

MINUTES OF  
WESTERN DIRECTORS' MEETING  
St. Louis, Missouri  
November 8-10, 1959

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Myers at 1:30 p.m. in the Detroit Room of the Statler-Hilton Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. The following were present during all or part of the meeting:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| R. K. Frevert       | Arizona             |
| Harold E. Myers     | Arizona             |
| D. E. Jasper        | California          |
| Paul F. Sharp       | California          |
| S. S. Wheeler       | Colorado            |
| Morton M. Rosenberg | Hawaii              |
| R. D. Ensign        | Idaho               |
| J. E. Kraus         | Idaho               |
| J. A. Asleson       | Montana             |
| Roy E. Huffman      | Montana             |
| C. E. Fleming       | Nevada              |
| R. H. Black         | New Mexico          |
| A. S. Curry         | New Mexico          |
| R. M. Alexander     | Oregon              |
| F. E. Price         | Oregon              |
| Wynne Thorne        | Utah                |
| Mark Buchanan       | Washington          |
| Lowell W. Rasmussen | Washington          |
| N. W. Hilston       | Wyoming             |
| John R. Vaughn      | Wyoming             |
| E. C. Elting        | ARS                 |
| Charles G. Grey     | SESD                |
| Robert E. Olson     | Recording Secretary |

Approval  
Minutes of  
July 1959

The Recording Secretary pointed out that comments received from several directors indicate revision is needed of either the motion in the third paragraph on page 29 of the Minutes of July 1959 relating to the new project WM-44 or the title of WM-44 as given on page 40 of these Minutes, to make clear the intent of the Directors at the July meeting.

Further, the listing of titles on page 34 of the July Minutes for WM-44 and WM-45, as assigned by the Committee on Regional Research, is confusing because the projects designated there as WM-44 and 45 by the RRC were subsequently changed by the Directors.

After brief discussion, consensus was that the intent of the Directors in July was to assign the number WM-44 to the area of economics of promotion and utilization of agricultural products. The Recording Secretary is to send out revised pages in accordance with the above.

Asleson moved, Ensign seconded, that the July Minutes be approved as distributed subject to the corrections indicated. Passed.

Biological  
Control  
of Weeds

Sharp discussed the list of the ten most important weeds, as developed from a poll of the Western Directors. Director Sharp indicated he would later distribute 10-15 copies of the list to each State.

TALLY OF THE WESTERN DIRECTORS' VOTES ON WEEDS  
ON THE RANGE LANDS OF THE WESTERN STATES

The Western Directors were polled for a list of ten most important weeds insofar as their states were concerned. The replies were tabulated and the weeds arranged in order of their indicated seriousness. As a result of this poll, two groupings of the weeds emerged, the first group the most serious weed pests, the second group serious but not as important as the first group.

TABLE I  
WEEDS OF GREATEST ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

| <u>Common name</u>     | <u>Scientific name</u> | <u>Possible origin</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Loco weed           | Astragalus sp.         | North America          |
| 2. Halogeton           | Halogeton glomeratus   | Russia                 |
| 3. Canada thistle      | Cirsium arvense        | Europe                 |
| 4. Death camas         | Zygadenus sp.          | America                |
| 5. Larkspur            | Delphinium sp.         | -                      |
| 6. Medusa head         | Elymus caput-medusae   | Mediterranean          |
| 7. Rabbit brush        | Chrysothamnus sp.      | -                      |
|                        | Tetradymia sp.         |                        |
| 8. Sneezeweed          | Helenium sp.           | -                      |
| 9. Yellow star thistle | Centaurea solstitialis | Europe                 |
| 10. Mesquite           | Prosopis sp.           | North America          |

TABLE II  
WEEDS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE

| <u>Common name</u>    | <u>Scientific name</u> | <u>Possible origin</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Creosote bush      | Larrea divaricata      | North America          |
| 2. Dalmation toadflax | Linaria dalmatica      | Greece, Turkey, Iran   |
| 3. Knapweed - spotted | Centaurea macalosa     | Mediterranean          |
| 4. Mediterranean sage | Salvia sethiopis       | Mediterranean          |
| 5. Scotch broom       | Cytisus acoparius      | Europe                 |
| 6. Poison hemlock     | Circuta maculata L.    | Canada                 |
| 7. Puncture vine      | Tribulus terrestris    | Mediterranean          |
| 8. Snakeweed          | Gutierrezia sp.        | -                      |
| 9. Tall larkspur      | Delphinium sp.         | -                      |
| 10. Tansy ragwort     | Senecio jacobaea       | Europe                 |

Resolution  
of W-1  
Technical  
Committee,  
Beef Cattle  
Breeding

The following resolution from the W-1 Technical Committee was brought to the attention of the Directors and the Recording Secretary was instructed to include the resolution in the Minutes.

