

**WAAESD Meeting, March 30-31, 2016**  
**La Posada Inn, Santa Fe, NM**  
**MINUTES**

*(all agenda briefs can be found at [http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/WAAESD2016SpringMeeting\\_AgendaBriefs\\_20160326.pdf](http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/WAAESD2016SpringMeeting_AgendaBriefs_20160326.pdf))*

**Wednesday, March 30, 2016**

Agenda Item	Description	Notes/Action
<b>1.0</b>	Call to Order	<p>The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. The participants introduced themselves:</p> <p>Chris Pritsos (NV)            Bret Hess (WY)            Mark McGuire (ID)            Dave Shintani (WY)            Ken Grace (HI)            Tom Holtzer (CO)            Bryan Kaphammer (USDA-ARS)            Glenda Humiston (CA)            Steve Loring (NM)            Mike Harrington (WAAESD)            Jim Moyer (WA)            Sarah Lupis (WAAESD)            Larry Curtis (OR)            Lee Yudin (GU)            Bill Paine (NV)            Chris Davies (UT)            Ken White (UT)            Rachael Leon-Guerrero (GU)            Milan Shipka (AK)            Barry Jacobsen (MT)            Dave Thompson (NM)</p>
<b>2.0</b>	Approval of Agenda and Minutes of September 2015 meeting	<b>Action: Approved</b>
<b>3.0</b>	Chair's Report, Interim Actions, Executive Committee Report	<p>Jim Moyer indicated that he has not taken any significant actions as Chair.</p> <p>The Executive Committee will be bringing seconded motions regarding the Treasurer's Report and WAAESD budget that will be address when those agenda items come up.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	Treasurer's Report	<p>There was some discussion about the status of the Northern Marianas.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the status of the University</p>

of Arizona. According to the WAAESD by-laws, any institution that fails to pay assessments for 2 years will receive a memo notifying them of the need to pay; if they fail to pay, the association may vote to remove them as a member in good standing. No action has been taken since last year when efforts were made to demonstrate the value of the Executive Director's office and the work of the Association. The Univ. of Arizona is also not paying into APLU. Members not in good standing cannot participate as officers or in leadership positions within the Association and their emails will be removed from listservs. It is noted that the Univ. of Arizona accrues the same benefits, even when they don't pay (i.e., "free-riding"). It was noted that the University of Arizona's Deans and Directors have traditionally been some of the most active, powerful, and influential members of WAAESD. It might be worth exploring the idea of having them advocate for membership with current leadership, but there was not strong confidence that this approach would be successful.

There was some discussion of the potential for increasing the W106 Off-the-Top assessment. Mike Harrington estimated that 2/3 of the ED/AD FTE is spent on multistate activities; 1/3 is spent on national activities and other non-multistate work. Increasing the off-the-top share of the WAAESD budget would then reduce the annual assessment for each institution.

There was some discussion about the potential for whole-system collapse if other states also decide to opt-out. While the Univ. of Arizona is the only one so far, other states in this region and others have questioned the value of membership.

Discussed the need to review the purpose and value of the Association to look for ways we could increase the value of the organization, identify strategic things that could be focused on. Was noted that the Univ. of Arizona needs to be a part of that discussion.

There was some discussion about legislative efforts recently made regarding indirect and an increase in the AFRI budget. There was some discussion about the value of the need for strong regional associations to be able to forward Western issues to NIFA/Washington D.C., and support strengthening of the NIFA budget for both competitive and capacity funds. Was also noted that WAAESD supports AHS/CARET and APS in the Western Region.

**Next Steps:**

- Inventory/enumerate/describe the value of the

Association

- Schedule a meeting with Shane Burgess, Dean/Director at Arizona State University to see what kinds of positive strategies can be employed to move forward.

**Actions: The seconded motion from the Executive Committee to waive FY17 dues for the Northern Marianas due to the devastation inflicted by the recent typhoon was accepted.**

**5.0**            WAAESD Budget Report    The travel budget was discussed: travel budget has been reduced as part of overall budget reductions resulting from loss of assessment dollars. Mike Harrington briefly reviewed upcoming potential travel.

