

**WAAESD Fall Business Meeting Agenda**  
**September 25-28, 2022**  
**Baltimore Marriott Waterfront**  
**All Times are Eastern Time Zone**

<b>Sunday, September 25</b> <b>ESS/CES-NEDA</b> <b>3:00 PM – 7:30 PM</b>				
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Time (min)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>
1	3:30-5:00	ECOP/ESCOP Professional Development for New Administrators	TBD	-
2	5:00-6:00	Free time	All	-
3	6:00-7:30	Opening Remarks and Reception	Host Institutions	-

<b>Monday, September 26</b> <b>ESS/CES-NEDA</b> <b>WAAESD Member Working Dinner</b> <b>7:00 AM – 9:00 PM</b>				
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Time (min)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>
4	7:00-8:30	Breakfast	All	-
5	8:30-9:15	Free time	All	-
6	9:15-9:30	Host Institutions Welcome	Beyrouty	-
7	9:30-11:00	<b>Joint Session 1:</b> Building Trust	Trust Edge Leadership Institute	-
8	11:00-11:15	Networking Break	All	-
9	11:15-12:00	Building Trust Work Session completion	Trust Edge Leadership Institute	-
10	12:00-1:00	Lunch	All	-
11	1:00 – 3:00	<b>Joint Session 2:</b> From Reckoning to Healing and Reconciliation	Lin Quenzer Dionardo Pizaña Dawne Curry	-
12	3:00 – 3:30	Networking Break	All	-
13	3:30 – 5:00	<b>Joint Session 3:</b> Generational Diversity and Interactions in the Workplace	Caroline Henney Yvonne Matthews	-
14	5:00-5:30	Free time	All	-
15	5:30-6:00	Relocate to McCormick's & Schmick's Restaurant	All	-
16	6:00-7:00	Prepare for ESS Business Meeting	Pritsos	-
17	7:00-9:00	Dinner	All	-

<p><b>Tuesday, September 27</b></p> <p><b>ESS/CES-NEDA</b></p> <p><b>7:00 AM – 9:00 PM</b></p>
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Agenda Item	Time (min)	Description	Presenter	Page(s)
18	7:00-8:30	Breakfast	All	-
19	8:30-10:00	<b>Joint Session 4:</b> The Land-grant Institution of the Future	Tanisi Pooran Sarah Koegler	-
20	10:00-10:30	Networking Break	All	-
21	10:30-12:00	The Land-grant Institution of the Future completion	Tanisi Pooran Sarah Koegler	-
22	12:00-1:30	Experiment Station Section Diversity Luncheon	All	-
23	1:30-2:30	<i>ESS Business Meeting</i>	Pritsos	-
24	2:30-3:00	Networking Break	All	-
25	3:00-5:20	<i>ESS Business Meeting</i>	Pritsos	-
26	5:30-9:00	Dinner on your own	All	-

**Wednesday, September 28**  
**WAAESD Business Meeting**  
**Heron, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**7:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Agenda Item	Time (min)	Description	Presenter	Page(s)
27	7:00-8:00	Breakfast	All	-
28	8:00-9:00	<b>Joint Session with WEDA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>Western Water Network</li> <li>Western Regional Mental Health Network</li> <li>Western Region Strategic Communications Steering Committee</li> <li>Western Region New Deans, Directors, and CARET Training</li> <li>WAAESD-WEDA Joint Spring Meeting</li> <li>WRJSM</li> </ul>	Davies and Petty Hess Hauser-Lindstrom  Edgar  Hess and Hauser-Lindstrom Tippetts Powers	-     4 -
29	9:00-9:15	Western Region Networking Break	All	-
30	9:15-9:17 9:17-9:20	Approval of WAAESD Business Meeting Agenda and Summer Business Meeting Minutes	Davies Edgar	2-3 5-8
31	9:20-9:25	Interim Actions and Executive Committee Report	Davies	9
32	9:25-10:00	Regional Agricultural Innovation Hub Concept	Bajwa	10-12
33	10:00-10:30	Networking Break	All	-
34	10:30-10:40	MRC Report	Hess	13-14
35	10:40-11:10	Best Practices for Administrative Advisors	All	15-17
36	11:10-11:20	Treasurer's Report	Kelly/Hess	18-22
37	11:20-11:30	AES-ARS Relations Committee Report	McGuire/Hulbert	23-24

**Wednesday, September 28 Continued**  
**WAAESD Business Meeting in Heron**  
**ESS Business Meeting Cont'**  
**7:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Time (min)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>
38	11:30-11:45	Farm Bill Listening Session(s)	Edgar	25-26
39	11:45-11:50	NRS Working Group	Davies	-
40	11:50-11:55	Changing of the Guard	Davies/Hulbert	-
41	11:55-1:00	Lunch	All	-
42	1:00-2:00	<b>Authorization Through Appropriations</b> for all ESS members to learn about the federal legislative and budgeting processes	Elizabeth Stulberg, Lewis-Burke Associates	-
43	2:00-3:00	ESCOP Standing Committee Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget and Legislative Committee</li> <li>Science and Technology Committee</li> </ul>	Humiston/Bekkerman Engel	-
44	3:00	Final Adjournment	All	-

Agenda Item 28.6: WAAESD-  
WEDA Joint Spring Meeting  
Presenter: Jennifer Tippetts  
Action Requested: For Information

**SAVE THE DATE**

MARCH 27-30, 2023

WAAESD & WEDA ARE PLEASED  
TO HOST  
THE JOINT SPRING MEETING AT  
THE SPUR CAMPUS

THE RENAISSANCE DENVER CENTRAL PARK HOTEL, DENVER CO



**SPUR**

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Located at Denver's  
National Western  
Complex

## **Agenda Item 30.2: WAAESD Summer Business Meeting Minutes**

**Presenter:** Leslie Edgar

**Action Requested:** Vote for Approval

### **WAAESD Business Meeting**

**June 30, 2022**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Hilton Hotel, Concord CA

### **Minutes**

**Attendance:** Chris Pritsos, David Gang, Jodie Anderson, Eric Webster, Chris Davies, Leslie Edgar, Kristina (guest representing Adrian Ares), Gene Kelly, Shawn Donkin, Glenda Humiston, Bret Hess, Jennifer Tippetts (recording secretary).