RESOLUTION  
by  
W-1 Technical Committee  
July 9, 1959

During the business session of the W-1 Technical Committee on July 9, 1959 the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the W-1 Technical Committee express its appreciation to the Experiment Station Directors of the Western Region for their support of the W-1 Program since its inception and for their continuing interest in this program as manifested by their attendance at the sessions of the annual meeting held during the afternoon and evening of July 8, 1959. The Technical Committee welcomed the opportunity to review for the Directors the accomplishments over the past ten years and to present the areas of research that should receive emphasis in the future.

/s/ Ralph Bogart  
Ralph Bogart  
Chairman, W-1 Technical Committee

Proposed  
Interregional  
Semen Bank

Wheeler discussed the proposal for the establishment of an interregional bank for beef cattle semen. The proposal originated with the Southern Technical Committee concerned with beef cattle breeding (S-10) and it has been circulated among technical committees interested in this subject in all regions.

Curry asked whether it was proposed to operate such a project as a true interregional project. This is not clear but the proposal does include the recommended budget. The purpose of the project would be to receive, store and distribute superior semen stock for use in research and also to a limited extent for use in commercial breeding herds, and also to investigate better methods of semen storage and evaluation.

Sharp expressed the view that a national service project of this kind should properly be supported by funds of the Agricultural Research Service and that State research funds should not be used for this purpose. It may be desirable to have say two technical representatives from each region to serve as an advisory committee.

Thorne suggested broadening the project to include dairy and sheep.

Wheeler requested instructions from the Directors because he planned to attend a meeting soon where the subject will be discussed further. Show of hands requested by the Chairman indicated nearly unanimous support for the viewpoint expressed by Director Sharp above. Wheeler indicated that he had received from the discussion sufficient indication of the Directors' attitude for the present and that a formal action was not required. He will circulate copies of the proposals and revisions to all Directors.

#### Soil Survey

Thorne reported on progress of soil surveys and indicated some problems in cooperative relationships with the Soil Conservation Service. He reported the attitude of SCS that some States should be putting more funds into the soil surveys. There is need for more interpretation of the results for local purposes. Thorne indicated some State men think that the preponderance of SCS men participating in the soil conservation conference has tended to give SCS policy undue weight. Soils men in the North Central Region have suggested an increase in the number of State delegates to these work conferences. Thorne indicated his judgment was that one representative was adequate for the Western Region. National Soil Survey meeting will be held January 25-29, 1960 at Las Vegas, Nevada.

#### Research Budgeting

Buchanan brought out the problems posed by some requirements of budgeting agencies such as reporting the average funds needed per staff member in agricultural research. Wheeler indicated this problem is a growing one. Sharp suggested that annual reports submitted to SESD might provide the desired information if all States could supply the professional staff time equivalent. Several directors indicated they do allocate staff members' time to research so the kind of computation desired could be obtained. It was agreed that Buchanan would endeavor to utilize data already on file with the SESD before requesting further information from the States. Buchanan agreed to summarize the information he obtains and return a summary to each Director.

#### Budget Increase for IR-2

Kraus, Administrative Advisor for IR-2, "Obtaining and preserving virus-free deciduous tree fruit stocks," discussed the request of the technical committee for an increase in funds and recommended approval.

There was some discussion of the recommendation. Attention was called to the fact that the Western Directors had previously acted (Minutes of July 1959, page 22) on the request of the IR-2 Technical Committee and had then agreed to abide by the recommendation of the Committee of Nine. No further action was taken.

Representative  
1960  
Collaborators'  
Conference  
Albany  
Laboratory

Upon recommendation of the nominating committee, Buchanan moved, Jasper seconded, that J. A. Asleson be elected to serve as representative of the Western Directors at the next Collaborators' Conference (subject, Chromatographic Separations) at the Western Utilization Research Division Laboratory in Albany, California. Passed.

