

**Western Association of
Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
Western Region Joint Summer Meeting**

MINUTES



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

**DoubleTree by Hilton
Breckenridge, CO
July 6-9, 2015**

Summary of Action Taken

Agenda Item	Action
2.0	Agenda, as modified, and minutes from the 2015 spring meeting were unanimously approved
3.0	Mike Harrington will reach out again to Dr. Burgess with a suggested payment plan.
8.0	Seconded motions from the Executive Committee to elect Jim Moyer as Chair Elect and Bret Hess as ESCOP Chair were unanimously approved.
9.0	The resolution was unanimously adopted.
10.0	A MRF Rapid Response project will be initiated to address the use of science in ESA. John Tanaka will serve as the Administrative Advisor. He and Sarah Lupis will draft a statement of issues and justification to circulate for comment to the Directors. A set of objectives was developed. Directors will look for the appropriate people to serve on this committee.
11.0	Suggestions were made regarding invasive plant and insects.

Agenda Item 1.0: Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions

Presenter: Larry Curtis

Action Requested: For information

Background:

Larry Curtis called the meeting to order. The participants introduced themselves.

- H. M. Harrington (WAAESD, ED)
- Sarah Lupis (WAAESD, AD)
- Chris Pritsos (NV)
- Jeff Steiner (CO)
- Larry Curtis (OR)
- Dave Thompson (NM)
- Bret Hess (WY)
- John Tanaka (WY)
- Steve Loring (NM)
- Rachel Leon Guerrero (GU)
- John McMurtry (USDA ARS)

Agenda Item 2.0: Approval of Agenda and Minutes of 2015 Spring Meeting

Presenter: Larry Curtis

Action Requested: Approve agenda and minutes of 2015 spring meeting

Action Taken: The agenda and minutes from the 2015 spring meeting were unanimously approved.

Background:

2015 WAAESD Summer Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item	Description	Presenter
1.0	Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions	Larry Curtis
2.0	Approval of Agenda and Minutes of 2015 Spring Meeting	Larry Curtis
3.0	Chair's Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report	Larry Curtis
4.0	Treasurer's Report	Charles Boyer
5.0	ARS Report	John McMurtry
6.0	NRSP Review Committee Update	Bret Hess
7.0	NIFA POW (Joint with WEDA)	Steve Loring
	PICK UP BOX LUNCHES	
8.0	Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WAAESD Chair-Elect, possibly At-Large Rep.• ESCOP Chair nomination	H. M. Harrington
9.0	Resolutions	Rachel Leon Guerrero
10.0	Continuation of "Filling Gaps" discussion	Bret Hess
11.0	WGA Needs	H. M. Harrington
12.0	2016 Summer Meeting Planning	H. M. Harrington
13.0	Adjourn	Larry Curtis

11.0 Consent Agenda Items

- 11.1 ESCOP B&L Committee Update (Bret Hess)
- 11.2 ESCOP S&T Committee Update (Larry Curtis and Dave Thompson)
- 11.3 NIMSS Redesign (Sarah Lupis)
- 11.4 ED's Quarterly Report (H.M. Harrington)
- 11.5 AD's Quarterly Report (Sarah Lupis)
- 11.6 WDO Budget Update (Sarah Lupis)

2015 Spring Meeting Minutes: http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/WAAESDSpringMeeting2015_Minutes_DRAFT_20150518.pdf

Agenda Item 3.0: Chair's Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report

Presenter: Larry Curtis

Action Requested: For information

Background:

Since the Spring Meeting, Larry Curtis has:

- Participated in regularly scheduled WAAESD and ESCOP conference calls;
- Coordinated responses to the 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.

There was a brief discussion of the situation with the University of Arizona. A letter has been sent to Dr. Burgess that included a reminder of the value and purpose of the WAAESD and future consequences of failure to pay association assessments. Mike Harrington will reach out again to Dr. Burgess with a suggested payment plan. Otherwise, the group agreed that existing guidelines/procedures should be followed.

Agenda Brief 4.0: Treasurer's Report

Presenter: Charles Boyer

Action Requested: For information

Background:

In June, the WAAESD FY2016 assessments were posted on the Treasurer's website: <http://ag.montana.edu/westerndirectors>

Please remember to retrieve your state's assessment invoices from **both** the Academic Program folder and the AES folder.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jody Barney at MSU:.

