

WAAESD Agenda Item 4: WAAESD Fall Business Meeting Minutes

Presenter: Leslie Edgar

Action Requested: Discussion/Approval

WAAESD Fall Meeting Minutes

September 28th, 2021

Hybrid: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84675928901> Meeting ID: 846 7592 8901

Attendance: Chris Pritsos, Walter Bowen, Leslie Edgar, Eric Webster, Gene Kelly, Adrian Ares, Mark McGuire, David Gange, Chris Davies, Glenda Humiston, Scot Hulber, Shawn Donkin (virtual), John Talbott (virtual), Nicholas Comerford (virtual), Pete Pinney (virtual), Suzanne Stluka (virtual), Sarah Lupis (guest speaker), Bret Hess (executive director), Jennifer Tippetts (recording secretary), Carolyn Copenheaver (guest speaker), Saskia van de Gevel (guest speaker). Director Carrie Castille (NIFA), Faith Peppers (NIFA), Bill Hoffman (NIFA).

- I. **Call to Order-** Mark called the meeting to order and welcomed members.
- II. **Approval of Business Meeting Agenda-***Motion approved unanimously.*
- III. **Writing Impact Statements Workshop and more!** by Sarah Lupis. (start- 1:13)
- IV. https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MxsUE0r_GfD9UyGFP9y9AhRUYHNFZ6Cfslp1A6oFyrBH24JgChoXVRSPHPfLL7Nx.DVG2WyMdZUpY9Qkn?startTime=1632842375000
(Passcode: 52QGt1t#)
- V. **Reducing the Risk of Sexual Misconduct During Field Research and Laboratories-** Copenhaver/van de Gevel (1:13-end) Please use link above for video presentation.



Copenhaver PPT
WAAESD Directors Meeting



Copenhaver PPT
Nash et al 2019.pdf

- VI. **Approval of 2021 Summer Meeting Minutes-** *Motion to approve minutes made by Chris, motion seconded by Gene. Motion was unanimously approved.*
- VII. **Chair's Interim Actions & Executive Committee Report-** Mark referenced the actions on page 30 of packet. No concerns or comments made. Seconded motion from the executive committee approved unanimously to approve.
- VIII. **Treasurer's Report-** Gene reviewed the financials. Gene commented on how well it has been working with transitioning the financials away from the university. This is a seconded motion from the executive committee. Motion passed unanimously.
- IX. **ARS COVID Protocols-** This is for USDA facilities that are co-located within universities. To work in a USDA lab, you will be required to complete a form with four questions and show your vaccination card. If you have not been vaccinated, then you will be required to do weekly testing. You will be required to keep the completed form on your person. The ARS encourages practicing appropriate rules of reason. They also encourage reciprocity. If your rules are stricter then they defer to university rule. In Montana it is a protected class, and it is illegal to ask if there is a vaccination. It was noted that technically federal law trumps state laws, however at this time, the rules are not clear.
- X. **Nominations, New Appointments & Administrative Advisor Openings-** Shawn Donkin has agreed to accept a nomination to serve on the BLC committee to replace Chris Pritsos because the chair of ESCOP should not serve on a standing committee. Sreekala also agreed to serve. There were three calls for additional nominations from the floor. It was an uncontested

nomination, and Shawn will serve as the new representative for BLC. Shawn has also agreed to take on a few Administrative Advisor roles.

- a. There are only two vacancies that need administrative advisors they are W4186-Variability, Adaptation and Management of Nematodes Impacting Crop Production and Trade and WERA 1021-Spotted Wing Drosophila Biology, Ecology, and Management. As a clarification, W4004 the administrative advisor will be Cathy Roheim.

XI. Conversation with NIFA Director- Carrie Castille thanked members for the opportunity to join the meeting. Carrie noted that she had been looking forward to the meeting for several months. Carrie emphasized her commitment to the partnership, as NIFA continues to rebuild the agency, it is essential to have strong partnerships. Carrie emphasized that this is the members' NIFA organization. They are building back rural communities and the food supply chain. Carrie wants to provide opportunities to have conversations with each region on a more regular basis. Carrie noted that she meets with the executive directors once a month and Bret is a true champion and advocate for the western region. What does this look like in the western region for water, climate changes, and other critical issues? How can we work collectively to best serve our needs and priorities? The Secretary has issued a challenge to bring on 50 people, and that has been done with a very high-level of professionals. Diversity and inclusion are an important piece of the puzzle. Dr. Castille asked for feedback, her objective is to be thoughtful and strategic. The land grant universities and extension offices are a great opportunity to collaborate and share data.