**Action: The budget presented in these minutes was approved. The AES assessment, subject to the provision that the assessment is based on a more accurate reflection of the multistate program commitments of the WDO, was approved.**

**6.0**            ARS Report

**7.0**            NIFA Reporting Update    NIFA Reporting Discussion: Bret Hess indicated that NIFA has suspended the Plan of Work for next year. There was some discussion about differences in NPLs, what it takes for things to be rejected.

Capacity Program Review Discussion: There was a meeting last week of all EDs, Carl Maxwell (NIFA Eval. Leaders), Simon Tripp and Monty Gruber (Techonomy Partners—a Battelle spin-off). Review is needed to market capacity funds to decision makers. Anticipated to take about a year; will be an iterative process; some participation by directors will be needed. Anticipate official communication from NIFA in the coming week.

The review will cover:

- Impacts, outcomes
- Strengths & weaknesses (are they working? How can they be improved?)
- Qualitative aspects ferreted out via surveys
- How do we capture the sociological impacts on folks who receive benefits (i.e., public value)
- Leveraging, licensing, tech-transfer, changes in practice—all of these things are important to capture.
- What are the challenges for the future

There are previous ESCOP-led ROI studies that show 20-50% return on investment. Bret also referenced a recent book that he will share with Mike.

---

---

There was some general discussion about the value of capacity grants—the President’s budget being flat in that area, the general perception of value with leaders and decision makers, and the relative importance and need for capacity funding in large vs. small states. What ways are there to compare an “all competitive” system vs. the combined one we have now? Competitive funds are only possible for faculty to compete for because of capacity funds. Capacity funds provide the underlying human capacity that enables competitive funds to be successful.

**8.0**      [W\\_TEMP006,](#)  
[“Management and](#)  
[Utilization of Plant](#)  
[Genetic Resources”](#)

**9.0**      [NRSP\\_TEMP11,](#)  
[“National Agricultural](#)  
[Research Data Network](#)  
[for Harmonized Data”](#)

**9.1**      NRSP Feedback to RC  
members

Bret Hess reviewed the NRSP program, in general and process. The NRSP Review Committee will meet at the end of May. The group discussed the following:

Archiving and open data requirements—becoming more widespread and there’s seemingly little funding to support it. The ESCOP Science & Tech committee has discussed this; NIFA may include it as a direct cost, but that goes away when the grant ends. There will be thousands of these kinds of projects. There was very little indication for how this effort would be funded beyond the 5-year NRSP funding cycle.

The project seems interesting and useful, but they aren’t the only ones out there. There are many competing program out there. Project has a “network of network” approach which could be very powerful to bring big data to Ag in a way that hasn’t happened yet. Concerns that this is still very much a University of Florida effort.

UCANR applied to NSF last week with Laurence Livermore National Labs to ensure security. Land-grants don’t necessarily have this kind of expertise. The National Ag Library was mentioned, but is not listed as a partner, although it is listed as leveraged funds—they won’t work for free though, and they are struggling to maintain staff and costs. The National Ag Library is not a supercomputing powerhouse either.

Group seems to like the concept. Needs more information on partners (National labs, others to deal with cyber security and computing), inventory of other/competing projects/efforts. USDA-ARS faces huge infrastructure issues when it comes to complying and cooperating with these kinds of efforts. Big