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jody.barney@montana.edu

**WESTERN DIRECTOR EXPERIMENT STATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2015**

24-Jun-15

ASSESSMENTS	FY 15 Assessments	Outstanding Assessments	Payment Received	Refund of Overpayment ¹	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	2,400.00		\$ -
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	\$ 250,164.45	\$ 12,966.70	\$ 20,916.89

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$ 137,745.75
	YTD Assessments Received	\$ 237,197.75		374,943.50
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	18.34		374,961.84
	August	16.13		374,977.97
	September	17.75		374,995.72
	October	11.80		375,007.52
	November	23.49		375,031.01
	December	14.80		375,045.81
	January	22.20		375,068.01
	February	23.52		375,091.53
	March	11.43		375,102.96
	April	15.39		375,118.35
	May	10.64		375,128.99
	June			375,128.99
7/1/14	MT Accounting Fee		\$ 3,500.00	371,628.99
7/30/14	Non-employee travel		\$ 359.34	371,269.65
4/7/15	Christina Hamilton-admin support		\$ 1,000.00	370,269.65
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			
7/31/14	FY14 Fourth Quarter		63,873.10	306,396.55
2/17/15	First Quarter		63,551.22	242,845.33
2/17/15	Second Quarter		66,712.94	176,132.39
4/13/15	Third Quarter		63,671.17	112,461.22
	Fourth Quarter			112,461.22
Total		\$ 237,383.24	\$ 262,667.77	\$ 112,461.22

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**

24-Jun-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	1.95		21,751.81
	May	1.62		21,753.43
	June			21,753.43
				21,753.43
10/23/2014	Jan Leach Travel		1,446.48	20,306.95
11/26/14	Kelley Eversole Travel		1,643.62	18,663.33
Total		\$ 15.37	\$ 3,090.10	\$ 18,663.33

NOTE: 2008 Grant workshop net from regional workshop plus interest (\$4389.12)

**WESTERN DIRECTOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FY2015**

24-Jun-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	1,400.00	-
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	\$19,931.94	\$ 800.00

INCOME / EXPENSE

Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Balance
7/1/14	Balance forward			\$13,448.29
	YTD Assessments Received	\$19,931.94		33,380.23
	<u>Interest Earned</u>			
	July	1.05		33,381.28
	August	1.33		33,382.61
	September	1.46		33,384.07
	October	1.01		33,385.08
	November	2.10		33,387.18
	December	1.32		33,388.50
	January	1.98		33,390.48
	February	2.39		33,392.87
	March	1.20		33,394.07
	April	1.66		33,395.73
	May	1.24		33,396.97
	June			33,396.97
	<u>CSU Payments</u>			
7/31/14	FY14 Fourth Quarter		4,783.00	28,613.97
2/17/15	First Quarter		4,783.00	23,830.97
2/17/15	Second Quarter		4,783.00	19,047.97
4/13/15	Third Quarter		4,783.00	14,264.97
	Fourth Quarter			14,264.97
Total		\$19,948.68	\$19,132.00	\$14,264.97