- a. Scot reviewed the proposed research and funding reconciliations with the budget proposed by the Administration. It looked very reasonable, but there were also big increases in small programs. Dr. Castille noted she is looking for opportunities and having thoughtful conversations. It is not about picking and choosing, but the goal will be to maximize resources that support experiment stations. She would like to have more resources allocated to experiment stations. Bill noted that a lot of the increases are over several years. There are opportunities that are going to be continually reviewed.
- b. Geographic innovation- Dr. Castille recommended branding, as it will allow her to amplify and promote on various topics.
- c. Glenda noted concerns regarding increased competitiveness for grants. Glenda has mixed emotions about FFAR, in practice it has been very difficult. Great in theory, but the goals keep changing. FFAR is constantly trying to fundraise from the same organizations as some of the universities for the matching funds. Glenda asked what can be done to provide better partnerships. Carrie meets with Sally every quarter and there is new leadership for FFAR in January. Carrie noted the importance of capacity funding and wants to be an advocate on the capacity side and asked for suggestions on how to brand capacity. Competitive funding is a real opportunity, but the funding is not available immediately. Scot noted that capacity funds give the land-grants flexibly to address immediate problems where competitive funds are at least a year out. Nick commented that capacity funds give continuity and focus.
- d. Carrie discussed climate change and her conversations with NIFA leaders. She offered land-grant universities as a solution for how to solve climate change. How are we going to communicate and help off-set miscommunications?

- XII. **Western Region Communications Initiative-** Faith Peppers asked members to pass along a thank you to communicators for their support over the past year. Faith noted last year media coverage of NIFA and NIFA projects increased by 64%. This was accomplished with communications from land-grant universities. Most comments were positive, the collective audience was over 18 million. There is great dedication to communication. Communications are going both directions, which has helped reinforce positive communications.
- XIII. Hopefully in the next month the NIFA staff will double. NIFA is hiring public affairs specialists with experience in 1890, land-grant universities, Hispanic serving institutions, and one representative with Ivy League experience. We will have one communication specialist assigned to each region and living in each region. WAAESD members agreed to share access to university photos for NIFA use.
- XIV. **Preparation for ESS Meeting-** Chris Pritsos thanked the members in person and online for their participation. The support from the Western Region has been outstanding; that includes the support over the past four years. We are excited about the program for the next two days. We are hosting the ESS excellence awards normally held at APLU because we have the opportunity to present the awards in person.
- a. **Chris reviewed the CY22 ESS Budget.** The total spending was approximately \$55,000 due to decreased travel, etc. as affected by the pandemic. There is a new addition for communications and advocacy. We want to create an advocacy tool kit. The idea is to mimic the tool kit that ECOP created. A new website should provide an increased brand awareness with a new online presence, experiment stations need promotion and to generate awareness. The budget also reflects funds for the standing committees to have extra time in Baltimore. The goal is the same as this year, and to allow time to develop a plan that will be presented at the ESCOP meeting held in conjunction with APLU.

Bret asked for a follow up on Faith's presentation. Communication is critical and can lead to increased funding. The request is to develop a strategic communications committee that will focus on writing impacts. Bret is asking for 1-2 directors or members of WAAESD and a minimum of 2 communicators that focus on research impacts. Bret asked for volunteers to help identify communicators. Gene, Glenda, and Leslie volunteered to assist; Bret will communicate with volunteers after WEDA determines whether they would like to join forces.

- XV. **Passing the gavel-** Mark thanked members for their contribution, including the executive committee. Mark officially passed the gavel to Chris Davies.
- a. Chris thanked members of the executive committee, and Mark for his strong leadership, especially during a pandemic. Chris is looking forward to the next year, and working with Mark as past chair, Scot as chair elect, Gene as treasurer, Leslie as secretary, Sreekala as a new at-large member, and Chris Pritsos who will continue as the other at-large member.
- XVI. **Adjourn**