Solids-not-fat  
Project

Ensign moved, Fleming seconded, that Buchanan be designated as Administrative Advisor of the project relating to "Heritability of solids-not-fat in milk". Passed.

Buchanan explained that the committee interested in developing a project had selected Erb (Washington) as chairman and Richardson (Oregon) as secretary. Arrangements for processing records have been set up at the Washington Station. Service of records is available upon payment of 25¢ per cow upon enrollment and 10¢ per month per cow thereafter.

NSF  
Liaison  
Committee

Buchanan is the chairman and only member. He indicated plans to confer with National Science Foundation officials soon and hopes to obtain a summary of support of agricultural experiment stations as compared with other kinds of institutions.

There was a general discussion of alternative sources of funds other than Hatch and State appropriations.

Forestry  
Research  
Recommendations

Sharp circulated the summary statement of proposals for forestry research assembled by Vaux, as requested at the July 1959 meeting. Foresters will give further consideration to the proposals at their meeting in November with the view of indicating priority among the suggestions. The document, "Tentative Proposal for Western Regional Research in Forestry -- 1960/61," dated October 30, 1959, was circulated to all Western Directors by Dean Vaux.

Utilization  
Research,  
WM-45

Sharp indicated the most promising lead toward a new industrial use seems to be a certain acid with special characteristics can be obtained from marigolds. There is need for work on the next step which is to increase the amount of seed available for further testing.

Interdisciplinary  
Coordination  
Between Soil  
and Water and  
Range Research

Thorne noted the interrelationships between the priority projects originating with range, forestry and soil and water research workers, and suggested a regional meeting of technicians with the advisors for these groups to improve coordination.

Thorne moved, Fleming seconded, that each director should hold internal discussions and planning sessions on interdisciplinary research associated with forestry, range, soils, water and associated problems; that the Chairman appoint advisor or advisors to call two representatives from each State together on a regional basis to plan appropriate cooperative regional projects given high priority by the range, forestry and soil and water groups. Passed.

Non-Funded  
Project  
Series

Ensign discussed the recommendations of the Regional Research Committee against initiating a series of non-funded projects such as had been suggested at the July meeting (see Minutes of July 1959, page 18 and these Minutes, page 16).

Thorne said that the soil and water group would have an opportunity for better work under this plan. He suggested committees could be instructed not to develop project proposals for funding when this is not desired by the Directors.

There was discussion of the role of the professional societies in providing for exchange of ideas and information, and questions were raised as to whether a non-funded series would weaken the professional societies' meetings.

Rosenberg moved, Sharp seconded, that the Western Directors go on record as not favoring a new series of non-funded regional projects. Passed.

Buchanan asked: Where does this action leave the solids-not-fat project?

It was pointed out that the Directors can still authorize work groups but without number nor formal regional project statements, and that each such proposal can be considered on its own merits. The solids-not-fat committee had been authorized and an advisor appointed.

Report of the  
RRC

Ensign presented the report of the Committee on Regional Research (see page 13).

W-42, Ground  
Water Law

Curry moved, Rosenberg seconded, that the Western Directors accept the recommendation of the Committee on Regional Research relative to W-42. Passed. (See page 15.)

Ensign moved, Rosenberg seconded, that the Western Directors accept the report of the Committee on Regional Research (pages 13-18) and that the report be included in the Minutes. Passed.

W-34, Range  
Livestock  
Nutrition

Hilston reported the P & C fund for W-34 for the current year is inadequate. Travel claim from the Idaho Station was received after paying other claims and no balance remains. Several suggestions were advanced as to how to work out this problem, but consensus was to leave the solution to the administrative advisor.

The W-34 Committee wants to meet at each station's expense in June of this year in lieu of the meeting next year. This can be done with the approval of the directors concerned. It was suggested that Hilston could develop a firm proposal of the technical committee, contact each of the directors concerned, and that the whole matter could be explored and cleared up at the spring meeting.

Hilston reported a balance is available in the WM-23 trust fund. However, this could not be spent on a non-marketing project. It was suggested the funds be used on the WM-23 project.

Hilston asked whether there will be a coordinator for W-46. It was pointed out that the proposal had been voted down at the last meeting of the technical committee.