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

24-Jun-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

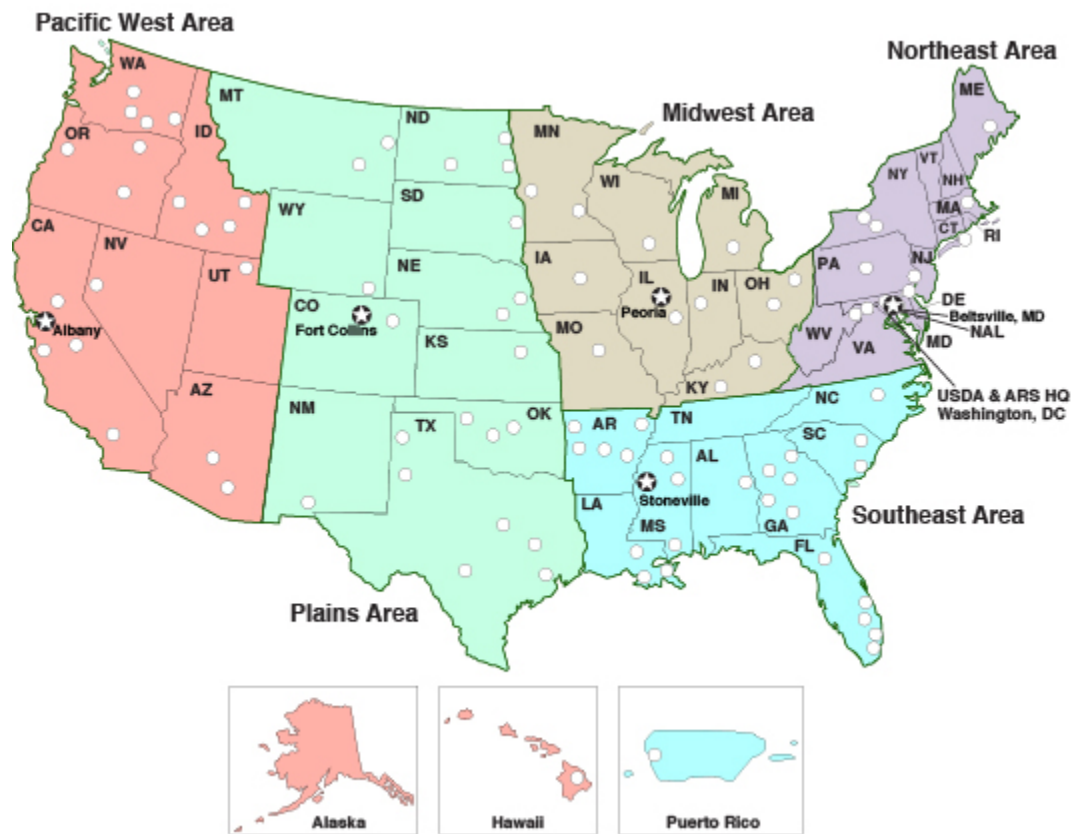
INCOME / EXPENSE

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	0.38		19,852.35
	May	0.32		19,852.67
	June			19,852.67
9/16/14	Univ of Nevada pmt		19,072.59	780.08
11/5/14	Refund Univ of NV overpmt		(2,913.69)	3,693.77
Total		\$19,852.67	\$16,158.90	\$ 3,693.77

Agenda Item 5.0: ARS Report
Presenter: John McMurtry
Action Requested: For information
Background:

ARS REPORT (Western) July 2015

ARS 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 2014 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)
<u>Increases:</u>	
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
<u>Decreases:</u>	
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.

FY 2016 House Appropriations Committee Mark (draft bill released by subcommittee 6/17/15)

- ARS Salaries and Expenses: \$1,122,454,000
 - Compared to FY 2015 appropriation \$-10,171,000
 - Compared to FY 2016 President's Budget \$-69,086,000
- ARS Buildings and Facilities: \$45,000,000

FY 2016 Senate Appropriations Committee Mark

- ARS Salaries and Expenses: _____
 - Compared to FY 2015 appropriation _____
 - Compared to FY 2016 President's Budget _____
- ARS Buildings and Facilities: _____
 - _____

NEW LEADERSHIP AND VACANCIES

California

- Western Regional Research Center, Albany
 - Produce Safety & Microbiology Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Robert Hnasko)
 - Foodborne Toxin Detection and Prevention Research Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Larry Stanker)
 - Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit, Paul Pratt
- Western Human Nutrition Research Center, Davis
 - Obesity and Metabolism Research Unit, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, John Newman)

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 (Lee Panella, Acting Research Leader)

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, (Prasanna Gowda, Research Leader as of July 12, 2015)
- Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit, Stillwater, Sherry Hunt, Research Leader

Oregon

- Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit, Corvallis, VACANT (Acting Research Leader, Steve Alderman)

Utah

- Pollinating Insect-Biology, Management, Systematics Research Unit, Logan, VACANT (Jamie Strange), Acting Research Leader)

NRSP Review Committee Agenda Brief (Summer Meetings)

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

For information only

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) met 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 and are included in the NRSP portfolio table, below.

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	370,165	
NRSP_TEMP004 (NRSP4)							481,182	<i>Approve proposal/budget; request further explanation for maintenance funding level requested.</i>
NRSP_TEMP006 (NRSP6)							150,000	<i>Approve proposal/budget; require committee to investigate alternative funding models and report back to NRSP-RC at mid-term review. See attached.</i>
NRSP_TEMP7 (NRSP7)							325,000	<i>Reject proposal/budget. See attached.</i>
NRSP_TEMP9 (NRSP9_							225,000	<i>Approve proposal/budget.</i>

†As of 2012, all NRSP budgets are approved for the duration of their current 5-year cycle, assuming an acceptable midterm review.

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

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY202019
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591

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 U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (<i>Solanum</i>) 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

A Synopsis of the U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm (NRSP6)

Background

The official National Plant Germplasm System project for the US potato genebank is in the National Research Support System designated as NRSP6. The NRSP system is a key facet of the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. NRSP6 provides germplasm stocks, germplasm data, R&D techniques and tools and custom materials for germplasm evaluation to the stakeholders such as public and private plant breeders, potato researchers, food suppliers and processors both domestically and internationally. NRSP6 has been a viable national project (since the 1950s) with current top 10 state (unit) users from CA, IA, ID, MD, MI, MN, NY, OR, WA and WI and, in reality, nearly 50 states using the Genebank over short timeframes. The Genebank has over 5,000 items of germplasm for the world's most important non-cereal crop with 45% of these being unique. While the demand for Genebank services is increasing, the overall financial health is declining; thereby creating uncertainties that project evaluators recommend broader discussions to identify options for a more sustainable future. Very preliminary conversations have occurred with the National Potato Council leadership and staff, a NRSP review team member, a state breeder, state potato commission and a regional agricultural research association. Other key leaders, users and stakeholders must be consulted and fully engaged in order to design alternative funding models.