1. **Welcome** – Chris welcomed members and each member introduced themselves.
  - a. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**
  - b. *Glenda moved to approve the agenda; Leslie seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.*
2. **Approval of 2021 Summer Meeting Minutes**
  - a. *Leslie moved to approve with one correction to the spelling of a name; Glenda seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.*
3. **Chair's Interim Actions & Executive Committee Report**- Chris reviewed the interim actions and executive committee report.
  - a. Regarding the staff position, Leslie echoed comments made by Chair Davies that, as directors, we need to continue to support our staff to make this organization successful.
  - b. NERAOC should be hosted in the Northeast for 2024, but if Northeast is unable to secure a partner willing to host, would the West be willing to host in 2024 instead of 2025? The executive committee would like a decision by the ESS meeting in Baltimore, September 25-28, 2022.
  - c. Jenn is helping the NE for this year's ESS planning. Bret has asked for a 10% processing fee that will be added to the registration fee.
  - d. *Chris Pritsos moved to approve charging a 10% processing fee. Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*
  - e. *The request was made to approve the interim actions as a seconded motion. Motion approved unanimously.*
4. **2022-2023 Elections for Officers and Committee Representation**- Per Leslie's recommendations, Bret has contacted the following individuals who are willing to accept respective nominations.
  - a. **2023 WAAESD Candidates and Committee Nominations**
    - i. **WAAESD Chair-elect**- Sreekala Bajwa
    - ii. **WAAESD Executive Committee At-Large**- Jodie Anderson & Shawn Donkin
    - iii. **Western Region Rural Development Center**- Mark McGuire
  - b. **2023 WAAESD Officers & Regional Committee Appointment**
    - i. **WAAESD Past Chair**- Chris Davies
    - ii. **WAAESD Chair**- Scot Hulbert
    - iii. **WAAESD Treasurer**- Gene Kelly
    - iv. **WAAESD Secretary**- Leslie Edgar
    - v. **Western Region MRC**- David Gang, Walter Bowen, Adrian Ares, Eric Webster

- vi. **Western Regional Aquaculture Center**- Shawn Donkin
- vii. **Western SARE Advisory Council**- Milan Shipka as Director Emeritus
- viii. **Western IPM Center Advisory Committee**- David Gang
- ix. **Western Region Rural Development Center**- Bret Hess, Chris Pritsos, Mark McGuire, if elected.

c. **2023 ESCOP Committee Appointments**

- i. **ESCOP Members**- Chris Pritsos, Past-Chair and ECOP Liaison, Chris Davies (senior member, representative on ESCOP Executive Committee), Mark McGuire (Policy Board of Directors and NRSP-RC Chair), Scot Hulbert, Sreekala Bajwa, if elected, Bret Hess as ED and Alternate
- ii. **Chair's Advisory Committee**- Chris Pritsos as Past-Chair, Mark McGuire, PBD representative and NRSP-RC Chair, Bret Hess, Executive Vice Chair of STC
- iii. **Budget & Legislative Committee**- Sreekala Bajwa, Shawn Donkin
- iv. **Science & Technology Committee**- Chris Davies, Gene Kelly, Bret Hess as Executive Vice Chair
- v. **Diversity Catalyst Committee**- Adrian Ares, Jodie Anderson, Bret Hess
- vi. **NRSP-RC**- Mark McGuire as Chair Bret Hess as Executive Vice Chair
- vii. **National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee**- Scot Hulbert
- viii. **ACOP Liaison**- Bret Hess representing ESCOP

d. *Glenda moved to approve the nominations. Chris Pritsos seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously*

5. **Treasurer's Report**- Gene mentioned in the spring report that the tax accountant had to use the 990, not the 990EZ form, which requires a little more information. The executive committee agreed that a carryover of \$100,000 without increasing the dues more than 10% would be appropriate. The report included a refund from UPS for some lost books. A NIFA grant offset the cost of the Western Water Network. Our dinner at Reno was covered by income received from the conference. We are only about \$10,000 off from year-end projections. States listed on the AR report still owe their assessments.
  - a. *The report was presented as a seconded motion from the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.*
6. **Administrative Management Specialist Position**- Chris Pritsos shared that a full job description is in the board packet. The Executive Committee has already approved the job description. To keep the annual assessments from increasing, funding for the position will come off-the-top of MRF. The job description has been submitted to UNR's HR department and they are working on determining how best to classify the position. Bookkeeping was added to the responsibilities as a best practice to separate those duties from the same person authorized to spend the money. The Executive Committee has determined that it would be best to have UNR host the position since the ED position is hosted by UNR.
  - a. *The position was presented as a seconded motion from the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.*
7. **Climate Summit**- Gene is working with NIFA on the Climate Summit that Carrie Castille initiated. Gene volunteered to help NIFA host the meeting at CSU's new SPUR campus in Denver. The concept is coming together with a meeting managed by Meridian, but CSU would be the grantee responsible for distributing funds. Chris Pritsos, in his role as ESS/ESCOP Chair sent a survey with

a request to nominate scientists to participate in the climate summit. Gene will share a copy of the proposal after submission to and approval by NIFA.

