- Collaborate with the host institution to develop an agenda and make arrangements for the 2016 spring meeting, host/location TBD
-

National

- Continue to serve on the NRSP001 Management Committee
- Advise on the development of the new NIMSS; provide training to regional users on use after launch
- Continue to provide oversight, support, and guidance to the national, NRSP001, impact reporting effort
- Continue to supervision of the impact reporting specialist position; expand delivery of impact reporting workshop to new audiences
- Develop issues and position paper drafts to increase awareness of important western region issues, positions, policies, and opportunities and/or respond to other regional or national initiatives affecting the region and funding
- Support national-level communications and marketing efforts in coordination with the ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee, kglobal, and Cornerstone LLC
- Promote widespread dissemination and viewing of the presentation, “Research reporting: Why it matters and how to do it well,” and advocate for improved reporting to enhance our ability to communicate effectively to decision makers and key stakeholders
- Liaison with USDA NIFA on REEPort issues
- Continue to serve on the NERAOC Planning Committee; encourage inclusion of AES-specific topics at the national meeting; finalize NERAOC Guidelines
- Continue to provide support to ESS activities and committees such as the Water Working Group and others, as needed
- Create a user-friendly version of the Water Working Group white paper executive summary
- Continue to serve on the ESCOP/ECOP Joint Communications and Marketing Committee
- Coordinate activities of the National Research Support Program Review Committee and provide support to Bret Hess, NRSP-RC Chair
- Evaluate the potential for redesigning the ESCOP/regional association websites
- Continue to support planning for the 2016 Joint Experiment Station Section-Cooperative Extension Section Meeting

Researchers from 20 Land-Grant Institutions, including X University, Receive National Recognition for Multistate Water Conservation Project

X researchers from X University Participate in the Project

November 3, 2014

Dateline City – Yesterday, X University was among 19 land-grant universities who received the 2014 Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Research Award from the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP). The award, presented by ESCOP Chair, Bob Shulstad, and Director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), Sonny Ramaswamy, recognized the universities' exceptional collaboration on a multistate research project that helps farmers better use microirrigation (MI) systems to sustainably irrigate their land, especially during droughts and water shortages. Researchers participating in the project, W-2128 Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use, were honored for their efforts during the Awards Program held at the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

"The Multistate Research Program is one of the best kept secrets of the land-grant university system, and this award recognizes outstanding interdependent efforts of researchers and extension specialists that have come together to tackle a priority issue that no one institution can address on their own. This microirrigation project was selected out of more than 300 multistate projects because, since 1972, the group has made major advances in sustainable agriculture and water conservation," said H. Michael Harrington, Executive Director of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors.

Conventional irrigation systems that apply high volumes of water over wide areas can lose a lot of water through runoff, wind, or evaporation. As a result, conventional irrigation systems often over- or under-water plants. Instead, MI systems use special timers, sensors, and a network of narrow tubes to deliver the right amount of water at the right time.

In the last five years, W-2128's research has led to new MI equipment and tools that are easier to install, more durable, and more precise. These advances, along with engagement with farmers, have encouraged adoption of MI systems, which has led to significant economic and environmental impacts. In Idaho, farmers who used MI systems saved 10% on labor and water pumping costs. Farmers who used MI systems in Puerto Rico were able to grow taro on a commercial scale despite dry conditions. In Oregon, MI systems have reduced groundwater pollution and increased onion crop yields. MI systems have also helped to restore land disturbed by uranium mill sites on the Navajo Nation. **Communicators, feel free to customize this paragraph to your state.**

"As director of USDA-NIFA, my goal is to ensure the science we invest in leads to solutions to today's most pressing challenges. One of those challenges is finding ways to feed the growing population while minimally impacting the environment," said Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA director. **"A safe, reliable supply of water is inextricably linked to food security. The five-fold increase in irrigated acres that took place during the 20th century cannot be**

repeated in the 21st century—there isn't the space. Instead, we must increase efficiency of the irrigated farmland we have, and that is what this project is doing.”

W-2128's efforts are supported, in part, through USDA-NIFA by the Multistate Research Fund, established in 1998 by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act (an amendment to the Hatch Act of 1888) to encourage and enhance multistate, multidisciplinary agricultural research on critical issues. Additional funds were provided by contracts and grants to participating scientists.