Challenges

- Potato is a prohibited import crop, so current genetic resources in the US genebank are the only ones readily available to users. Continued restrictions on international germplasm collection and distribution limit new discoveries, thereby increasing the importance and use of the current stocks.
- Historical purchasing power erosion and direct cuts in program support across all of the primary funding sources (USDA Ag Research Service, State Ag Experiment Stations, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industry, grants) and numerous in-kind contributions negatively impact the overall operation of NRSP6. Budget pressures have negatively impacted: personnel, operations, maintenance, facility and equipment. The end result is a tenuous future.
- A key essence of the NRSP system is to leverage expertise and resources across priority projects such that the SAES System and other users (as appropriate) benefit and share the costs. This is a strength as well as a weakness.

Next Steps

- Fortuitously, several key meetings are occurring which will allow for a more inclusive discussion and evaluation of future prospects for action (National Potato Council board and managers summer meeting, NRSP6 and regional ag research association(s)).
- Assuming that these discussions are favorable, key individuals should be identified to serve on a committee to delve deeper into the challenge and identify potential solutions that will lead to a consistent and sustainable funding model that will ensure a quality, financially stable and comprehensive US Potato Genebank well into the future.

A Synopsis of the National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs. (NRSP-7)

Background

The minor use animal drug program has been in existence since 1983 with the following mission/objectives:

1. *Identify* animal drug needs, including naturally occurring biotherapeutics and feed additives, for minor species and minor uses in major species,
2. *Generate* and *disseminate* data for safe and effective therapeutic and biotherapeutic applications, and
3. *Facilitate* FDA/CVM approvals for drugs and biotherapeutics identified as a priority for a minor species or minor use.

NRSP-7 functions to coordinate efforts among animal producers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, FDA/CVM, USDA/ Research, Education, and Extension, universities, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and veterinary medical colleges throughout the country.

The project has received off the top funding since USDA NIFA funds have not been available for the past 6 years. After efforts to join forces with NRSP4 failed in 2014, the NRSP Review Committee (RC) provided a one year approval with a requirement of leveraging off the top funding and also emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders in support of the project.

A majority of NRSP-RC members felt that the committee did not demonstrate “new” leveraged funds, as required, and, rather, only did a better job of reporting funds that already existed (based on explanations provided in the proposal). In addition, the RC expressed concern that, even with NRSP funding, there would not be sufficient funds to make the program effective or impactful. Finally, there was concern about a lack of stakeholder involvement.

Thus, by a **7-1 vote, the committee approved a recommendation to reject the proposal and budget.** Assuming the recommendation is upheld at the Experiment Station Section Meeting in September, NRSP7 will receive 1-year of funding at the current level to phase out activities.

Challenges

- New Minor Use Animal Drugs have been approved at a rate of 1.6/yr. during the 32 years of the program and 52 applications have been made.
- The cost of the program to provide information to support a single label claim has risen to approximately \$3.1 million. At the current funding level approval of a single drug would require 4-5 years.
- There are currently six active projects.
- There is little or no *organized* stakeholder involvement (i.e., an advisory committee) in identifying priorities.
- The program has struggled to remain in existence.
- The program has been unable to garner broad stakeholder support.

Additional Comments:

The NRSP-RC feels that this is an important effort but it needs to have more structure and guidance. This would commence with a retreat of the administrative advisors and other principals at a central location. This meeting would address organizational shortcomings and develop further approaches to codify the program.

A second meeting would bring together stakeholders including the drug industry, producers, USDA, with the aim of directly identifying problems, address funding needs and creating an Advisory Committee.

Several NRSP-RC members are interested in working with the committee to build support for the program to a level that would truly make it effective and impactful.

Agenda Item 7.0: NIFA POW

Presenter: Steve Loring

Action Requested: Discussion and submission of additional recommendations

Background:

