

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.