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WESTERN REGION EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTORS MEETING

Deshler-Hilton Hotel
November 8, 1953

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m. by Chairman Sharp in Parlor A.

Those in attendance were:

- P. F. Sharp, Chairman, California
- H. M. Briggs, Secretary, Wyoming
- S. S. Wheeler, Colorado
- J. E. Kraus, Idaho
- A. S. Curry, New Mexico
- M. T. Buchanan, Washington
- R. H. Walker, Utah
- C. B. Hutchison, Nevada
- R. W. Henderson, Oregon
- F. N. Briggs, California
- H. A. Wadsworth, Hawaii
- C. E. Fleming, Nevada
- F. E. Price, Oregon
- P. S. Eckert, Arizona
- M. M. Kelso, Montana
- F. D. Fromme, Office Experiment Stations

Announcements

Tickets were distributed at a price of \$3.00 to the members for a banquet at the Southern Hotel, November 9.

It was decided that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting would not be done, since they had been distributed.

A report was made that ESCOP had decided to continue the Grasslands and Fertilizer Committees for at least another year or until after reorganization of the U.S.D.A. is effected.

Transfer of Alaska

The request for transfer by Alaska to the North Central Region from the Western Region was mentioned. Walker moved we accept the recommendation and Curry seconded the motion which carried.

Notices of Tech. Com. meetings

Kraus pointed out that meetings of all technical committees should be called to the attention of all directors in the region. Kraus moved the administrative adviser be charged with the responsibility of sending such notices to all directors and the Office of Experiment Stations. Eckert seconded and the motion was approved.

Meeting dates

It was announced ESCOP will meet April 28, 29 and the Committee of Nine about March 29.

It was decided to hold a winter meeting in Berkeley, California on the tentative dates of February 17-19, subject to confirmation by the Chairman. Curry formalized the action by a motion which was seconded by Buchanan and carried.

The spring-summer meeting was discussed and May 19 was selected as a tentative date, subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Report from
ESCOPE

Buchanan reported as a member of ESCOP. A special meeting had been held with Assistant Secretary Coke at which reorganization of the U.S.D.A. was discussed. Many of those plans have already been released; Shaw is to discuss reorganization at the directors meeting on November 9. It was reported ESCOP heartily endorses the plan.

The publication of bulletins by regions or U.S.D.A. was discussed but it was stated there was no definite plan at present; the matter will be under advisement. (Walker mentioned that F.O.A. may review the situation on publication exchange with mid-eastern and southern Asian countries.) Buchanan continued by summarizing various Committee reports that had been made.

The Legislative Committee has been active with farm groups. ESCOP has been assured a "substantial" increase in RMA funds has been requested of the Congress. Stations will be requested to buy copies of a lithographed report that is being prepared by the Legislative Committee. It is anticipated one copy will cost a Station \$15 and that twenty copies may cost a total of \$20. A special Committee on Soil Surveys has been established at the suggestion of Secretary Coke to determine publication policy and to suggest termination points for correlation. Walker is chairman of the Committee.

The report by Noble Clark on publication costs of journals, which has been distributed to directors, was mentioned. Two journals are prepared to devote entire issues to public agriculture research.

Trullinger has urged that financial reports be sent in as soon as possible.

If the Bender Committee holds hearings on reorganization, some one will be selected to testify for the land-grant group.

Report from
Com. of Nine

Kraus reported for the Committee of Nine. It has been recommended that WM-12 be rewritten with more definite procedures and cooperation more completely spelled out. The Committee had raised a question about relations of work on WM-1 and WM-15 with the former project closing out. Several other projects were mentioned briefly. Suggestions include separate numbers for related projects such as range improvement studies. Letters are generally used for subprojects. (Discussion ensued on merits of broad projects and more restricted projects--no conclusions were drawn.)