Plan of Work Panel of Experts
Recommendations to NIFA

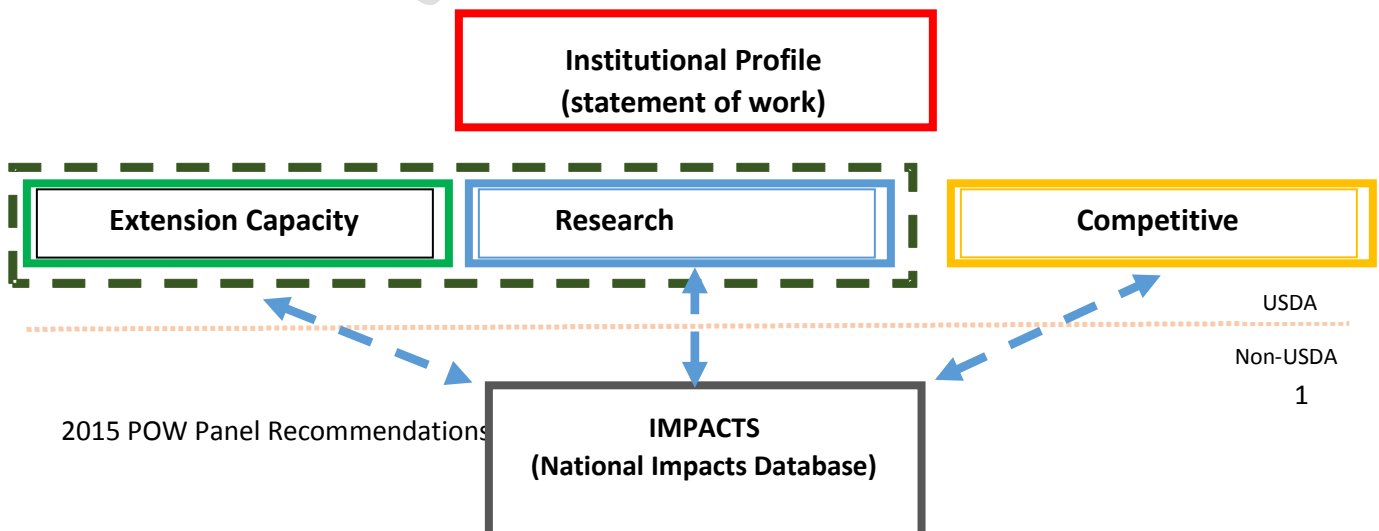
A Panel of Experts on the AREERA Plan of Work reporting process convened on June 16-18 to discuss improvements to the current reporting process. The Panel consisted of 14 members representing Research, Extension and NIFA. The Panel, with input from their respective regions and from NIFA program leaders, agreed that the current process is duplicative and burdensome. The Panel makes the following recommendations to NIFA so that the process may be streamlined in a way that reduces the reporting burden on the Land Grant Institutions as well as the review burden on NIFA National Program Leaders. The Panel also believes that this streamlining will improve data quality and result in a data collection that meets legislative requirements while also providing NIFA what it needs to continue to promote the effectiveness of the AREERA capacity funds.

The following recommendations are in draft form and will be vetted with the Panel members' regional leaders and constituencies before being presented to NIFA as final. All proposed changes will be made by the Regions to their respective representatives on the Panel. The final recommendations will be contained in a larger report that details the issues and logic that formed these recommendations. Report will be developed by the Panel over the next 60 days.

The following recommendations are classified under two categories: system-specific and general.

SYSTEM-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. There should be one reporting system with a stable platform that has the elements depicted in the graphic below. The existing Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments reporting system should be eliminated concurrent with the introduction of the new system.



- a) In support of this recommendation, NIFA should invest in human capital and hardware/software to improve the current and future reporting system (or its replacement for the single system/database approach) and make plans to discontinue support of the older and less flexible POW platform. The “single system” approach should be developed in a way that allows for aggregation of all numerical data wherever possible; it should also be able to prepopulate qualitative/descriptive data wherever possible.
 - b) Concurrent with the recommendation above, technical issues currently present in REEport, including but not limited to the excessive time needed to upload and download documents, formatting issues, and the tendency for the system to crash should be addressed, especially if the REEport platform will be leveraged for the single system approach recommended here; the system needs to be a robust and high-performance platform.
2. The Institutional Profile module in the new system should contain those elements mandated by AREERA and other data elements deemed essential by NIFA, including:
 - a) a Short Programmatic Overview of the submitting institution(s);
 - b) a Short Annual Programmatic Summary covering Research, Extension, and Integrated program and project accomplishments (the summary should highlight those programs and projects that have realized significant accomplishments and impacts in the previous year);
 - c) description of Merit and Scientific Review processes;
 - d) description of Stakeholder Input and utilization processes;
 - e) Multistate Extension and Integrated Research and Extension components as required by AREERA;
 - f) a list of “planned programs” (or whatever they will be called in the new system).
3. The Institutional Profile module should be structured so that it may remain relatively unchanged from year to year and will repopulate annually for the institution; this results in a 5-year dynamic, rolling “plan” for all 1862 and 1890 Institutions (both Research and Extension).
 - a) If an institution wishes to make changes to their profile annually, they should be able to do so (both add and subtract program elements), and a mechanism to highlight such changes for the NIFA reviewer should exist.