In addition to **X University**, other participating land-grant institutions include: Auburn University; University of Arizona; University of California, Davis; University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Colorado State University; University of Florida; University of Hawaii; University of Idaho; Iowa State University; Kansas State University; Mississippi State University; University of Nebraska, New Mexico State University, Cornell University; Oregon State University; University of Puerto Rico; Texas A&M AgriLife Research; University of the Virgin Islands; Washington State University; and University of Wyoming. In addition, the universities collaborated with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service.

“Leveraging the expertise at several institutions and federal agencies gives much greater impact to the results of the research and education efforts,” said Steve Loring, Associate Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Mexico State University and administrative adviser for the project.

Following the awards ceremony, the project's name will be added to a plaque at the USDA Waterfront Centre in Washington, D.C., and the group will receive \$15,000 to support their ongoing work. The group's continued efforts are more critical than ever as the U.S. continues to experience extreme droughts that threaten water supplies and crops that depend on irrigation.

About X University

Communicators, feel free to add your university's boiler plate language here.

Agenda Item 10.6: Assistant Director's Q1 Report, January —April, 2015

Presenter: Sarah Lupis

Action Requested: For information

Background:

[NOTE: AD was on maternity leave late November – March 1. Report reflects activities primarily from March 1-April, 2015.]

1. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WAAESD

- Served as the Recording Secretary of the WAAESD; produced minutes of meetings and conference calls.
- Maintained the WAAESD web site
- Maintain electronic mail lists for various groups
- Develop, maintain, and reconcile WAAESD budget and expenditures
- Created and processed financial and travel documents in support WAAESD transactions and activities
- Created and continue to maintain WAAESD Twitter account, posting relevant stories about AES research, news, etc. and leveraging stories to national attention. Twitter account has 156 followers (up from 143 in Q4 2014), including several association colleges and universities, national organizations, government partners, and others.
- Helped organize facilitation for the Western Region Joint Summer Meeting: recruited facilitation team, coordinated with UNR event planning staff, helped to develop joint session agenda
- Helped to coordinate the hosting of the 2015 WAAESD-WEDA Joint Spring Meeting in Portland, OR. Worked with WEDA and host institution Oregon State Univ. to finalize website, decide on meeting details, and finalize overall schedule.

Western Region Multistate Research Portfolio

Regular Support: Regularly provide support to Administrative Advisors and SAES staff on navigating the NIMSS and interpretation of national and regional multistate guidelines. In this quarter, I have fielded questions and provided information regarding the transfer of NIMSS to a new server and the resulting breaks in functionality.

2014/2015 Renewing Projects: Continued to facilitate the renewal of 6 projects expiring in 2015.

ESS Award: Coordinated nominations for the Excellence in Multistate Research award.

Western Region Administrative Officers

Via the listserv, kept Western Region Admin Officers abreast of important developments and news related to AES operations.

In response to concerns from Western Region Administrative Officer's Meeting participants, drafted guidelines for the planning and execution of this annual event. Shared the draft with Tim Nesbit, NMSU, and will present a final version to the administrative officers at NERAOC 2015.

2. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NRSP001: Serve on the national Management Committee that oversees NIMSS implementation. Participated in conference calls this quarter to decide on issues related to the fixing and updating of the NIMSS. Provided feedback on brand concept and functionality of new NIMSS.

National Impact Reporting Project: Have been responsible for implementing the National Impact Reporting Strategy, including developing, maintaining, and reconciling the NRSP-1 Impact Communication effort budget and expenditures and supervising the Impact Communication Specialist (Sara Delheimer). In this quarter, I helped to set priorities and coordinate reporting.

Worked with Sara Delheimer and kglobal's Ashley Hawn to promote MRF projects, especially the 2014 ESS Excellence in Multistate Research Award recipient, W2128 on microirrigation. Contributed to media strategy, coordinated and helped to write/edit op-ed by UC ANR faculty, and helped to pitch stories to the press (The Wall Street Journal, High Plains Journal, LA Times, AgAlert).