8. **2022 Joint ESS/CES- NEDA Meeting-** The meeting will be in Baltimore, September 25-28. The last day will be our WAAESD business meeting. There has been a request to spend more time on regional business. There will be a session hosted by ESCOP to help explain the federal legislative process pertinent to APLU BAA advocacy efforts. The APLU BAA Awards Committee has received a grant that will pay up to \$2,000 for award winner travel expenses.
9. **2023 Joint WAAESD-WEDA Spring Meeting-** Gene presented an overview of the CSU Spur campus. This will be the location for the Spring meeting in late March or early April of 2023. Gene will put Jenn in contact with CSU staff to get the planning started.

**10. NRSP-RC Recommendations-**

- a. **NRSP10-** the committee did not submit any reports until it was time for review. Scot had to write a report based on the data submitted and it was minimal. The committee requested a more detailed report. If the mid-term review is not satisfied, then the recommendation will be to terminate the project and they will only receive one more year of funding.
  - b. **New Project-** “Building Collaborative Research Networks to Advance the Science of Soil Fertility: Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST)”. This is an intent to submit proposal that would potentially become NRSP11. However, there was recommendation to include more representation from the West before officially submitting the proposal by the January 15, 2023 deadline. There would be room for funding if the project is approved. NRSP-RC has the liberty to recommend funding NRSPs up to 1% of Hatch, so even if all currently funded projects continued, there would be room to add a new NRSP.
11. **Follow-up with ESS Chair-** Chris had a productive meeting with Tom, Paul, Glenda, Doug, and the EDs. There was recognition that processes need to be refined to avoid future misunderstandings. This was an unusual year in that the advocacy requests were developed around the normal schedule, but the President’s Budget Request was not released on schedule. The other complication was the set point was the figure from the CR and not the number we advocated for last year. It was also understood that the BLC had developed a very rational justification for Hatch, and the justification is closer to a multi-year strategy than other appropriation requests from the “family”. Our BLC request is a 14% increase per year to keep pace with China’s investment. BAA leadership agreed to work on the process, but progress is unknown at this time.

It was also agreed that ESCOP should lead the Ag Research Infrastructure Advocacy efforts. Moses Kairo has agreed to continue serving as chair and we are reconstituting the advisory committee with representatives from each region. To provide continuity across multiple years, ESCOP leadership will be on the advisory committee as will former ESCOP representatives, such as Glenda. The idea is to develop longer-term strategies for funding the effort rather than reacting to the ever-changing funding environment on the Hill, the latter of which, however, could also be part of the longer-term strategies.

Chris shared progress that the ad hoc committee has made on the ESS brand. The committee is very close to settling on a name and tagline. The graphical representation of the brand is a work in progress. The current plan is to have the consulting firm develop a handful of designs for consideration at Joint COPs.

In addition, thanks to Glenda's motion to have ESS sponsor the 2022 ACE conference, ESS has gained excellent rapport with ACE leadership and members interested in communicating on behalf of ESS. We will likely enlist ACE to gather feedback on the selection of brands before we launch. The next phase of the project will be to build a website for an audience that is not us. Our plan is to have a site where the public learn more about us and how our efforts benefit society.

Chris Pritsos discussed establishing a 501(c)3 for ESS. This would allow us flexibility and available at the national level. For the meeting in Tahoe, Jenn and Bret were able to identify potential sponsors, but we did not qualify because we were not a 501(c)3. This year it is difficult because West Virginia is the host institution, but the meeting is in Maryland. Chris is asking each of the regions to join a committee that would explore the creation of a Foundation. Chris also mentioned the new rebranding concept because it might fit well with the creation of a Foundation. There are minimal costs to establish the 501(c)3, but the real question is how to staff a Foundation? The question now is are you on board to explore the concept?

- a. *The Foundation Concept was presented a seconded motion from the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Meeting adjourned.**



## **Agenda Item 31.0: Interim Actions and Executive Committee Report**

**Presenter:** Chris Davies

**Action Requested:** Vote for Approval

### **Interim Actions and Executive Committee Report**

1. Signed on to a letter asking Senate Ag Appropriators to support *at least* as high as the numbers in the House proposed for USDA research accounts.
2. Agreed to have WAAESD serve as the broker, event planner, and fiscal sponsor on behalf of ESS for the ensuing ESS/CES-NEDA joint conference.
3. Nominated Leslie Edgar to serve as the Communicator Representative on the APLU BAA CMC Standing Committee.
4. Solicited input from the other regions regarding concerns about the NIFA Reporting System.
5. Endorsed entering a contract with the Renaissance Denver Center Park Hotel for the 2023 WAAESD-WEDA Joint Spring Meeting.
6. Recommended to “Westernize” the ESS recommendations for changes to the Farm Bill in preparation for potential listening sessions/roundtables with Senator Ben Ray Luján.
7. Assisted with development of the business agenda for the 2022 Fall WAAESD Business Meeting.
8. Supported the Treasurer’s request to sponsor the WAAESD working dinner to help members prepare for the ESS business meeting in Baltimore.

