

WAAESD Spring Meeting

March 27-29, 2017

MINUTES

Participants:

Milan Shipka	Bret Hess	John Tanaka
Sarah Lupis	Steve Loring	Ken Grace
Bill Payne	Dave Thompson	Ken White
Jim Moyer	Chris Pritsos	Mark McGuire
Tom Shanower	Charles Boyer	Mike Harrington
Glenda Humiston	Chris Davies	Terry Messmer
Lee Yudin	Singeru Singeo	

Agenda Item	Description	Presenter	Minutes
	Welcome and Introductions	Milan Shipka	
1.0	Approve agenda and Sept. 2016 minutes	Milan Shipka	Agenda and minutes were unanimously approved
2.0	Chair’s report, interim actions, EC report	Milan Shipka	<p>Milan Shipka indicated that he has not taken any significant actions as chair. 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> <p>Mike Harrington gave a brief overview of the “one ask” campaign. There was some discussion of how to advocate for our ARS partners.</p>
3.0	ESCOPE visits in Washington DC	Bret Hess	<p>There was some discussion about the soil health initiative and its lack of western region input. Sarah will work with Sara D to develop a 1-page briefing about LGU work on soil health.</p> <p>There was some discussion having a WAAESD liaison with W-IPM and a broader discussion about the need to build coalitions within the region to tackle key issues.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the use of “umbrella projects,” assurances for human and animal subjects, and NIFA-PARS rigor standards (problem, action, outcomes/impacts). Bret reiterated the need for faculty to write quality impact statements and get them into the appropriate databases (www.landgrantimpacts.org, REEPort, etc.).</p>
4.0	Western Agenda update, joint meeting prep	Milan Shipka, Bret Hess	<p>What have Fred and Lyla pulled together regarding soil health?</p> <p>Board on Natural Resources Healthy Forests Initiative: Mike has met together with John Hayes, HFI leader, and WGA in December—what can the Western Region do to support this effort?</p> <p>Bret has been invited to discuss the WP/WA with Western Farm Bureau this summer. This again raises the need for communication tools.</p> <p>At the BAA level, we are talking about water, healthy foods/people, crop protection and health.</p>
J1.0	Cornerstone Report	Jim Richards	<p>Intent of house leadership and appropriations is to finish FY17 omnibus over the next week or so and then deal with outstanding issues so they can file before the deadline. This includes Ag Approps which includes all of NIFA and Farm Bill. Things are likely to stay at FY16 levels, maybe an increase in AFRI. As it stands now, we are likely to avoid harm in FY17. 302B allocations for FY17 are largely at FY16 levels. There is an appreciation for a unified</p>

focus of the “one ask” request, but it’s still really hard to tell, given all the unknowns.

J2.0	NIFA Update	Luis Tupas	<p>Senate will vote on Sonny Perdue tomorrow. Still under a continuing resolution. AFRI RFPs on water for food production and food safety challenge area are going out today. Quarterly announcements will continue to go out. The TECONOMY partners report was released yesterday: https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-capacity-funding-review-teconomy-final-report. NIFA supports the overall intent of the Sightlines report and will continue to work with NIFA to achieve a balanced approach. NIFA is reinvigorating the state-liaison program to enhance collaboration/relationship between states/institutions and NIFA. They will have funds to conduct site-visits and will be your point of contact in DC. Sarah will add these individuals to the WAAESD Directory for quick and easy reference. NIFA will be offering opportunities in the FY17 foundational grants on cyberinformatics tools/data. NIFA is taking action on equipment prior-approval: They are establishing the process. NIFA is initiating “just in time” proposal process to streamline the proposal approval process; piloting with a couple of programs right now. Next NERAOC will be held in San Antonio and NIFA staff will be there primarily from the Grants and Financial Management group.</p>
J3.0	Climate Hubs	Mark Walker, Jim Hollyer	<p>There is support for creating a multistate project for the climate hub. Hawaii is putting on a workshop for statewide/pacific extension folks around climate in June. Guam is going to survey all farms on the island and include questions about climate. There was some discussion about increasing local-level climate science literacy. Research on disease-vectors, soil fertility, and crop varieties is also critically needed to ensure sustainability in the face of climate change. Both research and extension activities are needed. Sarah will work with Mark and Jim and others to establish WERAs for all willing Climate Hubs in the region.</p>
J4.0	Advancing the Western Agenda	All	<p>Need one on Community Development—Sarah to write and work with Mike Janes team to develop.</p> <p>Future 1-pagers might include impacts and work to be less redundant. Current and future 1-pagers are designed to be used as a targeted issue piece—not handed out as a packet.</p> <p>About half a dozen states used the message pieces. Some states already had their own material prepared, some didn’t like that the pieces lacked impacts, need better alignment with other western organizations, have a subtle “ask” (we’ve done this, we could do more) in them,</p> <p>In the future a single message piece with all 8 topics would be useful. There was support for refining the message pieces for future use.</p> <p>There was support for development of video pieces that describe the Western Agenda.</p> <p>There was support for development of a “canned” powerpoint presentation with talking points.</p>
J4.2 W506 status/recommendations	John Tanaka, Terry Messmer		
J4.3 WGA initiatives	Mike Harrington,	<p>How will the Western Region and the NC Region partner to get out ahead of the next initiative on Workforce Development and have something prepared for the WGA summer meeting; who are our champions, who is</p>	