		Data is often discussed, how USDA-ARS will do it, but there is not the funding. There was a suggestion to fund something at a more start-up level. There was also the desire to discuss this again at the summer meeting.
<b>10.0</b>	ED Annual/1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report Highlights	
<b>11.0</b>	AD Annual/1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report Highlights	
<b>12.0</b>	Cornerstone Report (by phone)	<p>Funding levels were set for Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017: \$80B split 50:50 between defense and all other things, including the programs we care about.</p> <p>This year, a group of House members want less spending, despite this prior agreement, and are working to get a new budget passed. However, the House Appropriations Subcommittee is proceeding based on the prior agreement until such time as a new budget is presented that has the support to pass.</p> <p>BAC for fiscal year 2016 had the same priorities that have come out of the BAC for the last several years.</p> <p>Saw the FY16 process yield level funding across the board with the exception of AFRI which saw an increase. Appropriators are seeing APLU priorities as NIFA's priorities.</p> <p>The BAC's approach for FY17 was to seek increases for priority lines. For Hatch, asked for an additional \$13M (bringing overall budget up to \$256.2M) and for AFRI brought the budget up to \$700M. President's budget proposes some discretionary funding and some mandatory funding. BAC likes the \$700M increase in AFRI, but doesn't like the fact that it's not clear where the money will come from or what process would be followed. There were 5% increases for the other lines. Total for all BAC requests: \$1.405B (\$1.078B).</p> <p>The House Ag Subcommittee will start working in about a week. The Senate will be slightly behind the House in their actions.</p> <p>What should you do: Be in touch with your delegation and asking them to submit forms, follow up to make sure they did it, and then follow up to thank them for doing it. CA has 3 members on the Ag Appropriations Subcommittee. MT has 2 members. NM and OR each have 1 member. Those states should have also been contacted by Cornerstone that outlined</p>

---

---

some additional contacts specifically with those members. However, all states should be working on this to ensure that subcommittee members feel supported by the region.

FFAR (Sally Rocky): Moving deliberately, making progress. Put a call out for a series of subcommittees to look at things. No oversight committee convened yet. Creating a pretty expensive bureaucracy; this may not have been the intent of the members who supported the creation. Folks may have expected this to be more of an ad-hoc group that would help to match private dollars to engage in big issues. What they are creating may be more sustainable, but may not be consistent with the initial vision.

**13.0** NIFA Update

**FY17 Budget:** Builds on 2016 priorities. Proposed \$1.9B. Increase of 26% from 2016. Doubles AFRI to \$700M. \$375M in discretionary funding targeted at climate change, pollinator health, water, microbiome, etc. \$325M one year mandatory funding as part of government wide R&D. New focus on system approaches for the agriculture value chain from farms to consumers. Using research, education, and extension programs to transform the way we grow, use, and dispose of food.

**Centers of Excellence:** Recognize various institutions for exemplary work in ag sciences. 34 proposals submitted were qualified for Centers of Excellence. Applicants who qualified had higher rates of funding (21% vs. 16% to those not qualified). NIFA is working on how to continue this program with OMB examiners.

**Commodity Boards Provision:** Anticipated for 2017. Creates funding opportunities in cooperation with commodity boards. 18 proposed topics from a federal register notice from 12 boards. All were acceptable to NIFA and range from animal health/milk to crops. 7 topics will be incorporated into the 2016 AFRI RFAs which will be coming out soon. There will be co-funding on these topics with the boards. NIFA still evaluates all the proposals; boards do not have a role in proposal review; NIFA will consider the needs of boards within the topical areas the boards have identified as priorities. The board money is in escrow; NIFA disperses the funds following their own rules for indirect costs. There is no conflict with this and the FFAR programs. Rob Hedburg is the NPL for this program.

**Veterinary Services Grant Program:** Current program to address shortages in veterinarians. Develop, sustain, and implement veterinary programs through training, recruitment and retention; also to train new veterinarians.

**Foundation FAR:** Sally Rocky is Deputy Director. Sonny serves on the board with other NIFA leadership, ARS leadership, and NSF leadership (ex-officio). NIFA doesn't interact directly.

---

States can contact directly. FFAR announced in 2015 2 programs: innovator in food and ag research awards for early career scientists to pursue up to 3 years research on FFAR priorities. Also ment to mentor the next gen of food and ag scientists. Other program is a rapid response program modeled after MSU Project Green to protect farmers and consumers from emerging threats to the food system.

**Capacity Program Review:** NIFA evaluating all capacity programs. One component will be a survey to LGU partners on strengths and weaknesses of capacity programs and impacts of capacity programs. Office of the Director will provide more information soon. The survey will help demonstrate the value of capacity programs.