ESCOP Water Working Group: Created a 2-page briefing document based on the WWG White Paper Executive Summary.

NRSP-RC: Coordinate NRSP Review Committee activities. In this quarter, have organized materials for renewing projects, fielded questions from committee members (NRSPs and NRSP-RC), drafted NRSP-RC brief, and made arrangements for an in-person meeting for the NRSP Review Committee in Denver, CO.

NERAOC

Serve as the ESCOP representative to the National Conference Planning Committee. Also serving on UC ANR Host Committee. Participated in conference calls and provided input on various logistics decisions via email. Served as a liaison with presenters for three sessions to be given at NERAOC 2015 in San Diego. Responsible for all NERAOC social media strategy and posts.

In response to persistent concerns from LGU members of the NERAOC Planning Committee, drafted guidelines for conduct and planning of NERAOC meeting. Draft guidelines were shared with NMSU's Tim Nesbit and are currently being finalized in anticipation of sharing with Planning Committee and NIFA partners at NERAOC 2015.

ESCOP

Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee: Serve as the recording secretary.

AES/CES Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC): Member of this committee. Recording secretary duties were transferred to Rubie Mize, reflecting the NERA leadership on this committee.

Water Working Group: Designed a 2-page briefing document based on the WWG White Paper Executive Summary.

Impact Database Steering Committee: Member of this committee. Participated in conference calls and contributed to the design of the national roll-out strategy.

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Selected to participate in CSU's campus and college-wide Inclusive Excellence training initiative. Participated in several workshops with other CAS staff. Program goal is to reshape the culture of the college and the university to an inclusive community that embeds diversity throughout the institution, across multiple areas.

4. TRAVEL SUMMARY

There was no travel in Q1.

Agenda Item 14.0: Capacity Funds Matching Requirements

Presenter: H. Michael Harrington

Action Requested: For information

Background:

Below is in response to questions from Western Region directors about the new matching funds requirement in the Farm Bill. The provision exempts LGUs and USDA research agencies from meeting matching requirements.

Matching funds provision in the new Farm Bill exempts LGUs and USDA Research Agencies

The new matching funds provision in the new Farm Bill specifies a consistent requirement of 50% for all NIFA grant programs, including the mandatory programs such as the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

However, the provision language exempts from the matching requirement any entity that receives USDA capacity funding (LGUs) or is a USDA research agency (e.g. ARS, ERS, etc.). Unless other entities partner with either ARS or a LGU, 50% matching funds are required and there are provisions for exceptions.

Also note that according to the last paragraph, this policy does not apply to awards for program requiring a match made prior to Oct 1, 2014.

Matching Funds in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (note (d)(3))

SEC. 7128. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.

(a) In General- The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

`SUBTITLE P--GENERAL PROVISIONS

`SEC. 1492. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.

`(a) In General- The recipient of a competitive grant that is awarded by the Secretary under a covered law shall provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both, from sources other than funds provided through such grant in an amount that is at least equal to the amount of such grant.

`(b) Exception- The matching funds requirement under subsection (a) shall not apply to grants awarded--

`(1) to a research agency of the Department of Agriculture; or

`(2) to an entity eligible to receive funds under a capacity and infrastructure program (as defined in section 251(f)(1)(C) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971(f)(1)(C))), including a partner of such entity.

`(c) Waiver- The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement under subsection (a) for a year with respect to a competitive grant that involves research or extension activities that are consistent with the priorities established by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board under section 1408(c)(1)(B) for the year involved.

`(d) Covered Law- In this section, the term `covered law' means each of the following provisions of law:

`(1) This title.

`(2) Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.).

`(3) The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.).

`(4) Part III of subtitle E of title VII of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

`(5) The Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i).'

(b) Conforming Amendments-

(1) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977- The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended--

(A) in section 1415(a) (7 U.S.C. 3151(a)), by striking the second sentence;

(B) in section 1475(b) (7 U.S.C. 3322(b)), in the matter following paragraph (4), by striking 'Except in the case of' and all that follows; and

(C) in section 1480 (7 U.S.C. 3333)--

(i) by striking subsection (b); and

(ii) by striking '(a) In General- The Secretary' and inserting 'The Secretary'.