		Lyla Houglum	doing this work, what impacts can we demonstrate now. All directors are asked to respond to their ED and provide information about what accomplishments/impacts we have about workforce development and what we could do on this topic with additional funds. This will be share at the WGA Summer meeting and further action will be taken at the Summer Meeting on those that resonate with WGA.
	J4.4 Next steps for WRJSM	All	Plan for 4 hours in the summer meeting with WEDA to discuss Western Agenda action items. What kinds of investment are really needed to advance the western agenda in a meaningful way.
5.0	MRF Update	Sarah Lupis	There was some discussion about having objective statements on multistate projects vs. other USDA-funded activities—they cannot be identical. There was also some discussion. Mike will follow-up with NIFA about this.
6.0	ARS Update	Tom Shanower	There was some discussion about institutional IBCs.
7.0	NRSP1 Proposal/Budget overview	Steve Loring	
8.0	NRSP Feedback to committee members	Steve Loring	There was support for increasing the NRSP-1 budget; increase the WAAESD support line to \$13,125 for salary and benefits to more accurately reflect Sarah Lupis' time (15% FTE), escalating 3% each year for 5-years. At \$6,000, WAAESD is taking on a disproportionate burden of supporting this effort. There was overall support for continuing the NRSP-1 project as written.
9.0	Treasurer's report	Charles Boyer	All states except AZ are current in their assessments. There is ~\$70-80K in carry-forward funds. The small "special funds" account was established several years ago with a special assessment. It was intended to be used to support travel for people conducting ESCOP business on behalf of the association. It was replenished when Harriet retired with salary savings. Mike also added funds to it from a grantsmanship workshop. It has been used to support guest speaker participation in ESCOP meetings and, more recently, used to support travel for the ESS Leadership Excellence winner. There are currently no regular means to replenish this fund. There is the possibility of using "fee for service" models to increase this account.
10.0	WAAESD Budget Report	Sarah Lupis	There was discussion about how to handle the salary error of FY16 and FY17. The group decided to leave the increase in place and take no corrective action. The group discussed the possibility of including the host institution on the Executive Committee—there was strong consensus NOT to do that. Milan Shipka will, on behalf of the Association, states who are not present at this meeting (CO and OR) inviting them to join the summer meeting. A vote on the budget was tabled until Executive Session—the final, approved budget is included following these minutes. The AD salary/fringe was increased by 2.5% and the % split between assessments and OTT was changed to 67.5% off the top, assessments will remain the same as last year. The WAPS budget will...
11.0	EDs Annual/Q1 reports	Mike Harrington	
12.0	ADs Annual/Q1 reports	Sarah Lupis	
13.0	Executive Session		