Kraus mentioned that misunderstandings arise as to the duties of technical committees in approving contributing projects and especially cited the situation on W-2 in which approval was withheld for a time on the Nevada supporting project. Kraus suggested (1) all directors be notified of committee meetings, (2) administrative advisors attend technical committee meetings and if such is impossible that another director be designated and (3) we as directors must become better acquainted with regional projects. As it now stands, the Committee of Nine does not approve or disprove contributing projects, but only reviews them in connection with master projects. Contributing projects should accompany master projects.

Sheep breeding laboratory

Kraus mentioned the sheep breeding laboratory has raised the question of returning loaned rams to Dubois and the resulting problems of disease. The laboratory would like to sell rams to experiment stations on a uniform and specified basis. The proposal is as follows:

The apparent increasing danger from diseases of sheep such as scrapie or foot and mouth disease that might require the slaughter of exposed animals or extended quarantines has led to the proposal that shipment of sheep to the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station and Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory be held to a minimum. Furthermore the cooperative agreement between the BAI and the Idaho Station requires that all sheep at Dubois which are the property of the Idaho Station be disposed of according to Idaho regulations. Therefore, wherever feasible, rams will be sold rather than loaned for use at other Experiment Stations.

Experiment Stations shall have first choice, in advance of the auction sale on the last Thursday in September, of all rams available for disposal from the USSES and WSBL providing such rams are to be used for experimental projects. These projects should be cooperative with the USSES and WSBL but that is not essential. Such rams will be sold to Experiment Stations, f.o.b. Dubois, for the average price of similar single stud rams at Dubois the previous year or for some other sum to be agreed upon by the Western Directors.

Rams will be loaned to other Experiment Stations where their use is essential to a specific cooperative project which requires the testing or use of rams produced at Dubois. These rams will not be returned to Dubois except where their use at Dubois is essential to research projects there. Such loan rams will be sold according to instructions from the Idaho Station when they become surplus to the project needs.

Curry moved we approve the proposal in principle with details to be worked out by the next meeting of the collaborators; Buchanan seconded and it carried.

Master projects

Curry moved we activate the policy of all directors being supplied official copies of all master projects and revisions. Eckert seconded and the motion prevailed. The administrative advisors are to send these to the other directors.

Dr. Knipling

Dr. E. F. Knipling of the U.S.D.A. was introduced and discussed entomological research, as Assistant Director of that activity. He stressed cooperation and the elimination of duplication between the states and U.S.D.A. He emphasized advantages of having federal employees located on college campuses and the exchange of information and ideas in drawing up, pursuing and publicising research; news releases should be cleared with states and joint publication is favored. He expressed hope that in the future closing of projects could be more orderly and that an atmosphere of understanding between personnel can be developed.

Reports on projects W-11

The allocation of \$1500 to Arizona for W-11 project on weed control will not be used. Curry moved the money be placed in the P&C fund. Buchanan seconded and after discussion the action was approved.

Nurseries Fleming mentioned the abandonment of Soil Conservation field nurseries which are to close June 30, 1954. No transfer to states have been definitely worked out, except that Arizona has a definite contract to operate a nursery. Buchanan asked for the reaction of our group towards making the Pullman nursery a regional project. Sharp reported the California folks did not favor taking over the California nursery. Buchanan felt the Pullman nursery could continue to make a definite contribution to research through breeding and observational testing.

Wheeler stressed we needed to know where responsibility rested for grass research in the Great Plains region; he further asserted there was a definite responsibility for someone to provide answers through research to prevent exploitation, because information is not available.

LU lands Wheeler was called upon to discuss LU lands and referred to a letter sent the directors concerning the possibility such lands might be available to the experiment stations. He stated we should have a follow-up from someone able to discuss the matter with some authority. Kelso mentioned certain aspects of the problem that concern Montana--they have considerable land that is already parts of currently operating units. Wheeler suggested Gladwin Young be invited to visit with our group; he was asked to contact Young.

Gladwin Young was presented to the group to discuss LU lands. He described present administration of such lands and said they were being transferred to the Forest Service for administrative purposes. Action has been started to transfer some land titles to lessors that are government agencies. The Department of Agriculture is favorable to legislation that will permit the sale of lands to private persons and non-public agencies when the needs of public agencies have been satisfied by purchase or transfer. All leases to the present time provide for 50 percent of the income to be turned to the federal treasury.

