

**WAAESD Summer Meeting  
MINUTES  
July 9-11, 2018  
Hyatt Regency Guam  
Tamuning, Guam**

**Participants:**

Andre Aires (GU)  
Mark McGuire (ID)  
John Tanaka (WY)  
Milan Shipka (AK)  
Gene Kelly (CO)  
Patricia Coleman (Marianas)

Sarah Lupis (WAAESD)  
Mike Harrington (WAAESD)  
Glenda Humiston (CA)  
Chris Davies (UT)  
Laura Lavine (WA)  
Steve Loring (NM)

All Agenda Briefs: [http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/WAAESD\\_2018SummerMeeting\\_AgendaBriefs\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/WAAESD_2018SummerMeeting_AgendaBriefs_FINAL.pdf)

| <b>Tuesday, July 10, 2018<br/>10:30 AM-12:00 PM<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Santa Rosa</b> |                   |   |   |              |  |
|--|-------------------|---|---|--------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Item</b>   | <b>Time (min)</b> | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Presenter</b>  | <b>Page</b>  | <b>Discussion/Decisions</b>  |
| 1.0  | 10:30-10:35       | Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions   | Glenda Humiston   | -            | Glenda Humiston called the meeting to order. The participants introduced themselves.   |
| 2.0  | 10:35-10:40       | Approval of Agenda and Minutes of 2018 Spring Meeting   | Glenda Humiston   | 1            | The agenda was approved with the addition of an AA 101 session on Thursday morning. The Minutes of the 2018 Spring Meeting were unanimously approved.  |
| 3.0  | 10:40-10:45       | Chair's Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report   | Glenda Humiston   | -            | Since the spring meeting the Chair presided over Executive Committee meetings. Other actions will be included in their respective agenda items.  |
| 4.0  | 10:45-10:55       | WAAESD Budget update  | Sarah Lupis   | 6            | There was some discussion about the status of the AZ assessment. AZ pays APLU and WEDA dues.   |
| 5.0  | 10:55-11:05       | By-Laws Revision/Vote   | Glenda Humiston   | 11           | The Executive Committee brought a seconded motion to approve all changes as presented. All changes were unanimously approved.<br><br>During the fall meeting, "ARERRA" will be removed from Section II, bullet item #5. Sarah will send this revision out in advance of the fall meeting and will include this on the fall meeting agenda.   |
| 6.0  | 11:20-12:00       | Joint Session Prep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WGA Update</li> <li>• WA-inspired MRF projects update</li> <li>• Prospects for collaboration with WAPS, WEDA, etc.</li> </ul> | Mike Harrington<br>John Tanaka & Bret Hess<br>Glenda Humiston | 18<br><br>21 | Mike summarized the WGA update—see brief. John Tanaka summarized the history of WAAESD involvement in the Endangered Species Act via W506 project that generated recommendations to the Directors for how to improve the use of LGU science in ESA decisions. That group now has a 5-year project that will be looking at socio-economics/ecology of sagebrush systems. John also summarized WGA engagement—John and Sarah and Terry attended various listening sessions and workgroups. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, led by Sen. Barasso from Wyoming, has now developed and submitted an amendment to the ESA and has asked that WAAESD submit a letter of |

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|  |  |  |  | <p>support. Glenda summarized the EC discussion of this: We need to be able to support policy actions like this but do so carefully because we have varied stakeholder interests that we need to be cognizant of. As a regional association, we could craft a letter that supports the bi-partisan effort of the WGA and reiterates the recommendations of the W506 project, and encourages research and research-based decisions.</p> <p>There is a need for a broader discussion of how to engage in policy discussions, act more nimbly, and respond to future requests.</p> <p>W_TEMP1188, Sagebrush Systems: See above.</p> <p>Mike suggested that multistate projects on biosecurity/invasive species</p> <p>Hunger Project: CSU has a program called the Community Alliance Program; Wyoming has a similar program. There has been some discussion about creating a multistate program to share best practices between states and stations. There was also a recent meeting on the cost-benefit analysis of the FNEP program and how to expand that research to a nationwide effort.</p> <p>Climate Hubs/Change project: Directors are encouraged to get people signed up.</p> <p>Wild Horse &amp; Burro Project: Directors are encouraged to sign people up.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the status of WAPS and potential collaboration on experiential learning. There was some discussion about the appropriateness of WAAESD involvement in APS activities; all institutions have close relationships between AES and teaching.</p> |
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| <b>Wednesday, July 11, 2018</b>           |             |  |                  |             |  |
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| <b>8:30 AM – 10:30 AM; 4:00 – 5:00 PM</b> |             |  |                  |             |  |
| <b>Agenda Item</b>                        | <b>Time</b> | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Presenter</b> | <b>Page</b> | <b>Discussion/Decision</b>   |
| 7.0                                       | 8:00 – 9:30 | State Reports (aka: the “biggest headache” report)   | All              |             | Fall Meeting topics: IACUC and animal welfare training for graduate students.  |
| 8.0                                       | 9:30 – 9:45 | Nominations & Committee Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WAAESD Chair-Elect</li> <li>• WAAESD At-Large Rep</li> <li>• ESCOP NRSP-RC</li> </ul> | H. M. Harrington | 22          | The Executive Committee brought forward a slate of officer nominations:<br><br>Chair-Elect: Mark McGuire<br>At-Large: Chris Davies<br>At-Large: Laura Lavine<br>Secretary: Steve Loring<br>Treasurer: Gene Kelly |