New Funds  
for Home  
Economics

Myers indicated that a group of home economists, including those from non-land grant schools, have developed proposed legislation for Federal grants. As far as he knows, no sponsor has yet been obtained to introduce the legislation.

Curry referred to the fact that this proposal has been discussed and that the home economists feel a need for more research funds. He emphasized that the proposal referred to above was not sponsored by home economists in their capacity as representatives of land grant institutions, but was developed by their professional association. By and large they do not wish to withdraw from the experiment station group.

Elting commented that the present environment is similar to that of 15 years ago prior to the Bankhead-Jones amendment. Many groups feeling an urgent need for increase in research funds have made requests for funds. Fifteen years ago the various ideas were ultimately combined and included in one bill.

Use of Funds

Myers explained that the Directors may receive a request from the Secretary of the Land Grant College Association on their use of funds for the past 5 years. If this happens, it will be to reply to a letter received from a Member of Congress. Myers commented briefly on the background leading to the request.

Representative  
on National  
Seed Committee

Buchanan moved, Frevert seconded, that the Western Directors designate A. D. Law (Washington) as representative of the Western Region on the National Seed Committee and they designate A. F. Shaw (Montana) as alternate. Passed.

Ensign requested that the Chairman of the Western Directors notify Marion W. Parker, Director of the Crops Research Division of Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville and Professors Law and Shaw of this action.

Problems in  
Connection  
With Reduced  
Allotments of  
Range by the  
Forest Service

Question of reduced allotments to livestock producers on Forest Service land was discussed. Controversy arises on how steep a slope can properly be grazed. Kraus and Ensign asked about the kind of research that might be useful. Hilston indicated research at the Wyoming Station conducted since 1951 had been very helpful in determining whether or not reductions were needed. Thorne explained that the Utah Station was working with the Forest Service on the problem of steepness of slope.

Pea Research

Ensign reported as a matter of information that the project on breeding of peas had been initiated by the Department of Agriculture and the experiment stations in the Northwest. There are no plans to request funds for a regional project. The work is supported by the Agricultural Research Service and the States involved.

Tempe  
Laboratory

Frevert reported on the dedication program and the Collaborators' Conference. Directors Thorne, Curry and Frevert attended at least a part of the meeting, and there were technical representatives from each of the States concerned.

Thorne discussed his reaction to the Collaborators' Conference and expressed the idea that research in the area could be more effectively coordinated by means other than the present type of Collaborators' Conference. If the Stations do not send representatives they are put in the position of appearing uninterested in cooperating, yet some of the technical representatives report they feel they are in the position of supporting the work of the Laboratory without influencing it. Thorne commented that progress seems to be occurring in developing close cooperation with the ARS technicians in the soil and water area. Some ARS agencies still send administrators rather than working level researchers to technical committee meetings however.

It was suggested by the comments of several directors that the Soil and Water Research Laboratory at Tempe might follow the lead of the Albany Utilization Laboratory in conducting Collaborators' Conferences. That is, select one major topic to be discussed at each conference and include contributors from the various States. This is preferable to hearing brief general reports covering all of the research areas each year. Collaborators can be selected with a view to making maximum contribution if conference is focused on one particular topic.

Western Soil  
and Water  
Research  
Committee

Thorne indicated he had a recommendation relative to the distribution of funds for soil and water programs. It was suggested this recommendation be deferred until the spring meeting.

The phosphorus work group plans a meeting this winter and they have arranged for support from the phosphorus industry.

Thorne moved, Frevert seconded, that the Western Directors approve a meeting of the phosphorus work group scheduled for February 1960. Passed.

Thorne moved, Huffman seconded, that research groups wishing to solicit funds for travel or other purposes shall submit a statement through one of the Directors to the Regional Research Committee indicating the purpose for which the funds are needed and the organizations to be solicited. The RRC shall



make a recommendation to the Western Directors and approval of the Directors is required before any official actions are taken in seeking such funds. Passed.

The Soil and Water Committee has discussed the problem of listing certain publications in the Bibliography of Agriculture and the matter of making publications available on microfilm. Sharp indicated the important thing is that someone absorb the original cost so that the price of the microfilm print reflects only reproduction cost. Thorne said some policy may later be recommended.

The North Central Region is moving more toward regional publication and it has been suggested the Western Region give this idea more consideration. Consensus was that the Western Directors have discussed the subject several times before and taken action and that no action at present was appropriate.