(2) FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990- The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended--

(A) in section 1623(d)(2) (7 U.S.C. 5813(d)(2)), by adding at the end the following: 'The matching funds requirement under section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 shall not apply to grants awarded under this section.';

(B) in section 1671 (7 U.S.C. 5924)--

(i) by striking subsection (e); and

(ii) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e);

(C) in section 1672 (7 U.S.C. 5925)--

(i) by striking subsection (c); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (d) through (j) as subsections (c) through (i), respectively; and

(D) in section 1672B (7 U.S.C. 5925b)--

(i) by striking subsection (c); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively.

(3) AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998- The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended--

(A) in section 406 (7 U.S.C. 7626)--

(i) by striking subsection (d); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(B) in section 412(e) (7 U.S.C. 7632(e))--

(i) by striking paragraph (3); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(4) COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RESEARCH GRANT ACT- Subsection (b)(9) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(9)) is amended--

(A) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following new clause:

`(iii) EXEMPTION- The matching funds requirement under section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 shall not apply in the case of a grant made under paragraph (6)(A).'; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (B).

(5) SUN GRANT PROGRAM- Section 7526(c)(1)(D)(iv) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114(c)(1)(D)(iv)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subclause:

`(IV) RELATION TO OTHER MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENT- The matching funds requirement under section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 shall not apply in the case of a grant provided by a sun grant center or subcenter under this paragraph.'.

(c) Application to Amendments-

(1) NEW GRANTS- Section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to grants described in such section awarded after October 1, 2014, unless the provision of a covered law under which such grants are awarded specifically exempts such grants from the matching funds requirement under such section.

(2) GRANTS AWARDED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2014- Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsection (b), a matching funds requirement in effect on or before the date of the enactment of this section under a provision of a covered law shall continue to apply to a grant awarded under such provision on or before October 1, 2014.

Agenda Item 15.0: NIFA Reporting Requirements/POW

Presenters: Mike Harrington. Steve Loring

Action Requested: For discussion

Background:

In response to NIFA's proposed reporting requirements and the direction of the upcoming POW Panel of Experts agenda (below), the NERA sent the following letter to Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA Director.

March 27, 2015

To: Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy
Director, USDA-NIFA

Bart Hewitt
Director, Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff

Katelyn Sellers
POW & REEport Business Manager

From: NERA Station Directors/Associate Directors
Dr. Ted Andreadis, Connecticut Agric. Experiment Station
Dr. Greg Weidemann and Dr. Cameron Faustman, Univ. of Connecticut
Dr. Mark Rieger, Univ. of Delaware
Dr. Sabine O'Hara, Univ. of the District of Columbia
Dr. Ed Ashworth and Dr. Fred Servello, Univ. of Maine
Dr. Dr. Cheng-i Wei and Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi, Univ. of Maryland
Dr. Patricia Vittum, Univ. of Massachusetts
Dr. Jon Wraith, Univ. of New Hampshire
Dr. Brad Hillman, Rutgers State Univ. of New Jersey
Dr. Michael Hoffmann, Cornell University - Ithaca
Dr. Susan Brown, Cornell University - Geneva
Dr. Gary Thompson, Pennsylvania State University
Dr. Rick Rhodes III, Univ. of Rhode Island
Dr. Tom Vogelmann, Univ. of Vermont
Dr. Dan Robison and Dr. Tim Phipps, West Virginia University

Re: Plan of Work (POW) Panel of Experts Meeting on June 16-18, 2015

The Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) recently met for our annual winter meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, and discussed the Plan of Work (POW), the upcoming POW Panel of Experts Meeting, and impacts reporting. NERA members have reviewed this letter and agree that it represents the discussion and recommendations that took place at the Baltimore meeting. In addition, we have unanimously instructed our representative at this meeting, Cameron Faustman (Associate Director, CT-Storrs Agric. Experiment Station), to pursue the concerns/suggestions/ideas outlined below.

There is a recognition among all NERA members that there must be accountability for capacity (formula) and competitive funds provided to Experiment Stations and PIs through USDA programming. USDA is under legislative mandate to provide reporting on these funds and their ability to fulfill that obligation depends on input provided by the Experiment Stations.