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|      |              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WAAESD Rep to MRC</li> <li>• WRDC rep</li> </ul>   |                 |          | <p>MRC: Wendy Powers</p> <p>The slate was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Wendy Powers was appointed as the new WAAESD rep to the MRC, replacing John Tanaka.</p> <p>Laura Lavine was appointed as the new WAAESD rep to the WRDC.</p>   |
| 9.0  | 9:45 – 10:30 | <p>WAAESD Strategic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Association priorities</li> </ul> | Glenda Humiston | 23<br>27 | <p>There was discussion about how to better support regional grant development. John Tanaka suggested that each state contribute to a special fund. Mike cautioned that it collaboration cannot be forced. Several directors suggested that the ED position description needs to better reflect the importance of that particular priority. Directors highlighted the importance of diversification of funding and the need to develop relationships with industry and foundations with the aim of developing multi-state collaborative programs. Mike suggested going to The Foundation Center to research foundation interests and select appropriate targets. Glenda suggested brainstorming around what funders have interests that align with the western agenda priorities and line up partners and funders to. Mark McGuire suggested selecting a couple high priority topics, developing a suite of strong ideas, and aggressively going after funding.</p> <p>Bill Payne suggested that the Association foster collaboration and build relationships with WGA and other western groups by attending their meetings and inviting them to ours.</p> <p>There was some discussion about where the ED position description overlaps with the AD position description.</p> <p>Sarah cross-walked her activities with association priorities—see brief.</p> <p>Glenda Humiston reported on the outcome of the executive session. Going forward, the Assistant Director of WAAESD will report directly to the AES Deputy Director at CSU (Eugene Kelly) and Chair-Elect of WAAESD (new chair-elect, Mark McGuire, UI, will start immediately). In addition to other existing duties, the WAAESD Executive Director has been tasked to prioritize coordinating the western states to pursue large, collaborative research projects and new funding opportunities, including seed grant programs, foundations, private sector and more, to support such research.</p> |
| 10.0 | 4:00 – 4:15  | ESA Comments request  | John Tanaka     | 29       | <p>See discussion in Agenda Item 6.0 above. Mark McGuire moved sending a letter. Steve Loring seconded. Over the course of the meeting, the Directors made several revisions and shared those with WEDA, WAHS, and CARET. The letter was unanimously approved and will be sent out under Mike Harrington’s signature with WEDA, WAHS, and CARET co-signing. See below for final letter.</p>   |

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| 11.0 | 4:15 – 4:30 | Communications and Marketing Committee Update | Steve Loring | 32 | See brief  |
| 12.0 | 4:30 – 4:45 | LGU Impacts Update                            | Steve Loring | 33 | See brief  |
| 13.0 | 4:45 – 5:00 | NRSP: Eligible Projects for Awards            | Laura Lavine | 34 | There was consensus among the group that NRSPs should NOT be eligible for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award because they receive funding off-the-top, whereas other multistate projects do not, the projects by definition support research rather than conduct it, that they are not structured in the same way depending on the project as the multi-state projects. |

| Thursday, July 12, 2018<br>8:00 AM – 11:45 AM |               |                                  |                 |      |  |
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| Agenda Item                                   | Time          | Description                      | Presenter       | Page | Discussion/Decisions   |
| 14.0  | 8:00 – 8:30   | Joint Session Recap/Action Steps | Glenda Humiston |      |  |
| 15.0  | 8:30 – 8:45   | NIFA Update                      | Michael Bowers  |      | Michael Bowers gave a brief update of key NIFA activities. He summarize the SAS program, Tom Shanower is the current interim Director, NIFA has a 2018 budget, there is more emphasis on liaison visits to states/regions, Michael is the current liaison to Guam and American Samoa. Congress really appreciates ag research and extension, especially because LGUs are able to show impacts. |
|   | 11:30 – 11:45 | Resolutions                      | Chris Davies    | 40   | Resolutions of appreciation to UOG and recognition to Dr. John Tanaka, who is retiring from the University of Wyoming, were unanimously approved.  |