#### W-48, Weather

Asleson reported that the Great Plains Technical Committee on this subject (GP-1) objected to considering W-48 as only a Great Plains project. (This was indicated at the meeting of July 1959.) There was considerable discussion of this point. Meeting of Technical Committee for W-48 has been postponed pending discussions with NC-26.

Asleson moved, Alexander seconded, that the W-48 project not be restricted to the Great Plains Region. Passed by a vote of 6 to 4.

Before passage of the above Ensign had moved, Curry had seconded, that motion be amended that the W-48 Technical Committee be allowed to revise their project to include all or several of the non-Great Plains States providing all States contribute on the central Great Plains problems. After discussion of the proposed amendment, Curry withdrew his second and the amendment lost for want of a second.

#### WM-26, Consumer Purchases Fruit and Vegetable

Alexander pointed out that the Directors' action of July in effect approves what the technical committee considered a revision but what the Committee on Regional Research considered to be a refinement of the present project outline. The project continues for two years from that date. However, plans for the project by the technical committee have been projected over a 5-year period. There was no further discussion as the consensus of the group was that Alexander should direct this problem to the Committee on Regional Research for consideration at the spring meeting.

#### Fall Meetings

The following communication was received from the Northeastern Directors:

"At their meeting on November 9, 1959, the Northeastern Agricultural Experiment Station Directors voted unanimously to notify ESCOP and the other regional associations of

experiment station directors of their intention to eliminate meetings of the Northeastern Experiment Station Directors at the Land-Grant Convention, and authorized their chairman to appoint a committee to arrange their business so that it can be handled at two meetings per year."

Fleming moved, Curry seconded, that the Experiment Station Directors of the Western Region go on record as approving regional meetings of the Western Directors at the time of the annual Land-Grant meeting. Passed.

The above motion was immediately transmitted to the Directors of the other three regions, which were meeting in concurrent sessions.

1960 Spring Meeting

Director Black will send out information about the arrangements for the meeting, March 2-4, 1960. There were several expressions indicating preference for arranging accommodations at the same motel or hotel for all.

1960 Summer Meeting

Ensign proposed meeting July 12-14, 1960, and presented information on possible arrangements at Sun Valley. After discussion Vaughn moved, Frevert seconded, that the 1960 Summer meeting be held at Moscow-Pullman. Passed.

Rosenberg suggested that one city or the other be selected to house the group. The Chairman indicated this matter could be decided by Idaho and Washington. By consensus tentative date of July 12-14, 1960 was adopted.

Projects Recommended by Western Section, American Society of Animal Production

Ensign moved that the Western Directors, through their Chairman, notify the president and appropriate representative of the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Production that as of March 2-4, 1959 the Western Experiment Station Directors considered and arranged in priority several possible regional research projects. Among these are areas in (1) the physiological and biochemical processes involved in nutrient utilization by ruminants, (2) criteria for measuring red meat quality, (3) fundamental concepts of population genetics. It is anticipated that these important areas of research and others will receive due consideration for activation if and when additional regional funds become available. Should one of the above areas of work be approved for activation the Western Directors will appoint an administrative advisor who will then call technical western representatives together to draw up a suitable research project outline. Passed. (See page 16, these Minutes.)

Thorne Nominated

Alexander, reporting for the Nominating Committee, moved, Rasmussen seconded, that Director Thorne represent the Western Directors in any Regional Soil meetings set up to discuss cooperative projects between soil and water and forestry-range groups. Passed. (See page 5, these Minutes.)

Cooperative  
Agreement  
Relating to  
Recording  
Secretary

Director Huffman explained the contents of the proposed cooperative agreement with the Department of Agriculture relating to the employment of the Recording Secretary. Director Sharp explained that the agreement was nearly ready for signature; that any questions should be considered at this time. Chairman Myers suggested that concurrence of the Directors would be appropriate.

Black moved, Alexander seconded, that the Western Directors concur in the cooperative agreement to be made between the Montana Experiment Station and the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, relating to the employment of the Recording Secretary. Passed.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
between  
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
and the  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into by and between the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, hereinafter called the cooperator, and the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, hereinafter called AMS.

