

Minutes: Western Region combined meeting
AHS and CARET
Tuesday, July 12, 2005; 8:15 – 10 AM
Eldorado Hotel, Zia A

Submitted by Co-Chairs: Roger Clemmons (CARET) and Frank Galey (AHS)

A roster of attendees did not make it back to the chairs.

Endangered species issues: AHS reported that they had been approached by the Western Farm Bureau president's group to develop a list of scientific programs and/or people that have expertise in issues related to managing endangered species. Marc Johnson (CSU) has agreed to chair that effort. The CARET asked the AHS to develop a strategy to find multidisciplinary funding to study scientific questions arising about how affected parties can manage issues that arise related to the potential or real listing of a species of concern as endangered. This question was addressed at the joint meeting in Guam last year and no progress had been made. The AHS members present felt that was a reasonable request provided that a strategy was the only product that was desired. No one wanted to go back to a similar debacle to that associated with the public lands a few years ago where colleges were assessed to get the project started. **Action:** A committee was formed to look into possible strategies with a charge to report back to the Western CARET/AHS members at the February 2006 meeting in Washington DC. That committee consists of Jeff Jacobsen (MSU; Co-Chair), Gerry Hillier (CARET; Co-Chair), Mark Peterson (CARET), Deborah Moore (CARET), Dave Thawley (UNR), Carol Lewis (Alaska), and Bob Kidd (CARET). This group is encouraged to identify partners not only in Federal and State governments, but also in industry and other non-government organizations.

The formula funds were identified as the glue that holds the system together and provides for infrastructure in many medium and small colleges. However it is recognized that while we must maintain formula funding for research and extension, growth is likely to be minimal. The AHS is developing a marketing strategy under the guidance of Carol Lewis to look at a national strategy for marketing our system to federal agencies other than USDA for possible growth opportunities. Our budding partnership with the Department of Energy is a prime example of the possibilities. We must target our strategy to maintain our comparative advantage in the linkage of teaching, research, and extension/outreach in order to compete with private colleges and others interested in our model. The discussion also involved the proposed National Institute of Food and Agriculture and possible linkages in NSF. **Action:** It was recommended that Carol's group, in conjunction with NASULGC (Mort Neufville), invite leadership members from other major agencies including NIH, Department of Health, National Science Foundation, Homeland Security, Interior Department,

and others to participate in our next meeting to help us begin exploring and understanding opportunities.

This joint committee discussed interest in closer collaboration as a group with the Western association for the various state agriculture department secretaries. A joint meeting or effort was suggested by Miley Gonzalez in his speech on Monday, July 11 (Director/Secretary NM Dept of Agriculture). Several members expressed that they currently, by statute or necessity, have close relationships with their secretaries of agriculture. Meetings in conjunction with the Western governors were discussed and rejected as probably irrelevant to both the secretaries and this group. **Action:** Gene Sander (Arizona) will visit with Miley about the possibilities of a group of each to get together. Mike Harrington (Western Directors Assn), Thayne Dutson (Oregon), Monte Richards (CARET, HI) and Andy Hashimoto (Hawaii) will help out.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.