**Consent Agenda Items**

- ED's Quarterly Report – Page 41
- AD's Quarterly Report – Page 44
- ESCOP updates: <http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ESCOP-Draft-Minutes-and-Briefs-2018-03-05.pdf>

July 11, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso, MD  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

On behalf of the Western Region Deans, Directors and stakeholders of the Western Region Land Grant University (LGU) Colleges of Agriculture, I am pleased to write a letter of support for The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2018 as shared with Dr. John Tanaka from the University of Wyoming on June 7, 2018.

When the Western Extension Directors Association (WEDA) and the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) jointly published the *Western Perspective, Western Agenda Report* (<http://www.waaesd.org/the-western-agenda>) in 2015, the first project undertaken was species conservation. Western Region land-grant university scientists and Extension educators became involved in the Western Governors Association (WGA) Initiative on the Conservation of Species and the Endangered Species Act started by Governor Matt Mead and met separately to develop recommendations for using science-based solutions to conserve threatened and endangered species.

On behalf of the WAAESD, Dr. Tanaka participated in nearly all of the WGA initiative forums and workgroup meetings over the past three years. Through that process, he had the opportunity to both share the research perspective and to learn different stakeholders' views. The collaborative forum process resulted in a series of sound recommendations presented to the Western Governors Association (WGA) for consideration. Many of those recommendations contributed significantly to the resolutions adopted by WGA and many of the proposed amendments appear to follow the WGA recommendations.

As Governor Mead stated in the kick off the WGA initiative, this is not an attempt to scrap the ESA, but to make it work better. Establishing clear criteria for recovery of a threatened or endangered species is critical. Delisting a species when it has met those criteria is equally critical for local landowners, communities, and the state. Better involvement of the States and Tribal Governments throughout the process was an overarching theme throughout the WGA workgroups. Indeed, the following sections make significant improvements to the Act

- Use the “best scientific and commercial data” (Title I, Sec. 102) and (Title III, Sec. 301). These changes far exceed using only the best available data standard currently in place.
- Transparency of information (Title III, Sec. 302) is increasingly important in the scientific community. Protections as outlined in this section important to safeguard those providing such information and allowing state laws to be followed while ensuring such data can be made available.
- Voluntary conservation efforts and regulatory assurances, Title II, Secs. 201 to 205
- Prioritizing listing petitions, reviews, and determinations (Title IV, Sec. 401)
- Inclusion of qualified scientists on the recovery teams (Title I, Sec. 102).

LGU scientists can add research results, contribute to data interpretation, and bring relevant field experiences and knowledge of the species and ecosystem to the table. Scientists with both habitat and species-specific experience should be included. If these scientists are to be full voting members of the recovery team, there should be a qualifier in the section similar to the one where Federal representatives cannot exceed the number of State and local representatives. However, we caution against having scientists as voting members of these committees. We believe that scientists participating in a technical advisory capacity would best serve committees. Finally, LGUs are a valuable source of scientists from Agricultural Experiment Stations and educators from Cooperative Extension who should be among the go-to experts during ESA decisions.

The WGA workgroups also had significant discussion on whether economic and social considerations should be included in listing or delisting decisions. These factors are not in the proposed amendments; however, many of stakeholders thought these were important considerations.

The WAAESD, the Western LGU Deans of Agriculture, Western Council of Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching, and the Western Extension Directors Association support efforts that bolster the scientific integrity that is the foundation of the Endangered Species Act, expand collaboration between states and the USFWS, and protect the privacy of stakeholders engaged in the recovery process. Further, we support the recommendations that resulted from the collaborative process sponsored by the WGA.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact Dr. John Tanaka at [jtanaka@uwyo.edu](mailto:jtanaka@uwyo.edu) or the WAAESD at [Michael.Harrington@colostate.edu](mailto:Michael.Harrington@colostate.edu).

Sincerely,

H Michael Harrington  
Executive Director