We also recognize that it is critical for USDA to demonstrate to the President and Congress that their funding programs have impact and we would like to facilitate this through an efficient and meaningful mechanism. However, we believe that the current POW and annual reporting system is inefficient, unnecessarily complex, and does not focus on delivering impactful products useable by USDA and our institutions.

The following concerns/suggestions/questions were expressed by NERA members:

- It is not clear what information NIFA needs and how it is subsequently used. The NERA membership reviewed the Agenda Topics for the POW Panel of Experts (attached as Appendix) meeting and were uniformly surprised to learn that "... there are only two components in AREERA reporting that are legislatively required: Stakeholder Input and Merit Reviews; all other data currently collected in the POW and Annual Report are discretionary". The qualitative and quantitative aspects of the material required for input by Experiment Stations, and the format in which it is requested represents a significant time commitment of questionable value. We believe that stories of successful impact(s) are important but much of the required information is not relevant to that purpose.
- There is duplication among the reporting systems for capacity funds and this leads to unnecessary time spent on entering redundant data. The POW software should "pull" information from the REEport system and it cannot. Perhaps there's an opportunity to employ provisions in the federal Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) to help justify changes to OMB?
- The POW is designed as a 5-year plan but the reporting is treated as a rolling 5-year plan. Why not allow the POW to be implemented with an option to modify along the way and minimize the interim reporting until the 5-year period is completed and fully reported on?
- Our impression is that USDA needs to be able to tell stories regarding the impacts of funded research and the National Impacts Database could serve this function. Why not limit reporting to Impacts and discard the majority of other information currently requested?
- Clerical notes. (1) The software for entering POW and annual report data is poorly constructed and not user-friendly, (2) we recommend that the annual meeting of managers (San Diego in May) be used as a forum for getting feedback on the many clerical aspects of POW reporting that are listed on the draft agenda in the Appendix to this letter.

We believe that the POW Panel of Experts meeting should be redirected to consider more fundamental questions of the reporting paradigm. There are five topics currently listed on the draft agenda and the first four (i.e., *Timing of Submissions*, *Connecting Projects to Programs*, *Software Functionality*, *Reporting Outcomes*) are clerical in nature. Clearly, there is value in helping USDA and the Experiment Station/Extension system work through them, but they are easily addressed. And they assume continuation of the current reporting model.

We believe that the system of reporting needs extensive modification to reduce the burden of time required for preparation, to deliver the needed information to the USDA and to provide a reporting strategy that is mutually beneficial to USDA, Experiment Stations and Land Grant universities. Hence, the USDA could obtain the information it deems truly valuable while minimizing its administrative overhead costs and those of the Experiment Stations. It is our hope that the Panel of Experts meeting will be a start to reinventing the reporting system for a modern world and we are prepared to help facilitate the adoption of a reasonable, efficacious reporting system.

Agenda Topics

The following topics will guide the panel discussion over the two and half days we are together in Washington, D.C. (not necessarily in the order they appear here). Panelists, both LGU partners and NIFA staff, are expected to come to panel prepared with their own and their respective colleagues' (other regional LGU partners, stakeholder groups, etc.) thoughts organized in a way that allows them to contribute to the panel discussion in a fruitful and efficient manner.

TOPIC: Timing of Submissions

The current due date for the POW and Annual Report each year from the states is April 1. Are there different dates that would make more sense for when the Plan and Annual Report should be due to NIFA? Consider the following:

- Having an approved POW in place is a requirement for being eligible for receiving the applicable capacity funds; the capacity RFAs come out each year in the August/September timeframe. In this regard, the POW is functionally part of the “application” to the RFA; essentially, it serves as the project narrative.
- For most other NIFA programs/projects, annual progress reports are due within 90 days after the period of performance being reported on. The AREERA Annual Reports are currently due approximately 180 days after the close of the previously federal fiscal year’s period of performance (related: the individual Hatch and Evans Allen Project Progress Reports in REEport are due by March 1 annually, 120 days after the close of the previous federal fiscal year).
- Workload Burden: Having the same due date requires the states to work on both the POW and AR report submissions at the same time each year; could workload burden be reduced if they could work on and submit the two reports separately/consecutively? Also, the same submission date means that NIFA NPLs have to work on their reviews of each submission simultaneously, effectively cutting their allotted 60 day review period for each report in half and reducing the opportunity for meaningful feedback.