## Agenda Item 32.0: Regional Agricultural Innovation Hub

Presenter: Sreekala Bajwa

Action Requested: Participation and Discussion

WAAESD Business Meeting, Baltimore, MD

Brainstorming Session on Creating a Regional Agricultural Innovation Hub

Western Region Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

September 28, 2022

### Introduction

Innovation thrives at the intersection of academia and industry. While both industry sector and academia understand the value of an innovation ecosystems, such an ecosystem does not evolve organically. Often focused efforts are required to create such an environment that can be mutually beneficial. Many of the smaller land-grant universities in the Western region lacks the bandwidth at their technology transfer offices to devote much effort towards creating such an ecosystem, especially focused on agriculture. Similarly, university researchers may not have the time and connections to take their lab-based research innovations through incubation and commercialization. We propose that we work together to create a pilot agricultural innovation hub in the west with interested land-grant universities and industry partners in the region.

The proposed public-private collaboration is focused on bridging the gap between research and commercialization by facilitating the incubation and scaling-up of agricultural innovations, coaching innovators prior to entering the capital market, and marketing innovations. The hub will bring academia together with industry where potential innovators can benefit from research expertise and infrastructure at the academic institutions and business development expertise from industry. The innovation hub aims to increase the number of agricultural start-up companies, create new jobs, retain talent within the state, and increase the contribution of agricultural sector to the GDP in the regional economy. An innovation ecosystem in the region will accelerate the commercialization of research innovations to grow the agricultural economy, strengthening the western agriculture sector.

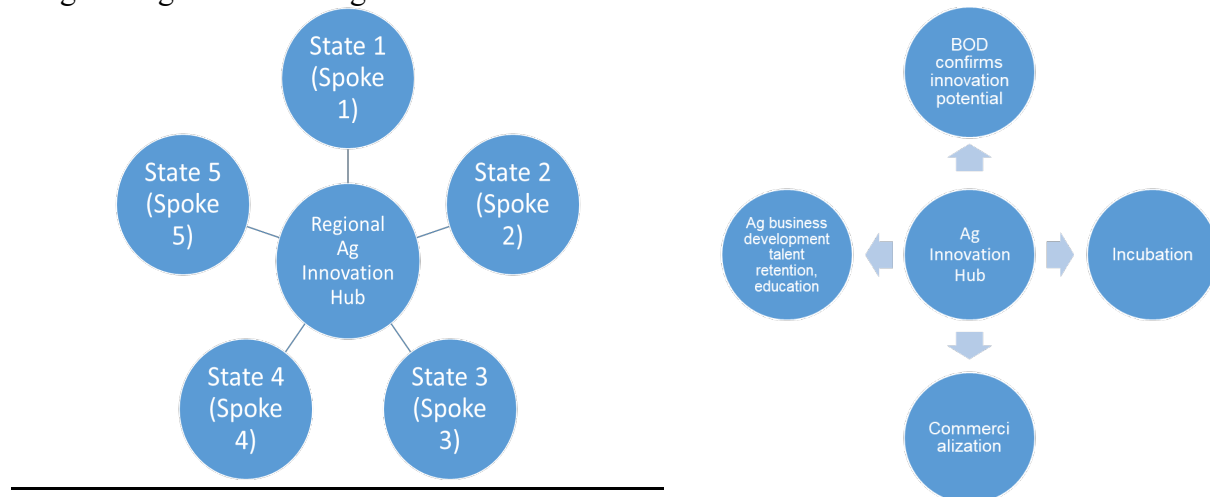


Figure 1. Concept of Agricultural Innovation Hub

**Research Findings:** The Intersection of Academia and Industry: Avoiding Pitfalls and Navigating Successful Partnerships – A dissertation by Lynne Scott Safrit, UNC Chapel Hill (<https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/downloads/d504rm170?locale=en>)

This dissertation focused on characteristics of successful academic-industry partnerships, barriers causing them to fail, and the development of better strategies for collaborative opportunities and initiatives.

Fifty-seven key informant interviews identified 12 barriers to successful partnerships:

- |                                                                           |                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Intellectual property rights                                           | 6. Overhead rates.              |
| 2. Meeting agreed upon timetables, accountability and reliability issues. | 7. Publication rights.          |
| 3. Cultural differences.                                                  | 8. Change in personnel.         |
| 4. Poorly trained technology transfer offices.                            | 9. Changing priorities.         |
| 5. Lack of clearly defined goals and objectives.                          | 10. Internal issues.            |
|                                                                           | 11. Confidentiality issues.     |
|                                                                           | 12. Threat to academic freedom. |

Fifteen characteristics of successful partnerships were identified:

- |                                                                |                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Long term partnership relationships.                        | 8. Ability to resolve problems at the onset. |
| 2. Trust.                                                      | 9. Flexibility.                              |
| 3. Clear alignment of goals and mission.                       | 10. Manager who keeps the project on track.  |
| 4. Win-win situation.                                          | 11. Well-trained tech transfer office.       |
| 5. Communication.                                              | 12. Internal champion.                       |
| 6. Interpersonal relationship/prior relationship with partner. | 13. Support from the top.                    |
| 7. Reputation and expertise.                                   | 14. Interdisciplinarity.                     |
|                                                                | 15. Physical proximity.                      |

Several fundamental qualities were found to be essential for successful partnerships:

- Trust
- The ability to form interpersonal relationships
- The ability to align goals and objectives
- The presence of strong communication skills
- The ability to look at the relationship as a true partnership

### **Brainstorming Process (based on round robin brainstorming)**

This process will focus on encouraging everyone on your team (table) to speak up and share their ideas on 3-4 brainstorming topics. Three to five people in each group. Each group select one person serve as their scribe, who will be writing down ideas and reporting on behalf of the group.