**National Extension and Research Administrative Officers**

**Conference:** NIFA shares information on budgets, finance, HR, grants management, etc. with administrative officers and others; collaborate with LGUs on other efforts; led by office of grants and financial management, especially focused on upgrading systems; some national program leaders will be attending. Planning accountability and research staff will also be participating and providing session on REEPort, LMD, Best Management Practices, Plan of Work, and other items. The meeting will be held in Philadelphia in April; Penn State University is hosting the meeting.

**Receiving Plans of Work, Annual Reports; NPLs have been assigned:** Anticipating capacity funds will be distributed on time each quarter, despite operating under continuing resolution. Have had some discussions on simplifying the Plan of Work; will follow up with additional information.

**Data Gateway:** Last year, established a new online data tool on the NIFA public website called Data Gateway. Designed to increase the transparency in the grant awarding process. The data goes back to 2002. Also providing publications, patent, project participants, impact reports, and congressional district distribution. Useful to find history of funding under various search fields.

**Staffing Updates:** Center for International Program, Otto Gonzalez, a forest ecologist by training with experience in international programs. He has really exciting plans for global engagement. Jeanette Thurston, Analysis Officer, to provide leadership in advancing mission and science programs across the agency.

**14.0** Sightlines/Infrastructure Report

**15.0** Western Agenda Joint Session Prep for Joint Session

**Discussion:** Joint every other year—WEDA is stretched thin with obligations to both WAAESD and WRPLC. Also, difficult to make too much WA progress during Spring Meeting without

AHS, APS, CARET.

Development of agendas, communication in general: chairs will be added to respective listservs.

“Implementation Task Force”/Parent Committee made up of chairs of all associations, CARET, and EDs will meet monthly to improve communication, collaboration, and accountability.

Need to go back to thematic committees?

Joint Management of W506 and future rapid response projects aligned with WGA priorities

Ask directors to assign communications folks to specific tasks:

- Canned PPT
- Booth display for WGA meeting
  - Banners
  - Video
  - State-specific version of the summary
  - Postcard website reminder cards

Liaisons

- WNACO
- CO-Chair W506 from WEDA
- To one another
- General to WGA
- Topical for the next Rapid Response project on...?

Western Agenda as a wiki-document that would enable changes to status. Maybe revise in the near future to reflect new trends, statistics, etc.

Goals of Western Agenda:

1. Build awareness
2. Demonstrate value
3. Increase opportunities for western LGUs to address priority issues
  - a. Milestones?

**16.0** MRF Update (MRC report, NIMSS redesign, AA responsibilities)

**17.0** ESCOP Report Q&A

**18.0** Resolutions

Adjourn

## Joint WAAESD-WEDA Meeting

### Welcome/Introductions

Jeff Bader and Jim Moyer welcomed the group to the Joint Meeting. The participants introduced themselves:

Jeff Bader

Jim Moyer

Rick Koenig

Ken White

Jon Boren

Fred Schlutt

Barbara Petty

Brian Higgenbotham

Jim Hollyer

Mike Harrington

Chris Pritsos

Ken White

John Tanaka

Bret Hess

Bryan Kaphammer

Tom Holtzer

Glenda Humiston

Milan Shipka

Steve Loring

Lee Yudin

Rachael Leon-Guerrero

Bill Paine

Barry Jacobsen

Chris Davies

Scott Reed

Lou Swanson

Larry Curtis

Dave Shintani

Mark Walker

Sarah Lupis

Glen Whipple

Dave Thompson

Lyla Houglum

Rhonda Miller

Shannon Neibergs

Mark McGuire

### **Background/overview**

Bret Hess reviewed some of the key objectives/priorities of the Western Perspective/Western Agenda. Details and the full document can be found here: <http://www.waaesd.org/the-western-agenda>  
The group expressed thanks to Bret Hess, Bill Frost, and Barbara Allen-Diaz (ret.) for their leadership, direction, and initiative to bring the Western Agenda to completion.