TOPIC: Connecting Projects to Programs

- This currently applies to Hatch/Hatch Multistate and Evans Allen research funds only; individual projects of each PD (or co-PD) at an institution being supported by these funds must have a documented project in REEport.
- The Programs in the Plan of Work should encompass all of the projects an institution has submitted to REEport.
- How can we do a better job of showing how each project supports a particular program?
 - What challenges do states face when trying to associate projects in REEport to Planned Programs in the POW (currently a requirement at project initiation)?
 - What challenges do NPLs face when reviewing a POW and trying to understand how all of an institution’s research projects support a program?
 - How can we assure that Annual Reports clearly show activity and results of both research and extension functions, as appropriate to the various planned programs?
- How can we standardize reporting between Research and Extension? The first bullet above of this topic says “projects to programs” applies to Research only, but what if it could apply to Extension (Smith-Lever 3b&c and 1890 Extension) as well?
 - Let’s consider a scenario where the work being done, both in Research and Extension, is documented via “projects” in REEport while the “Programs” in the POW are significantly pared down into lists of those projects (states would no longer need to include such lengthy narratives of activities being done in those programs):

- Could this reduce reporting burden in the POW and Annual Report?
- What would be the benefits of this approach?
- What would be the negatives of this approach?

TOPIC: Software Functionality

- Is there anything about how the software functions that you particularly like? Why?
- Is there anything about how the software functions that you particularly do not like? Why and what about it would you like to see changed?
- For LGU partners: Is there anything about the software that impedes your institutions from reporting high quality data?
- For NPLs: Is there anything about the software that impedes your ability to provide a comprehensive, high quality review of the POW and Annual Report?

TOPIC: Reporting Outcomes

Ensuring that high quality outcomes are present in Annual Reports is in the best interest of the states and NIFA. Successful impacts can be reported in the form of an aggregated national number or individual qualitative story by NIFA to defend and support the capacity funds and their importance to agricultural research and extension and subsequently link those outcomes to higher level impacts. What can we do to collect outcomes and impacts in a better way, both at the nationally aggregated level and individual state level? Consider the current ways each of these is reported on:

- National Outcomes:
 - The national outcomes are quantitative only; the purpose is to be able to aggregate them so that NIFA can report a “national” impact.
 - NIFA has used Google Forms for three years now; does this positively or negatively affect a state’s option to report on any of the indicators?
 - There are just over 200 disparate data points that make up the national outcomes and indicators; is this too many? Is it overwhelming to know which ones are or are not important?
- State-Defined Outcomes
 - Currently, the software is set up with a 1:1 ratio for quantitative measure to qualitative story (i.e. for each outcome measure a state enters into their Annual Report, they are able to report a success story related to that one measure); there is no ability for a state to relate multiple quantitative measures with one qualitative statement.
 - Should we change the software to collect these data differently? If yes, how?
 - Consider: For reporting purposes (to USDA, Congress, etc.) , NIFA’s view is that the most useful qualitative data the agency receives in the Annual Reports are those that truly follow reporting on; 1) what the “issue” was, 2) “what was done” about it, and 3) what the “results” were. Further, linking such an alliterative to quantitative data adds power to the personal.

TOPIC: What does NIFA need?

Plans of Work and Annual Reports should serve the specific purposes of allowing states to meet the legislative requirements for receiving the applicable capacity funds and allowing NIFA to monitor and report out on the impacts of those funds. In thinking about those two purposes, we need to ask the question: what data does NIFA really need to carry out its “monitoring”?

- There are only two components in AREERA reporting that are legislatively required: Stakeholder Input and Merit Reviews; all other data currently collected in the POW and Annual Report are discretionary.
- Are there parts of a POW/AR that the states find burdensome to report on? Why? Let’s consider if any of those overlap with NPL reviewers’ perception:

- Are there parts of a POW/AR that NPLs do not find very useful in determining if a state is producing useful outcomes and meaningful impacts?
- Are there parts of a POW/AR that NPLs rely on in order to determine overall acceptability of a state's programming and integration of research and extension?