When each brainstorming topic is introduced, everyone needs to take 2 minutes to write down their ideas on the note cards provided. After writing down their ideas, everyone has 1 minute to present their idea(s) to those at their table. After everyone has presented their idea, the group has 3 minutes to discuss the ideas and select what to share with everyone. The “scribe” will have 1 minute to present the “best idea” to everyone. Total time for each topic is ~10 minutes

### **Topics for Small Group Discussion and Reporting (Goals, structure, success, challenges)**

- (1) Goals: What is the most important **goal** of an agricultural innovation hub?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (2) Define and Measure Success: What would success look like and how do we measure it (What metric is most important in measuring the impact of the agricultural innovation hub)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (3) Structure: How should we structure the hub-spoke system for success (to achieve the most important goals for collaboration/coordination among western region participants)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (4) Challenges: What challenges we must address to ensure a successful hub initiative

## Agenda Item 34.0: MRC Report

Presenter: Bret Hess

Action Requested: Discussion

### Multistate Review Committee Report

The committee met via Zoom on April 19<sup>th</sup> and again on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The following outline summarizes actions taken.

#### I. ERA Renewals

- a. WERA1022: Irrigation Technologies and Scheduling for Water Conservation and Water Resources Management (was WERA1022)  
(<https://www.nimss.org/projects/18933>).  
*Committee unanimously accepted as written.*

#### II. Multistate Research Project Renewals

- a. W4008: Integrated Onion Pest, Disease and Weed Management Onions  
(<https://www.nimss.org/projects/18926>).  
*Committee unanimously accepted as written.*
- b. W5001: Rural Population Change and Adaptation in the Context of Health, Economic, and Environmental Shocks and Stressors  
(<https://www.nimss.org/projects/18897>).  
*Committee unanimously accepted as written.*
- c. W5122: Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Natural Chemicals on Human Health and Food Safety (<https://www.nimss.org/projects/18911>).  
*Committee unanimously accepted with minor revisions. Responses to review comments and minor revisions were accepted.*
- d. W5133: Economic Valuation and Management of Natural Resources on Public and Private Lands (<https://www.nimss.org/projects/18858>).  
*Committee unanimously accepted as written.*
- e. W\_TEMP\_5177: Enhancing the Competitiveness and Value of U.S. Beef  
(<https://www.nimss.org/projects/18944>).  
*Committee unanimously accepted with minor revisions. Responses to review comments and subsequent revisions are pending.*
- f. W5185: Biological Control in Pest Management Systems of Plants  
(<https://www.nimss.org/projects/18930>).  
*Committee unanimously accepted with minor revisions. Responses to review comments and minor revisions were accepted.*

#### III. Mid-term Reviews

- a. W3006: Multistate Agricultural Literacy Research  
*Recommended continuation.*
- b. W3012: Optimizing and Characterizing Sustainable Beef Cattle Production in Forage Based Systems on Western Rangelands  
*Recommended continuation with message that current level of engagement is unacceptable.*

- c. W3192: Improving Safety and Health of Wildland Firefighters Through Personal Protective Clothing (formerly WDC39)  
*Recommended to step up their game or modify their timeline and goals.*
- d. W4003: Parental practices supporting positive eating behaviors during independent eating occasions among early adolescent children  
*Recommend continuation. This project is the multi-state award winner and highlights the ability to collaboratively work together.*
- e. W4128: Micro irrigation: A Sustainable Technology for Crop Intensification and Improved Crop Productivity  
*Recommended to give this committee a chance with the understanding that they need to meet ASAP, and because there is great potential, they need to get back on track.*
- f. W4168: Environmental and Genetic Determinants of Seed Quality and Performance  
*Recommended continuation.*
- g. W4170: Beneficial Use of Residuals to Improve Soil Health and Protect Public, and Ecosystem Health  
*Recommended continuation. This project is finalizing a contract with USDA NRCS for \$1.5million to support a project.*
- h. W4171: Germ Cell and Embryo Development and Manipulation for the Improvement of Livestock  
*Recommended continuation. Also asked for the reader's digest version to be included in the impact section so others can help advocate.*
- i. W4188: Soil, Water, and Environmental Physics to Sustain Agriculture and Natural Resources  
*Recommended continuation. This project was the winner of the national multi-state award last year.*
- j. W4190: Management and Policy Challenges in a Water-Scarce World  
*Recommended continuation. Shows good collaboration but need to populate reports.*
- k. WCC1003: Coordination of Western Regional Extension Forestry Activities  
*Recommended continuation. Their longtime AA retired, and the new AA is interested in making sure this committee is successful.*
- l. WERA1012: Managing and Utilizing Precipitation Observations from Volunteer Networks (from WDC43)  
*Recommended for approval pending submission of an annual report.*
- m. WERA72: Agribusiness Scholarship Emphasizing Competitiveness  
*Recommended for approval pending submission of an annual report.*
- n. WERA77: Managing Invasive Weeds in Wheat  
*Recommended continuation.*

**Agenda Item 35.0: Best Practices for Administrative Advisors**

**Presenter: All**

**Action Requested: Discussion**

**Checklist for Administrative Advisors  
To  
Multistate Research Activities**

**Project Background:**

\_\_\_ As AA have I reviewed the multistate research portfolio for potential duplication of research project activities.

\_\_\_ Have I familiarized myself with the nature and the purpose of the regional activity? Have I reviewed the history of the research project activity including consultations with the previous administrative advisor(s) and the NIFA representative? Am I acquainted with the project's website?

\_\_\_ Are the overall project objectives congruent with regional and national research priorities and program plans? Does the proposed activity fit within the NIFA strategic plan? Do the regional committee activities support the project objectives?