WHEREAS, AMS is engaged in marketing research and is interested in cooperating and coordinating its projects with State agencies doing similar research;

WHEREAS, the Directors of the Experiment Stations of Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming have organized as the Directors of the Western Agricultural Experiment Stations (WAES) to plan and coordinate specific regional projects, and

WHEREAS, the regional directors and representatives of the Department plan the projects and work together to complete the research as economically as possible, and

WHEREAS, AMS is in a position to furnish a recording secretary and clerical services for the directors of the WAES, and the directors, through the cooperator, are in a position to compensate AMS for such service,

WHEREAS, the cooperator will serve as representative for the Directors of the WAES in carrying out the terms of this agreement.

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the parties hereto to cooperate in this work for their mutual benefit and the benefit of the people of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the promises and mutual covenants herein contained, the parties hereby mutually agree with each other as follows:

A. The Cooperator agrees:

1. To deposit during Fiscal Year 1960 (from a fund of the Directors of the WAES) with AMS as a trust fund the sum of \$3,000 payable in two installments of \$1,500 each.
2. To deposit the first installment of \$1,500 with AMS not later than December 31, 1959, and the second installment not later than May 31, 1960.

B. AMS agrees:

1. To assign an agricultural economist on a part time basis as recording secretary to the Directors of the WAES, and a clerical employee as needed in connection with his duties relative to such assignment.

C. It is mutually understood and agreed:

1. That funds contributed by the cooperator will be deposited in a Trust Fund with the United States Treasury, through the AMS, and will be expended in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture Regulations for part-time services of recording secretary, Federal clerical employee, travel, communications, and incidental expenses. These funds will remain available until termination of this agreement at which time any unexpended balance will be returned to the cooperator for use on research of interest to the Directors of WAES. An accounting of funds will be made to the cooperator at the end of June 1960 and at such other times as may be mutually agreed upon.
2. That the cooperator is financially responsible only to the extent that money is provided by the Directors of WAES. Should the Directors fail to furnish the full amount stated herein, the Services provided by AMS will be reduced accordingly, and this agreement will be amended or terminated in accordance with the terms provided in Paragraph C 6.
3. That any non-expendable property or equipment purchased from these funds shall remain the property of the WAES and shall bear a label indicating such ownership.
4. That all of the cooperating experiment stations and the agencies will conduct research contributing to the objectives of the regional projects.
5. No member of or delegate to Congress or resident commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom, unless it be made with a corporation for its general benefit.
6. This agreement shall become effective November 1, 1959 and shall continue in force through June 30, 1960, subject to renewal by mutual agreement of the parties in writing. This agreement may be amended at any time upon mutual agreement of the parties hereto in writing. Either party may terminate this agreement upon 30 days' notice in writing to the other party.

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION      UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator

Agricultural Marketing Service

Meeting adjourned:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL RESEARCH (RRC)  
to  
THE WESTERN DIRECTORS  
November 8, 1959  
St. Louis, Missouri

The following were present:

R. D. Ensign (term expired following this meeting)  
M. M. Rosenberg  
R. H. Black  
L. W. Rasmussen  
B. F. Beacher, SESD  
R. E. Olson, Recording Secretary

1. The RRC reviewed final reports received as follows:

- WM-13, Wheat price policy -- Recommend that final report submitted by the technical committee be returned to the administrative advisor with the comment that in the opinion of the RRC the report was not prepared in accordance with the procedures specified by the Western Directors. The report does not show the degree to which objectives of the regional project were completed nor the area of uncompleted work. The report is also referred to the WAERC for review. Revised final report to be resubmitted to the RRC by February 15, 1960.
- WM-15, Needed adjustments in the dairy industry of the West -- The final report was accepted by the RRC. It presents a good statement of accomplishments and bibliography.
- WM-18, Short-time adjustment to changes in supply-demand relationships for eggs -- The RRC believes the draft of the final report received is a good beginning. However, it is recommended that the report be resubmitted to the technical committee for re-editing of paragraphs 1 and 6 under Summary of Accomplishments which were not clear to the RRC. Because the technical committee specifically referred to the omission in the report to California's report on the wholesale phase, it is requested that such a report be included. Reference to California's not answering correspondence should be deleted. Final report to be resubmitted by February 15, 1960.
- WM-22, Sheep and lamb marketing problems in specific Western States -- Final report dated October 21, 1959 received and reviewed by the RRC. The report is fairly detailed and procedures were followed. Recommend acceptance.
- WM-25, Case studies of the economic effects of new marketing technologies -- Recommend the final report be returned to the technical committee for revision. Its deficiencies are:
1. It does not follow format specified by the Western Directors, consequently it is difficult to ascertain the degree to which objectives were completed.
  2. It is difficult to ascertain a clear picture of work remaining to be done.