4. The listing of “planned programs” that is entered into the “Institutional Profile” should allow tagging to NIFA’s topic areas; this will allow entered data to be rolled up for NIFA’s use.
5. The Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should function in a manner similar to how they are currently accounted for. The Extension Capacity reporting module should be developed to include planning and reporting related metrics needed by NIFA to assess progress and to promote the accomplishments of capacity-funded programs.
6. The Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules should be linked to the National Impacts Database (NID) so that users of the system are not required to enter impact statements that are already documented in the NID.
7. Participation in the National Impacts Database should be optional, not mandatory. The NID will be informed by the Extension and Research Capacity and Competitive reporting modules of the single system. Language in the NID should be updated to link to NIFA’s topic areas so that NIFA may properly associate impacts to agency’s areas of focus.
8. Knowledge areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) should be expanded and/or modified to meet both Research and Extension’s needs.
9. NIFA should restore the flexibility of a state to report by institution (1862, 1890), organization (Research, Extension), or jointly.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. The following sub-groups should be created in order to ensure all recommendations of the Panel of Experts are carried out accurately and efficiently (note that a Panel Expert may serve on one or more sub-groups):
 - a) a sub-group to define the Extension Capacity program reporting module; the group will clearly define data fields/elements that need to be included in the new module;
 - b) a sub-group to operationalize the data elements and functionality of the “Institutional Profile;
 - c) a sub-group to identify new Knowledge Areas (KAs) and Subjects of Investigation (SOIs) for addition to NIFA’s Manual of Classification so that both Research and Extension can classify projects and programs accurately;
 - d) other sub-groups as needed; for example, fiscal monitoring/tracking (the Panel of Experts will serve as a committee for determining when a new sub-group is required.

11. Reporting Deadlines: NIFA should keep all capacity reporting deadlines with the due dates that currently exist but should re-visit this issue once the new “single system concept” has been implemented (currently Feb 1 for Research REEport Financial Report; Mar 1 for Research Progress and Final Report; April 1 for all other capacity reporting).
12. A permanent accountability and reporting track (akin to the fiscal track) for the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Conference (NERAOC) should be implemented. NIFA should send Representatives from the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS) to the meeting annually so that feedback can be gained and improvements made to the database, by both sides, without waiting for the Panel of Experts to convene every five years.
13. A commitment should be made by NIFA to work with Land Grant partners to ensure that the resultant system is fully searchable by (but not limited to) author, keyword, topic, programmatic classification, and location of work, and that the information within the modules will be effectively linked within the larger system.
14. NIFA should strengthen the State Liaison Program to more effectively build and maintain relationships between program leaders and state institutions.
 - a) NIFA should clarify, standardize, and communicate the review criteria NPLs use to review programs/projects.
 - b) NIFA should clarify and communicate/educate its LGU partners how data are used to report out to various audiences and stakeholders.
15. Non-AREERA programs, such as McIntire-Stennis, should not be included in the new reporting model proposed in these recommendations at this time, but the Panel acknowledges that the new “single system” approach, combined with NIFA’s grants modernization initiative, could eventually result in a framework that may be applied to all NIFA funding programs.

To provide feedback to these recommendations, please contact your regional representative who is compiling all suggested changes to these recommendations and will be discussing with the Panel of Experts during July and August virtual meetings.

Agenda Item 8.0: Nominations

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

Action Requested: Select WAAESD Chair-Elect and other positions as necessary; formally nominate ESCOP Chair

Action Taken: Seconded motions from the Executive Committee to elect Jim Moyer as Chair Elect and Bret Hess as ESCOP Chair were unanimously approved.

Background:

Current 2015-2016 WAAESD Executive Committee Roster:

Past-Chair: Larry Curtis (OR)

Chair: Jeff Steiner (CO)

Chair-Elect: Jim Moyer (WA)

Secretary: Rachel Leon Guerrero (GU)

Treasurer: Charles Boyer (MT)

At-Large Member: Steve Loring (NM)

At-Large Member: Don Snyder (UT)

Bret Hess (WY) has volunteered to serve as the ESCOP Chair from the Western Region. He is considered qualified having served as both the chair of the regional association (WAAESD) and chaired an ESCOP committee (NRSP-Review Committee).