\_\_\_ Does the project activity demonstrate a level of interdependence in its approach? Is there evidence that the investigators are working together on each objective, or is the work simply a collection of individual investigators conducting research without some demonstrated level of dependence? As AA have you discussed and reinforced the need for demonstrating interdependence in the preparation of annual reports and the SAES 422.

\_\_\_ In reviewing the outcomes of the proposed activity, are they achievable? Has achievability been discussed with the committee?

**Meetings:**

\_\_\_ Have I as Administrative Advisor (AA) authorized the planned regional meeting using the NIMSS paperless environment, 60-90 days prior to the planned meeting or activity? Has the SAES-422 annual report for the previous year been entered into NIMSS?

\_\_\_ Has an agenda been developed and posted to all participants prior to the regional meeting?

\_\_\_ How can I assist the regional committee leadership with the preparation of the meeting agenda? Is the agenda built around the project's objectives?

\_\_\_ Am I going to attend the project's annual meeting? If not, who will take my place?

\_\_\_ Have I encouraged the USDA/NIFA representative to attend the annual meeting? In the event that the USDA/NIFA representative cannot participate, have I discussed issues which need to be brought to the attention of the committee members?

\_\_\_ Is there a strong commitment to the regional activity as evidenced by annual meeting attendance?

### **Reporting:**

\_\_\_ Has the committee developed a systematic approach for assuring timely submission of reports, authorizations for meetings and project revisions? Has the issue of timely submission of the minutes and annual report from the past annual meeting been discussed with the committee?

\_\_\_ Have/Has the meeting minutes/SAES-422 annual report form been filed within 60 days of the annual meeting? For research projects, if the project number is scheduled to terminate, have I encouraged the committee to submit the termination report within 6 months of the termination date?

\_\_\_ As Administrative Advisor, are you acting as an advocate in communicating the findings of the multistate activity? Is there someone that I, as AA, should be communicating with to make USDA, etc. aware of the research and its implications to regional and national needs?

\_\_\_ Have I checked to see that an annual report has been completed for the past years activities, and properly conveyed?

\_\_\_ When and where possible the Administrative Advisor can serve a much needed function in dissemination of the result of the multistate research activity into the hands of users.

\_\_\_ Have I encouraged publications from the project?

### **Participation:**

\_\_\_ Are the membership and officer lists current? If not, have I contacted the appropriate people to update them?

\_\_\_ Has the regional project sought to broaden its participation with other scientists working in similar areas?

\_\_\_ Are all scientists assigned to the research project activity contributing?

\_\_\_ Are there other investigators from other disciplines that if brought into this project activity would increase the multidisciplinary nature of the activity, including extension faculty?



\_\_\_ When new members join the regional project activity, have I spend time acquainting them with the project activity.

**Funding:**

\_\_\_ Have the scientists engaged in the multistate activity shown any interest or success in seeking and finding supplemental funding to enhance selective objectives of the project?

**Reviews:**

\_\_\_ If the project for which I am AA is up for midterm review (3<sup>rd</sup> year of the project), have I submitted the AA evaluation of the project?

**New Projects Only:**

\_\_\_ Have potential officers on the new committee been established?

\_\_\_ Has a writing committee been established to begin writing the new proposal? Am I providing guidance to that committee?

\_\_\_ Have I invited all station directors (both regional and national) to add participants to the new proposal?

\_\_\_ For a project if retention of the project number is requested, does the justification meet specifications of the guidelines.

\_\_\_ Has the new proposal been submitted as final in NIMSS by the appropriate deadline?

\_\_\_ Have I transmitted the RCIC comments to the committee for consideration?

\_\_\_ Have I requested the name of the NIFA rep to the new committee through the Partnership Office?

**Other:**

\_\_\_ When and where appropriate have I encouraged linking and meeting with similar multistate activities to expand collaboration? Western region committees and NIFA reps may be helpful in monitoring research progress and quality.

\_\_\_ Have I recently gone over the Western Regional Guidelines for updates and changes?

\_\_\_ Have I communicated the multistate research philosophy and procedures to my committee?

\_\_\_ Are there any special concerns or developments that the committee needs to be aware of and if so, have I contacted them regarding these issues?

**Agenda Item 36.0: Treasurer's Report**  
**Presenter: Gene Kelly**  
**Action Requested: Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Sta**  
**Ratification Profit & Loss**  
**July 2021 through June 2022**

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	Jul '21 - Jun 22
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Annual Assessments	
Membership Dues	91,358.83
<b>Total Annual Assessments</b>	<b>91,358.83</b>
<b>Event Income</b>	
Event and Meeting Registrations	60,494.27
Event Reimbursements	24,713.03
Event Income - Other	1,290.00
<b>Total Event Income</b>	<b>86,497.30</b>
<b>Other Types of Income</b>	
Miscellaneous Revenue	39,562.45
<b>Total Other Types of Income</b>	<b>39,562.45</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>217,418.58</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>217,418.58</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	24.00
Business Expenses - Other	113.70
<b>Total Business Expenses</b>	<b>137.70</b>
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	1,072.50
Communications	6,600.00
Event Coordination	31,039.60
Outside Contract Services	27,838.74
Recording Secretary	19,360.00
Web Management	3,157.50
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	<b>89,068.34</b>
Operations	
Books and Reference Materials	1,748.75
Office Equipment	1,608.89
Postage, Mailing Service	452.80
Printing and Copying	590.82
Software and Software Subscript	867.19
Supplies	1,163.68
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>6,432.13</b>
Other Types of Expenses	
Other Costs	641.90
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>641.90</b>
Program Expenses	
Association Meetings	46,124.39
Conferences	11,861.80
ESS Meetings	36,677.49
Program Expenses - Other	5,750.00
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>100,413.68</b>
<b>Reconciliation Discrepancies</b>	<b>-0.02</b>

**Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Sta**  
**Profit & Loss**

July 2021 through June 2022

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	Jul '21 - Jun 22
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	7,044.84
Travel	12,513.53
Travel and Meetings - Other	1,033.30
Total Travel and Meetings	20,591.67
Total Expense	217,285.40
Net Ordinary Income	133.18
Net Income	<b>133.18</b>

**Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Sta**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 July through August 2022

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	<u>Jul - Aug 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Event Income	
Event and Meeting Registrations	3,697.20
Total Event Income	3,697.20
Other Types of Income	
Miscellaneous Revenue	815.68
Total Other Types of Income	815.68
Total Income	4,512.88
Gross Profit	4,512.88
Expense	
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	54.00
Total Business Expenses	54.00
Contract Services	
Communications	1,440.00
Event Coordination	2,400.00
Recording Secretary	3,088.52
Total Contract Services	6,928.52
Operations	
Printing and Copying	134.63
Software and Software Subscript	119.99
Supplies	32.77
Total Operations	287.39
Other Types of Expenses	
Other Costs	1,500.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	1,500.00
Program Expenses	
ESS Meetings	260.61
Program Expenses - Other	4,750.00
Total Program Expenses	5,010.61
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	1,775.00
Travel	4,625.09
Total Travel and Meetings	6,400.09
Total Expense	20,180.61
Net Ordinary Income	-15,667.73
Net Income	<u><u>-15,667.73</u></u>

# Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Sta Reconciliation Summary

Western Assoc. Agric. Expt. Sta, Period Ending 08/31/2022

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	Aug 31, 22
Beginning Balance	245,929.48
Cleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 6 items	-16,652.93
Deposits and Credits - 3 items	17,237.36
Total Cleared Transactions	584.43
Cleared Balance	<b>246,513.91</b>
Register Balance as of 08/31/2022	246,513.91
Ending Balance	246,513.91

**Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Sta**  
**Customer Balance Summary**  
All Transactions

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	August, 2022
Colorado	8,266.57
Nevada	4,269.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,535.89</b>

## **Agenda Item 37.0: AES-ARS Relations Committee Report**

**Presenter: Mark McGuire and Scot Hulbert**

**Action Requested: Discussion**

**LGU/ARS Call #1**

**9/8/2022**

**Attendees:** Larry Chandler, Scot Hulbert, Archie Tucker, Joleen Hadrich, Bret Hess, Jenn Tippetts, Rosalind James, Tom Shanower, Mark McGuire, Alberto Pantoja, Chris Hamilton (recorder).

**Absent:** Jeri Barak, Ruth McDonald

### **Call Notes:**

- Jeff and Larry provided brief background on past discussions on LGU/ARS relationships and agreements. This should be a long-standing conversation, but in manageable chunks like this and future calls. We may also need to engage members from other regions as these conversations proceed.
- Jeff then led introductions around the Zoom space. See attendee list above.
- Hoping to gain better understanding of both LGUs and AES through these conversations, as well as policies, boundaries, higher-level bureaucracy, etc., and find common ground. We value these relationships, and our goal is to strengthen our relationships and collaborations.
- Perhaps working with our existing agreements might be a good starting point. We could review and update, as needed.
- ARS and Agreements:
  - Larry indicated that it's the end of the FY, so it's a challenging time to work on agreements and we might need to wait for new FFY for some, especially if funding transfers are involved.
  - We have older MOUs between most LGUs and ARS, so these are likely how most AES directors will start working with ARS. Agreement process is complicated for ARS for a variety of reasons. Things to consider/be aware of:
    - Agreements now can only be for five years, then get renewed, which should improve things moving forward.
    - ARS is working on updating the old MOUs (not legally binding!) to non-funded cooperative agreements (legally binding, can lay down more specifics)
    - IP issues, land issues, etc., are complicated between universities and federal government, which can also complicate the agreement process. ARS (Rosalind is on committee) is now also working on formal guidance for how to best handle agreements with LGUs.
    - Agreements are developed by lawyers, so they want everything written down, so issues like IP can be problematic and can take a lot of time to set up, at least initially.
    - Money exchanges need to go through cooperative agreements, not MOUs.
    - Easements, revokable permits for university facilities on ARS properties need to be considered, too.
- LGUs Concerns/Issues:
  - Our agreement process is complex for us, as well.
  - Mark: We appreciate the collaborations in our Idaho sites, which can be quite complex. Concerns with Dubois, sheep facility. ID owns the sheep, but the revenue comes in to pay staff and feed for sheep. Also, tristate potato agreement is still in the works after 5-years, very complex to work with inter-institutional agreements. Turnover/faculty changeover has caused some of these challenges. Finally, flow-through dollars that no indirect costs, but they do cost the college a lot of staff and energy to handle.