Technical Journals Sharp reported that it was felt the matter of subsidizing technical journals should be sent to the Executive Committee of the land-grant colleges for their action.

Western Agr. Econ. Res. Council Buchanan discussed interrelationships of the WAERC, the western directors and technical committees. Sharp mentioned he thought the trouble may be one of lack of communication between various people within the individual stations. It was moved by Eckert that we take no action relative to changes in present procedure of handling marketing research; Kelso seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 5:40 p.m. to continue at 7:30 p.m.

Dwarfism in cattle Wheeler mentioned that dwarfism was discussed this past spring at a meeting in Denver and that there had been a subsequent meeting of the W-1 Committee at which the problem had been discussed at length. He pointed out there is need for clarification, if the program is carried through; it appears dwarfism has been taking precedence over the original objectives and that perhaps the project should be re-examined. Wheeler feels W-1 should not lose sight of its original long term objectives. The back log of unread profiles in the Denver Office was mentioned. Sharp described the preparation of a scientific manuscript by Dr. Gregory.

Admin.
advisor
changes

The administrative advisors for projects were reviewed. Kraus moved that Knott be appointed advisor for W-2; Buchanan seconded and the change was approved. Eckert moved that Kelso be appointed to WM-13; Walker seconded, and he was elected. Henderson was nominated for W-23, and he was appointed. Kelso was nominated to act as administrative advisor to the "Vibriosis" project.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

H. M. Briggs, Secretary

W-16

Fleming reported the W-16B technical committee had met and that ten technicians were present. A new project name is being considered for the new draft for which further suggestions have been made and are being considered. Henderson stressed that perhaps we should have a few states making a concerted effort, rather than eleven states studying the problem and hence dissipating funds on the project. Hutchison mentioned that this major problem should have emphasis. Walker reminded the group that this problem was one of the three that the western directors decided was a major one (other two were soils and beef cattle) at a meeting at Logan, Utah, September 17, 1946. Henderson moved we assign the number W-25 to the project now known as W-16B; Walker seconded and the motion carried.

Huffman
W-11B
or W--26

Walker moved project W-11B become known as W-26. Curry seconded and the motion prevailed. Curry stressed the need for advice on how to proceed on W-26 (formerly W-11B), as eight states have expressed interest in cooperating. There has been correspondence and about one-half feel there should be a meeting. A master project must be submitted to use the P&C funds set up for next year. Walker suggested the tentative outline be sent to all states that have expressed a desire to participate, and this procedure was agreed upon.

IR-1

Kraus mentioned the IR-1 technical committee had asked for a \$1700 increase which he felt was justified, and explained additional full-time help is needed to keep the project going. Curry moved the Committee of Nine be authorized to take out its share, if additional funds are made available; Henderson seconded and the motion prevailed.

The meeting recessed at 10:10 p.m. to assemble at 1:30, Nov. 8 in the end of the ballroom.

W-23

Kelso discussed W-23 and handed out the objectives of contributing projects; the relationships of this project to other projects was discussed. It was decided to exclude objective three from the master project but that objectives four and five should be activated along with objectives one and two. The administrative advisor was asked to take suggestions back to the Technical Committee. Buchanan mentioned discussions with Earl Coke and Gladwin Young relative to forage research programs heretofore handled by S.C.S.

Kraus moved that the administrative advisor be authorized to contact the Technical Committee to get their reaction on continuing nurseries as research units, as part of W-23, and report back to directors at their next meeting. Walker seconded and the motion passed.

It was suggested that all directors visit with their technical representatives prior to their attending the meeting. Briggs moved the technical meeting be called at Salt Lake and Wheeler seconded. The motion carried.

WM-12

Buchanan reported on project WM-12 and stated the original project was in the process of being revised and he felt it was much improved. Buchanan moved the revised project be approved and Eckert seconded the motion which carried.