### **WAAESD Update**

Jim Moyer shared that WAAESD members have shared the Western Agenda report with the following organizations:

- Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- Public Lands Council
- State Directors of Rural Development in the West
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- Subscribers to Wyoming Livestock Roundup's weekly publication
- Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
- West-Central Woolgrowers
- Western Caucus
- Western Governors Association
- Western NACO members
- 

Some states are using the Western Agenda as a foundational strategic planning document to demonstrate where their state fits into the region. Many states are independently sharing with their legislators to encourage championing western causes and priorities.

### **WEDA Update**

Jeff Bader explained that WEDA members have shared the Western Agenda with State Advisory Committees, CARET Delegations, and legislators. Rich Koenig has reviewed the lists of "things that should be done" generated during the 2015 Western Region Joint Summer Meeting. WEDA subsequently identified some things to focus on (partially based on common themes across all lists generated by each association):

- Increase partnerships with county governments and ???
- Expand partnerships across state lines within the extension network and with experiment stations
- Improve partnerships with Experiment Stations
  - Create an MOU framework/exchange on how to formalize, encourage sharing of personnel resources
- Communicating and expanding Best Management Practices
  - WRPLC has been working to institutionalize professional development for extension professionals.

## W-APS Update

Dave Shintani, W-APS Chair, reported on the activities of the Academic Programs Section:

- Connecting within the Section through monthly conference calls to improve communication and coordination
- Western NARU members are invited to participate in those calls
- Development of cross-institutional course offerings for mission-critical, but small, programs (e.g., range science). This effort has stalled a bit due to turnover in the association, lack of initial successes.
  - Develop MOUs between institutions to create cross-institutional course offerings that are revenue neutral to the schools and students; struggled with support from Provost-level decision makers.
  - Course clearinghouse through existing online program
- Development of pipelines that allow students to enter the STEM at all levels—high school through college. Need to work closely with 4H, Community Colleges, and industry. Looking to work with industry to enter workforce at various levels with industry support for continuing education. Pilot in Nevada where a company is working with community colleges and 4-year institutions that serves as an employee retention incentive. Plan to submit a joint proposal with UT, CSU, VA Tech, OSU, and UNR to develop a scaleable, mobile workforce development pipeline NSF grant.
- W-APS plans to meet for a day in advance of the summer meeting. Plan to focus on how to better engage 1994s.

## WGA Coordination

At last summer meeting WEDA decided to explore a formal WGA Liaison, co-located in the WGA offices in Denver who would be responsible for making connections between WGA issues and Western Region LGU. It was later determined that WGA was not able to support someone on site due to limited space and capacity for mentoring. They would like 1-few go-to people who would provide advice, connections with associations and LGUs, participate in regular conference calls and meetings. The person must be reliable, responsible, and trustworthy. They have also requested a graphic representation of how WAAESD, WEDA, WAPS, WAHS, CARET fit together and in the broader picture—Mike Harrington and Lyla Houglum have drafted something. There was no indication that they would provide financial support from WGA.

WGA Chairmanship rotates annually and each new Chair selects an initiative that lasts for 3 years. Currently working on ESA under Gov. Mead's Chairmanship.

There had been previous contacts with WGA via Jim Ogsbury and others regarding model systems for drought and invasive species—both WEDA and WAAESD submitted names of specialists and faculty with expertise in these areas.

The Implementation Task Force is comprised of Bill Frost, Bret Hess, the Association Chairs, Lyla Houglum, and Mike Harrington.

Was suggested that WEDA and WAAESD each appoint a member to serve as the liaison to the current initiative who would stay with that effort for 3 years. WEDA has had a WGA liaison in the past (Chuck Gay and Lou Swanson served). WAAESD has asked Mike Harrington to serve as the liaison in the past.

John Tanaka gave an overview of the W506 rapid response project and his involvement in the WGA ESA workshops that have taken place so far. WGA workshops are seeking to gather information about how to improve the Endangered Species Act to make it more useful to States, stakeholders, and others. A report is anticipated at the WGA summer meeting along with a policy statement that will go forward to the national level. The W506 project brings together biologists, ecologists, economists, and sociologists (faculty and specialists) to integrate information, evaluate the pipeline for how information gets transferred to decision-makers, and make recommendations on how LGUs can be better engaged in providing information to decision makers (e.g., states, USFWS).