Agenda Item 16.0: MRC Report

Presenter: Sarah Lupis

Action Requested: For information

Background:

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the Western Region Multistate Review Committee (MRC) met to review and decide on 7 new and renewing multistate projects.

The following proposals were approved with minor/normal revisions:

-

The following proposals were approved with major revisions and will be re-reviewed by MRC members prior to final approval:

-

The following proposal was rejected:

-

The Western Region Supplemental Guidelines were changed such that the Western Directors' Office will now be responsible for recruiting and approving new MRF project Administrative Advisors.

The MRC evaluated nominations for the Western Region Excellence in Multistate Research Award. Both nominations were extremely strong and the decision was made on a ##-## vote. The 2015 Western Region Excellence in Multistate Research Award will be given ## NAME

The MRC will have a conference call to discuss mid-term reviews for projects scheduled to terminate in 2017 on DATE & TIME.

Multistate Review Committee Members:

Mike Harrington (ex-officio Chair)

Donn Thill (WAAESD)

Milan Shipka (WAAESD)

Dave Thompson (WAAESD)

Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)

Dave Shintani (W-APD)

Andy Groseta (CARET)

Tom Shanower (USDA-ARS)

Mark Walker (WEDA)

Glen Whipple (WEDA)

Jeff Bader (WEDA)

Lou Swanson (WEDA)

NIMSS Redesign Update

Clemson ITT (Information Technology Team) has completed all aspects of user registration and management. Systems are in place for allowing users to register for stations that already exist, as well as an approval process (through regional system administrators) for users who cannot find a station for themselves from the available options.

The proposal/project management system has been finished and is currently being themed to match with the design documents, sent as an attachment. That process should be completed during the week of February 23, 2015. The Appendix E system and the project invitation system are currently under development. Clemson ITT has begun work on migrating in the legacy data from the old system and will conclude that process this month (February 2015). Clemson is working on refactoring the code to improve the maintainability of the application and to help separate the application from the framework. This will result in a system that is easier to update in the future. Finally, a new brand concept, NIMSS logo, and site architecture have been designed to improve the look and ease of navigating the web interface.

Currently, Clemson is on schedule to complete all aspects of the system no later than August 31 of this year. Beta testing discussions by the NIMSS Redesign Team will begin in the near future.

The official ESCOP/Clemson contract was signed by APLU for ESCOP and is on its way back to Clemson. The NRSP1 funds have been approved and sent to USDA/NIFA for allocation to Clemson AES (NIMSS) and Colorado State University (Impact Writer) from the FY2015 appropriation.

Agenda Item 17.0: Committee Appointments

Presenter:

Action Requested: Appoint members to the MRC, WAAESD EC, and WRAC BOD

Background:

The following committee appointments are needed at this time:

- MRC Assignment to replace Donn Thill (rotating off/retiring); appointment will start in June or July, depending on timing of next MRC meeting (a conference call).
- At-large representative to the WAAESD EC to replace Donn Thill (retiring); appointment will start in July at Western Region Joint Summer Meeting
- Western Region Aquaculture Center Board Of Directors to replace Mike Kuhn (took a new position); appointment to start immediately, web conference on 5/12 10-12 PST
- Other?

Agenda Brief 20.0: Resolutions

Presenter: Rachel Leon-Guerrero

Action Requested: Approval of resolutions

Background:

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

WHEREAS Dr. Larry Curtis, Associate Dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University, and his colleagues from the Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station and OSU Conference Services — Ms. Rachel Williams, Ms. Donna Williams, Ms. Carly Weber — and others for the Spring meeting of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at the Embassy Suites Downtown Portland, in Portland, OR from April 28—May 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS Dr. Curtis and his colleagues were outstanding hosts, providing such hospitable, and beautiful surroundings in which to meet; and

WHEREAS the Embassy Suites Downtown Portland, OR provided excellent service, accommodations, delightful meals and break services, and a insightful tour of Oregon State University's Wheat Marketing Center and Food Innovation Center ; and