3. It contains a strong note of personal dissatisfaction that has no place in an objective report.

The RRC urges that the administrative advisor counsel with the technical committee on procedure during preparation of the report. Revised final report should be resubmitted by February 15, 1960.

Despite these views the technical committee should be commended for the accomplishment that led to use of new handling technologies in the Idaho potato industry.

- WM-27, Economic costs of shrinkage and regain of western cattle and sheep -- The technical committee did a commendable job in the preparation of the final report. Acceptance recommended. However, the report is referred to the WAERC for review because of the concern of the RRC that insufficient project planning resulted in a real difficulty to the technical committee in completing its assignment under the objectives as stated.
- WM-31, Marketing practices and prices for various western non-industrial logs and stumpage -- The RRC believes the technical committee is to be commended on an excellent final report.
- W -23, Psychological and environmental factors affecting the establishment and production of forage crops -- The technical committee is to be commended for an excellent final report. The RRC suggests correcting page 9 where it states the project was conducted for 3 years when the records show it was 4 years.

## 2. Critical reviews after 5 years of work:

- W -31, The conservation and improved use of nitrogen in western soils -- The critical review provides a clear statement of the accomplishments of the project. It is recommended, however, that benefits 2 and 3 on page 1 be deleted because they are not considered germane to the report. Such accomplishments would be equally applicable to all reports of regional research. It is also suggested that the presentation of publications be written so that it will clearly distinguish between published papers, manuscripts accepted for publication, those submitted for publication or in preparation. It is recommended that the review be returned to the administrative advisor. It is noted that W-31 is slated for termination or revision on June 30, 1960. If revised, the revision should be in the hands of the RRC by February 15, 1960. An up-to-date critical review should accompany the revision.
- W -34, Range livestock nutrition -- The critical review is excellent. It is noted the project is being revised and in order to continue after July 1, 1960, revision should be in the hands of the RRC by February 15, 1960. The critical review should be brought up to date and accompany the revision.

3. Ten-year reviews:

- W - 1, The improvement of beef cattle through application of breeding methods -- The technical committee should be commended on splendid coordination of effort and for a comprehensive report. Recommend acceptance. The RRC noted that the report included a lengthy bibliography resulting from related research not funded under W-1. It is recommended that the W-1 committee hereafter list their bibliography showing publications resulting directly from the W-1 contributing projects and another reference series which may relate to beef cattle research in the Western Region.
- W - 6, The introduction, multiplication, preservation and determination of potential value of new plants for industrial and other uses -- The RRC considers the report an excellent compilation of accomplishments. The technical committee clearly indicates the need for budget adjustment.

4. IRM-1 proposal for new interregional research:

The RRC reviewed the proposal. It considered the project entirely too broad in its concept and recommends that the technical committee concentrate on 2 or 3 important objectives rather than so many. Outline was referred to Western Directors and Committee of Nine. W-59, The Impact of Governmental Price, Income and Related Policies on Western Agriculture, would fit in better with the IRM-1 new proposal than WM-13, which was listed as related work, because the latter project has been closed.

5. Letter with attachment from WM-17 committee in response to comments of Committee of Nine was received. It is referred to Committee of Nine without comment.
6. Request for extension of W-42, Economic Analysis of Ground Water Laws in the United States:

It is recommended that W-42 be extended through June 30, 1961 as requested to finish work on the contributing projects of Montana and Colorado. /See Minutes of the Western Directors, March 1959, page 17 and July 1959, page 35 for previous actions relative to this request. The formal justification requested in July was received./

It is further recommended that the California contributing project not be funded with RRF because its duration will extend beyond the presently recommended termination date for the regional project. This does not imply that California's project cannot be considered as a contributing project.

Discussion followed. /See Western Directors' Minutes, page 6./

7. Revision of W-59, Price and Income Policy:

The RRC notes that the revision of the regional project outline requested by the Committee of Nine has not been received but the outline is in the process of being revised.