14.0	Revisit WAAESD Strategic Plan		<p>The Meeting committee met a few times. There has been some discussion about how to restructure the Summer meeting to make it more efficient and cost-effective. There has also been discussion about holding meetings at a central location(s) rather than move around to different states. Milan asked the question about if three meetings a year are needed. Discussed round-table format planned for Summer of 2017; agreed that we need facilitation to ensure that event is productive. Sarah to discuss this need with OSU.</p> <p>There was widespread agreement that it is still important to rotate meetings; agreed that there is value in learning about the host-location; agreed that there is great value in discussing pressing issues that face AES directors; agreed that it is not possible to combine the spring meeting with the AHS/CARET meeting because there would not be sufficient attendance; agreed that there is the potential to manage essential business (budget approval, annual evaluations) during a zoom call.</p> <p>Approved: In 2018, all annual evaluations and budget review and approval will be conducted via zoom prior to the in-person meeting; during the in-person Spring meeting we will deal with other business (ARS update, pertinent items) as needed, and meet jointly with WEDA. Going forward, will meet with WEDA every other year with an electronic meeting in the off year if needed; no in-person joint spring meeting will be held in 2019. Approved: Annual evaluation survey for the ED and AD will be distributed to all directors, one response per state; and that WEDA and WAPS and others as necessary (e.g., NRSP-1 Management Committee, ESCOP B&L, etc.) will be directly solicited by the persons leading the evaluations and these provisions will be included in the official evaluation guidelines; the Chair and past-chair will evaluate and amend the survey instruments as needed to be approved by the EC.</p>
14.1 Meeting Strategy	Milan Shipka		
14.2 Mission and vision statement updates	Jim Moyer	<p>Need to include this on the agenda at the summer meeting—how the organization should function, topics we address, etc. What products and actions are needed—these things would make it one of the most productive and important meeting. Agreed to start this discussion during the first 2 hours of the summer meeting and continue the next day. Jim Moyer will chair a subcommittee with Joyce Loper, Steve Loring, and Mark McGuire. They will establish an agenda and collect any information needed from the membership.</p>	
15.0	Best Practices Discussion Prep	All	<p>Brainstorm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing for starting and ending project proposal(s) and annual reports • Budgeting: how to SAES Directors allocate capacity funds (Mike will distribute a previously conducted survey on this topic) • For those who use capacity funds in a competitive way, how do they make those decisions • Split Appointments: how to better manage that • Stationing AES scientists at branch experiment stations; how to help them continue to be productive • Deferred maintenance—how to create a comprehensive vision for facilities of the future • How to protect SAES dollars (to be covered at Fall meeting) • How states use AES to grow, sell, and compete in the market (to be covered at Fall meeting)

- How to SAES use commodity income
- How do SAES handle fees for resource use (**Mike will distribute a previously conducted survey on this topic**)
- How do SAES manage, improve, and enhance relationships with commodity groups (e.g., indirect issues)
- Royalty returns
- Relationship between USDA-ARS on SAES sites (e.g., MOUs, etc.)
- Recreational and medicinal marijuana
- Industrial hemp
- USDA MOUs
- Public-private partnerships

Sarah will distribute list for prioritization ahead of the summer meeting; top priority items will be included on the state report survey to collect additional information as needed.

16.0	Regional Grants Proposal	Mike Harrington	Decided: Mike Harrington will chair a subcommittee to explore the NE Region model of funding planning grants for proposal committees. Members of this subcommittee are Vanity Campbell (UCANR) Chris Pritsos, Chris Davies and John Tanaka. Mike will explore the question of how ARS writes grants without using capacity dollars (guidance comes OMB uniform guidance)
17.0	2017 Spring Meeting		Decided: WAAESD consensus was to accept California's offer to host the 2018 Spring Meeting in San Diego and include a tour.
18.0	Resolution of thanks		Approved: The resolution of thanks was unanimously approved.
	Field Tour (see below)	Optional	

Spring Meeting briefs: http://www.waaesd.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/2017-Spring-WAAESD-Meeting_AgendaandBriefs_20170322.pdf

Briefs from ESCOP: http://www.escop.info/Docs/ESCOP%202017%20Spring%20Meeting_Agenda&Briefs_20170224.pdf

WAAESD Field Tour

- 10:15 am** Leave the King Kamehameha Hotel in our rental cars and vans (Sarah, Mike and Ken are renting vans). The morning break starts at 10:00, so grab and go!
- 10:45-11:45** Visit to **Greenwell Farms**, an active and historic coffee farm and processing facility in Kealakekua, just south of Kona - <http://www.greenwellfarms.com/>
- 11:45-1:15pm** Scenic drive to our college's **Mealani Research Station** in Kamuela (cattle, pasture management, tea, blueberries, and agroforestry)
- 1:15-3:00** Lunch (provided) and tour of **Mealani Research Station** – <http://www.tasteofthehawaiianrange.com/about-taste-of-the-hawaiian-range/mealani.html>
- 3:30-4:30** Tour of **Kawamata Farms** in Waimea, producer of prized Kamuela Tomatoes and largest tomato grower on the island - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ki4CyGnQWe0>
- 5:30-5:45** Return to King Kamehameha Hotel