WHEREAS Dr. Curtis and his colleagues arranged an excellent program that allowed discussion of issues pertinent the Western Region in a cooperative, collegial atmosphere; be it

RESOLVED that the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at the Embassy Suites Portland Downtown Hotel, in Portland, Oregon on May 1, 2015, expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Curtis and his colleagues for their significant contributions to a successful meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

WHEREAS Dr. Barbara Allen-Diaz, has served as Vice President, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Director of Cooperative Extension at the University of California Division of Ag and Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz has had a distinguished and long career with the University of California since 1986 as a faculty who has risen to the rank of Professor, and has served in numerous other roles such as Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Assistant Vice President of Programs, Chair of the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, Associate Dean of Research and Extension, and Executive Associate Dean; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz's research focused on rangeland ecology and management, plant community ecology, ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada, and effects of climate change on rangeland species and landscapes; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz has been honored by the Society for Range Management with its Outstanding Achievement Award in 2001, and she holds the prestigious Russell L. Rustici Endowed Chair in Rangeland Watershed Science, in recognition of her strong program in range management and ecology; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz was among 2,000 scientists recognized for their work on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to the IPCC and Vice President Al Gore in 2007, where her contributions focused on the effects of climate change on rangeland species and landscapes; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz's work has consistently improved life for the people of California and beyond—through education, research, creative expression and community engagement; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz has shown remarkable leadership in the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) where she served as Chair, and as Chair of the BAA Policy Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS Dr. Allen-Diaz has decided to retire from the University of California; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting at the Embassy Suites Downtown Portland, in Portland, OR on May 1, 2015, expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Allen-Diaz for the significant contributions she has made to our Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Allen-Diaz and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

WHEREAS Dr. Stephen Sparrow, has served as Associate Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and the Interim Dean/Director of the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS Dr. Sparrow has had a distinguished 30 year career with the University of Alaska Fairbanks serving as Professor of Agronomy, and in numerous other roles; and

WHEREAS Dr. Sparrow's research focused on biomass crops and soil management; and

WHEREAS Dr. Sparrow has been dedicated to improving the feasibility and success of commercial agriculture in Alaska; and

WHEREAS Dr. Sparrow's work has consistently improved life for the people of Alaska and beyond—through education, research, creative expression and community engagement; and

WHEREAS Dr. Sparrow was active in the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) where he served as Administrative Advisor on several multistate research projects; and

WHEREAS Dr. Sparrow has decided to retire from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting at the Embassy Suites Downtown Portland, in Portland, OR on May 1, 2015, expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Sparrow for the significant contributions he has made to our Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Sparrow and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

WHEREAS Dr. Donn Thill, has served as Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station at the University of Idaho, and the Superintendent of Palouse Research, Extension and Education Center (PREEC); and

WHEREAS Dr. Thill has had a distinguished and long career with the University of Idaho since 1980 as a faculty who has risen to the rank of Professor of Weed Science, and has served in numerous other roles such as Graduate Student Advisor, Group Leader of Crop and Weed Science, and Division Chair Department of Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences; and

WHEREAS Dr. Thill's research focused on weed biology, integrated weed management systems, and herbicide resistant weeds; and

WHEREAS Dr. Thill was exceptionally active in numerous professional national and international organizations such as the Inland Empire Agriculture Chemical Association, where he served as Secretary (1984), Idaho Weed Control Association, where he served as President (1983-1984), Western Society of Weed Science, where he served as Secretary (1980-1981) and President (1988-1989), and Weed Science Society of America, where he has served as Secretary (1992-1994), Vice-President (2002-2003), and President (2004-2005); and

WHEREAS Dr. Thill's work has consistently improved life for the people of Idaho and beyond—through education, research, creative expression and community engagement; and

WHEREAS Dr. Thill provided leadership to the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) where he served as at-large representative to the Executive Committee, on the Multistate Review Committee, and as Administrative Advisor to several multistate projects; and

WHEREAS Dr. Thill has decided to retire from the University of Idaho; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their meeting at the Embassy Suites Downtown Portland, in Portland, OR on May 1, 2015, expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Thill for the significant contributions he has made to our Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Thill and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.