Agenda Item 9.0: Resolutions

Presenter: Rachael Leon Guerrero

Action Requested: Adopt resolution

Action Taken: The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Background:

WHEREAS Dr. Craig Beyrouy, past-Dean of Colorado State University, College of Agriculture Sciences; Megan Griffith, Assistant to the Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences; Lou Swanson, Vice President for Engagement and Director of Extension; Lori Bates, Executive Assistant to the VP for Engagement and Director of Extension; Dr. Michael Harrington, WAAESD Executive Director; and Sarah Lupis, WAAESD Assistant Director and all their colleagues were organizers and hosts for the 2015 Western Region Joint Summer Meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Breckenridge, CO from July 6 to July 9 2015; and

WHEREAS Dr. Beyrouy, Dr. Swanson and their colleagues were outstanding hosts, providing hospitable and beautiful lake and mountainous surroundings in which to meet; and

WHEREAS the DoubleTree by Hilton's Breckenridge, CO provided excellent service, accommodations, delicious and abundant meals and break services; and

WHEREAS Dr. Beyrouy, Dr. Swanson and their colleagues arranged an excellent program that allowed discussion of crucial issues pertinent to the Western Region in a cooperative, collegial atmosphere; and

WHEREAS invited facilitators Steve McMullin, Ben West, Michael Fraidenburg, Michele Beucler and Darrin Katz, Ashley Hawn, and Colin Lever from kglobal led us through the process of assembling complex and important issues in the West; be it

RESOLVED that the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at its meeting in Breckenridge, from June 6-9, 2015, expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Beyrouy, Dr. Swanson and their colleagues for their significant contributions to a successful meeting; and be it further

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

Agenda Item 10.0: Filling Gaps (continued)

Presenter: Bret Hess

Action Requested: Identify a research project to move the Western Agenda forward; develop an action plan.

Action Taken: A MRF Rapid Response project will be initiated to address the use of science in ESA. John Tanaka will serve as the Administrative Advisor. He and Sarah Lupis will draft a statement of issues and justification to circulate for comment to the Directors. A set of objectives was developed. Directors will look for the appropriate people to serve on this committee.

**WRJSM 2015
Western Perspective & Western Agenda
Gap Prioritization & Action Plan
Ag Experiment Station Directors**

Gap selected to be addressed is a combination of several items on the list of gaps identified during the 2014 meeting in Lake Tahoe:

Using science-based solutions in conservation of threatened and endangered species.

Full list of gaps identified and discussed:

- Using science-based solutions in conservation of threatened and endangered species (received 7 votes)
- Item 40—Greater focus on reclamation and use of reclaimed water (1 vote)
- Item 76—Research on expanding urban production (e.g., roof tops) (2 votes)
- Impact of climate change on water allocation
- Maintaining western lifestyle & growth with water resource uncertainty (5 votes—Sarah volunteered to facilitate further discussion of this gap in the Fall)
- Item 112—Research to define sustainable food production (0 votes)
- Item 4—Create trans-disciplinary research staffs to address entire ecosystem, including ecological, economics, politics, human dimensions.
- Item 73—Research overarching policies that affect more effective management approaches, including: (1 vote)
 - o Economic analysis, Endangered Species Act, water use-it-or-lose-it laws, full life-cycle accounting, water laws that are disincentives, public lands management (is it consistent & effective?)
 - o Farm Bill policy does not allow some good management choices
 - o Quarantine policies for invasive species

Where are we today?

- Research projects on biology/ecology and sage (CSU, YWYO, UI, MSU, ?ONR, OSU, WSU)
- Decisions are made based on emotional/human values

- Environmental groups influence policy
- The 'act' is being misused in some cases to support a particular group's agenda
- Western Governors recognize the need and support the concept of using science-based information to guide policy
- States have some common approaches for addressing ESA; local working groups/local projects (incentives/hab. Exchanges in CO, WY, MT,NV,UT)
- Lots of efforts are underway
- Others than AES are doing a lot in this area
- Social media provides very poor data- major source of info to public
- Model/systems needed to address fundamental issues
- Researchers/faculty contributing data to USFWS for listing decision (direct and via pubs)
- Different states have their approaches to address a species challenge
- Criteria/question to be addressed when investigating T&E species for policy decisions
- Researchers/faculty contributing to state-level plans for SAER conservation
- Research/engagement activities on how to address threats to SAER from O + G (mitigation strategies)
- There are others that know a lot more about this than me
- Research/engagement activities to develop/test BMPs for livestock grazing and SAGR
- Recent symposium: International Sage Grouse Forum (proceedings publically available) Nov. 2014 USU hosted
- Concern re: listing of Species (method of choosing)
- Quite a bit of peer reviewed research published and more on the way.
- Quite a lot of unanswered questions on specific species across their range
- Different views on what constitutes science and science-based solutions.
- Not much known on economics and social impacts.
- Scientists are interested in providing information on threatened and endangered species.
- Several LGUs are working on threatened and endangered species.
- Extension has experts who could contribute to threatened and endangered species.
- Misinformation (of misuse of) about species abundance, importance (ecological), and evaluation methods.
- Each state coming up with unique approaches – some common and some divergent.
- Some of the strategies being proposed to address T&E species are based on “cultural best practices” and not necessarily on science-based ideas/solutions.
- AES faculty can be competitive regarding T&E species → discrediting each other and competing to get \$\$ allocation from US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA, etc. Need standards on how to deal.
- Politics often trump science.
- W/IN OR ETS research is fragmented.
- Outcomes of task forces influenced by make-up of committees.
- There is new funding to pursue work on sage grouse and like more to come.