8. Revision of W-48, Association of Climatic Elements with Crop Production and Plant Development:

Revision of Montana contributing project to W-48 accepted. It is recommended to the Western Directors. /Director Asleson informed the Directors that he wished it not be fully considered until he meets with Great Plains Council./

9. Final reports due upon closing:

The RRC is aware of the following two projects in the process of closing during this fiscal year. The final reports should be filed after they are closed.

W -33, The economics of alternative methods of water application

WM-24, Market development for selected horticultural specialty crops

10. The RRC calls to the attention of the Western Directors the three proposals for regional research received from the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Production:

- a. The physiological and biochemical processes involved in nutrient utilization by ruminants.
- b. Criteria for measuring red meat quality for production and marketing studies.
- c. Fundamental concepts of population genetics in relation to selection methods and mating systems.

/See page 10, Minutes of Western Directors for action taken./

11. The RRC has been requested to review the possibility of a new series of regional projects without numbering or regional funds. (Minutes of July 1959, page 18.)

Upon action of the Western Directors at their July 9-11, 1959 meeting the Western Committee on Regional Research would consider the desirability of activating a new series of projects without Regional Research Funds and make a recommendation to the Directors at their next meeting. Since this action, the RRC has investigated and sought advice from several sources regarding activation of a new western series of regional research and planning projects similar to the North Central Region.

There are several advantages and disadvantages of initiating such a series. The RRC wishes to submit what they think are some advantages and disadvantages.

ADVANTAGES

1. Such a series would allow technical representatives, as designated by the Directors, to assemble, discuss, plan and recommend research with support from State and Hatch funds. Such projects are now not favored by the Directors because of lack of RRF.



2. Such committees may be useful to preplan, organize membership, develop outlines and consider problems which sometimes require 1-2 years in anticipation of RRF support. During this organization period the plans for good research could be possibly better developed.
3. Such a series may be useful to coordinate present projects of regional nature that are not supported by State funds. Examples may be: wheat breeding, horticultural crops breeding, dairy breeding, etc. A more formal regional approach similar to present regional projects may be profitable.
4. Should another series be advisable, the total list may better reflect the western regional experiment station total research efforts and would partially eliminate some feeling that regional research as we now know it is the only research of the Western Region.

#### DISADVANTAGES

1. It is the feeling of RRC that should such a series be activated, numbers and administrative advisors should be assigned. Should such be the case an increased number of regional projects would pose another burden on the Directors over and above present obligations.
2. As has been experienced in some cases in the NCR, the technical committee of a well established project soon realized that their project should be funded with P & C and other funds also.
3. There is a tendency for such committees to act as a core of research people who pose as advisors for additional fields of research rather than carrying out research objectives. In other words another WAERC.
4. Unless well coordinated outlines are planned and followed there could be a tendency to branch off into many diverse fields and not accomplish the original objectives.
5. The Western Region presently has many non-funded or inadequately funded regional projects on the books. Should we establish another series of projects and perform in the same manner? Would the approved non-funded projects take precedence over the priority list already approved?
6. Since there would be no RRF there could develop only a voluntary type participation that would not be conducive to committee planning or performance.
7. Directors would need to support and commit funds for such projects to insure thorough cooperation and execution. P & C funds would not be available unless the project outlines were approved by the Central Committee of Nine group as well as the Western Directors.
8. More aggressive groups, by establishing status as non-funded technical committees, could create an impression that their projects are most needy of implementation. This may not reflect the needs of the Western Region as determined by vote of the Directors.

/See page 6, Minutes of Western Directors for action taken./

12. General comments of RRC:

- a. The RRC notes that in a number of reports of regional projects technical committees seem to follow the practice of listing publications from other projects in related areas. The RRC recommends they list only publications attributed to the regional list. If a longer bibliography is desired they may list it in two parts; first, publications from the regional project, then the publications relating to the project but not resulting from research of the regional project outline.
- b. The RRC notes some projects are listed as indefinite, such as W-1 and W-6. Recommend they be critically reviewed every 5 years.
- c. Most Western Regional projects are well coordinated. However, reviews of the RRC have indicated a tendency for some regional projects not to adhere fully to the established objectives of the regional and contributing projects. The RRC recommends continued attention by the administrative advisors to see that the committee maintains close coordination to the specific objectives.