- Scot: WSU appreciates the ARS partnerships and complementary work. All ARS facilities are on university property for the most part. New faculty can feel stranded, so onboarding ARS faculty needs work. Also, paperwork and cost share issues are very time consuming to deal with. ARS is building a building on campus, which will be nice. Some cost overrun issues, but otherwise, it'll be great.
- Joleen: UMN cost pools for facility repairs are being re-positioned and College of Ag will have to cover costs on buildings where some ARS staff are housed. College cost pool will increase by \$200,000. Want to figure out best way to handle this because relationships and collaborations are very valuable. We don't want ARS to move off campus, either. Upper admin often doesn't fully understand how ag research and these partnerships work.
- Bret: Cross-state collaborations can make things more challenging, but great RLs and area directors like those on this call can really help. Also, an onboarding program is a great idea, not just for ARS, but LGU AES, as well. It was acknowledged that Congressional mandates are given to ARS, so please remember LGUs are happy to assist however we can.
- How are campus ARS research leaders involved with institutional/campus agreements, if at all? What role do they play?
  - Typically, there's a location coordinator, who might be a center director or research leader (RL), and role and number may vary, depending upon the number and size of the ARS program. They make sure agreements are in place for ARS presence on campus. Anything involving funding would move up the ARS area and national office chain, though.
  - Area offices also have program analysts who help get agreements through the process.
  - The NACAs, non-assistive cooperative agreements, need to be approved by RLs.
- Next Steps for next meeting (for Jeff and Larry):
  - Get more granular with challenges and work on ways to address and create solutions.
  - Pick a couple examples from today's conversations and develop resolutions, best practice steps for training and on-boarding for AES directors.
  - We'll get a more formal agenda out for October's call and begin involving other regions.
  - Other thoughts? Please send on to Jeff and Larry in the interim.

Call adjourned at 3:02 pm ET.



## **Agenda Item 38.0: Farm Bill Listening Session(s)**

**Presenter:** Leslie Edgar

**Action Requested:** Discussion

**Summary of ESS Recommendation for the 2023 Farm Bill- highlighted text supported by WAAESD per Spring meeting discussion**

### **General**

- Add LGUs as recognized research collaborators where other entities (e.g. Extension, USDA ARS) are acknowledged or added in other Titles in the Farm Bill (e.g. NRCS and the Conservation Title) and with pertinent research thrusts (e.g. climate, soil health, sustainability, conservation).
- Remove barriers to collaboration with USDA ARS and LGUs.
- Encourage regional food systems as components of national food security in competitive grant programs. In addition, encourage investment in big data applications in agriculture.
- Elevate specialty crops to the status of commodity crops.
- Provide authorization and funding for plant breeding programs with new crop development.
- Shift the focus on specific dietary components to roles that nutrition plays on preventing chronic disease.
- 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA ARS to develop and implement a National Strategic Germplasm and Cultivar Collection Assessment and Utilization Plan (SEC. 7205) that “takes into consideration the resources and research necessary to... as a self-study internal evaluation activity.” Several of these National Plant Germplasm Station gene banks are on LGU campuses and have other affiliations. Consequently, significant consultations on the human and physical infrastructure necessary to improve these joint programs should include resources and research needs by USDA ARS and relevant LGUs as part of any action agenda in the 2023 Farm Bill.
- Based upon the research Grand Challenges and the expansive capacity/interest in climate change research agenda, increase Hatch funding.
- Re-enforce, strengthen and stipulate that 1862 and 1890 research directors are the only administrative officials responsible for capacity research programs at state-certified institutions eligible to participate in capacity-funded programs.
- Increase F&A IDC rate only if new money is appropriated to NIFA competitive grant programs.

### **Infrastructure**

- Engage with any opportunity to do singularly or as a collaborator and partner (e.g. USDA ARS, NRCS) on new and deferred maintenance and agricultural infrastructure at LGUs and non-LGUs with agricultural programs.

### **Matching**

- Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) – Remove or modify with waiver authority for Secretary. Continue funding at current level.
- Research Facilities Act – Remove or modify with broad waiver authority for Secretary.
- Evans-Allen to ensure that it is new funds (not redirected) and greater than current matching levels.
- Remove or modify the current 100% match requirement with New Beginning for Tribal Student (NBTS) grants.

### **Reauthorization and Authorization Levels**

- 1890 Scholarship Program, 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program, 1890 Facilities Improvement Program – Do and increase.
- Modify and/or provide clarity in titles to address the inequities and eligibility rules for participating in cost-share programs.
- FFAR had mixed support from several respondents in its reauthorization – from no to something less than current level.
- Increase the authorization levels of the Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowships and Institution Challenge Grants.
- Change the authorization and restrictions on tuition remission (e.g., allow use of Hatch funds to pay tuition and allow use of tuition paid by an institution to support a graduate student stipend paid by capacity funds as non-Federal match) and indirect costs from (capacity) funds 7 U.S. Code § 3319.
- Within AFRI awards for new investigators, the stated criteria is too restrictive and counterproductive for the future workforce. Currently serves as 5-year, career track experience which does not allow for pandemics, family leave options, publication limit needs to change. Modify the language to be less restrictive and to reflect modern realities.
- Reauthorize the Sun Grant program at \$75,000,000. The regional center concept has established value for regionally relevant bioeconomic research and development. Broadening the emphasis beyond bioenergy and allowing the recovery of real costs of administration by the performing institutions will strengthen the potential for economic impact through the regions of the United States.
- Support for research and Extension activities with Titles VIII (Forestry), IX (Energy), X (Horticulture) and XII (Miscellaneous) for McIntire-Stennis; growing and processing crops for biofuel, C sequestration, climate mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy systems; expanding farmers markets, local food programs with research and infrastructure; grow and expand beginning, socially disadvantaged workforce, respectively.

### **1890 Institutions**

- Increase funding for the Evans-Allen Program from the 30% percentage share of Hatch funding to 40%.
- Increase the 1890 Centers of Excellence from six to twelve.

### **1994 Institutions**

- Eliminate the mandate that requires 1994 collaborations on research grants with 1862 LGUs, 1890 LGUs, USDA ARS, Institutions with approved forestry programs.
- Concurrent with expanding the eligibility of 1994s with McIntire-Stennis funds increase the total allocation.