- Habitat issues, which interact with climate change, fire, etc., underlie many T&E species issues.
- Exponential increases in potential listings with no funding for good science.
- Lawyers drive the issue, not scientists.
- State plans, no regional planning.
- Specific species population are under scrutiny.

The group's assimilation of the meaning of the Snow Card brainstorm on "Where Are We Today?"

1. Need a model system for incorporating science into ESA evaluations
2. We are not coordinated in our planning for involvement in ESA evaluations
3. We are confronting a lot of junk science in ESA evaluations; need to ensure good science is somehow recognized in ESA evaluations

Where do we want to go?

- The group did not specifically address this question due to lack time.

How will we get there?

- The group did not specifically address this question due to lack of time.

Parking Lot

There is a need to reprocess the full list of gaps generated in Tahoe to make it more useful, logical, and actionable (e.g., combine like items into a single consolidated gap)

July 9, 2015: WAAESD Discussion

What faculty might be involved in a Rapid Response Project? Need to ensure that people from all perspectives on the committee. Committee should meet at least once—likely needs to be more than that. In first meeting, can plan their actions, follow-up via conference calls and maybe another in-person meeting.

Actions/Activities/Outputs/Milestones

Important to do this as a joint effort with WEDD: get their faculty/specialists to participate on the committee; have a rep to report to the WGA.

Invite NRCS/Sage-grouse Initiative, other partners.

White papers on Univ. of Idaho websites: had a meeting; reviewed all published literature, wrote white papers to synthesize research at that time. This happened about 10 years ago.

Should committee look into process of how science is incorporated into decision making?
Should sage-grouse be just an example of how science is used in policy decisions?

What do the governors have in mind? They seem to be more interested in the process. On westgov.org there are over 100 pages of state/local conservation initiatives on sage-grouse alone. There is a special report published in March of this year with recommendation and best practices.

Role of task force/Rapid Response Project objectives:

- **What is the existing process for submitting science to USFWS?**
- **How are LGUs currently engaged in the existing process?**
- **How can LGUs be better engaged in the existing process?**
- **Do we have any recommendations on how the process can be improved?**

Who are the best people to answer these questions? Everyone is charged with recruiting the appropriate individuals to the group. Those individuals should register for this project in NIMSS. It is highly encouraged to get both research and extension faculty involved.

John Tanaka will serve as the Administrative Advisor for this project.

Mike and Sarah will support this group via meeting coordination, facilitation.

Sarah and John T. will draft a statement of issues and justification for the project. Objectives are listed above. Anticipated start date of October 1, 2015.

Might need to reach out to end-user stakeholders during the process.

Might also reach out to WRDC and consider evaluating this process to see if this is an effective way of operating as an association.

Agenda Item 11.0: WGA Needs

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

Action Requested: Suggest resources to provide WGA with requested information

Action Taken: Suggestions were made regarding invasive plant and insects.

Background:

WGA is looking for invasive species maps—are there any?

Most Invasive species maps are disparate. The University of Georgia has a not-very-good system. Some of the more prevalent species (cheatgrass) might have better maps. USDA might have maps.

Better information is available for invasive pests. USFS and USGS might have good information.

Agenda Item 12.0: 2016 Summer Meeting planning

Presenter: H.M. Harrington

Action Requested: For information

Background:

Mike has been trying to find out if there is any funding to bring the 1994s to the WRJSM in 2016. He has worked with Jon Phillips at AIHEC to develop a memo that was sent to Bob Holland (USDA-NIFA). Mike will follow up with Dr. Holland at Joint COPS. The existing NIFA grants would apply to all the regions— however, only the south and N-C have 1994s.

Would states be willing to sponsor an attendee?? Might cost ~\$50K to get a representative from all 22 1994s in the Western Region. Perhaps prioritize 1994s that 1862s are already engaged with? There was little support for this proposal.

Another possibility would be to have 2-3 1994 college presidents on a panel.

NIFA has a conference grant we could apply for. There is also a flexible fund that is less onerous than the conference grant application process.

Academic programs want to have a role in planning, especially since teaching and student recruitment/transfer are key issues for discussion.