There was some discussion about how to strategically assign association members/faculty/specialists to attend upcoming WGA ESA meetings and the need to continue to recruit new members to the W506 rapid response project who can make contributions related to the process of getting science into the hands of decision makers.

It was suggested that various western associations (WEDA, WAAESD, WAPS, WAHS) consider formalizing liaisons between themselves to ensure better communication and coordination, beyond the purview of the Western Agenda Implementation Task Force. It was also suggested that respective EDs and Chairs should be included on the listservs of the other Associations to again facilitate better communication.

Sarah Lupis will provide a written consent brief on the activities of the AHS/Communication Specialists.

---

### **Joint Session (continued...)**

1. Ways to communicate better—at the 20K-foot, association to association, level
  - a. Western Region Leadership Committee (all Association Chairs, Chair-Elects, CARET Chair, EDs, AD)
    - i. Help to set agendas for joint meetings (esp. WRJSM)
    - ii. Quarterly conference calls
    - iii. First one in April/May
  - b. WEDA-WAAESD Chairs, Chair-Elects, EDs, AD quarterly as well
  - c. EDs and Chairs should be on listservs of ALL Associations
2. Programmatic communication (e.g., joint meetings—frequency, purpose, etc.; furthering the Western Agenda, etc.)

- a. Joint Spring Meeting: Meet at same time and same venue but vary concentration (i.e., WEDA-WAAESD one year w/o WRPLC, WEDA-WRPLC the next). This would allow for more time and better engagement each year.
    - i. This was unanimously approved
    - ii. The University of Hawaii votes to hole the spring meeting during Kailu-Kona during the same time frame as this year, generally
  - b. Continue to include the W-APS Chair in Spring Meetings.
  - c. WEDA-WRPLC: Visioning and futuring regarding engagement of LGUs in the west. All WAAESD invited to participate in those discussions
3. WEDA Requests Feedback on establishing a mechanism for feedback on Lyla from WAAESD (and others). This would need to be reciprocal. Executive Committees of each Association would be solicited for feedback for the other ED.
- a. WEDA Executive Committee (via the Chair) to solicit feedback on the WEDA ED and visa versa as part of the performance review—this was unanimously approved.
4. Moving the Western Agenda Forward
- a. ITF has been formed. Have had one conference call. Have provided feedback on communications plan and one page WA summary
    - i. Need to meet regularly to build programming into upcoming WRJSM, approve communication pieces
    - ii. Need to identify specific tasks and assign folks to it with specific milestones
  - b. Goals/objectives of the WA
    - i. Build awareness (lots done; ongoing)
    - ii. Demonstrate value of western region LGUs in addressing western region priorities
    - iii. Increase opportunities/capacity for western region LGUs to address priority issues
    - iv. Identify areas where western region LGUs to address emerging issues
    - v. Develop a coalition of stakeholders who will carry the “ask” for more capacity that would benefit western region LGUs, issues, communities, and stakeholders
  - c. Communication needs
    - i. Canned PPT presentation for use by CARET (slides with script)
    - ii. Content/output from the W506 effort for use with decision-makers to demonstrate the value of LGUs in providing sound science for ESA decisions
    - iii. WGA booth/display at summer meeting
    - iv. Video(s) for youtube, social media, displays, etc. highlighting the overall agenda, value of LGUs in topical areas
  - d. W506 Rapid Response Project
    - i. WEDA will nominate a co-chair for the project with John Tanaka
    - ii. Sarah will send WEDA the list of participants on W506 to see if additional people can be appointed to work on the project.
5. Gaps

- a. Rich Koenig has conducted a gap analysis/cross talk of the ideas generated during the last summer meeting. He'll share those with Sarah Lupis and they'll work together to get those ideas distributed via survey to begin to narrow them down for discussion at the Summer Meeting.
6. Joint Western Project Report for Fall Meeting: The fall meeting program includes a session on Best Practices for working together. Each region is responsible for presenting a case study for how extension and research have worked together. Possible options include the Northern Plains Climate Hub or the Western Agenda. WEDA suggests that the Western Agenda