

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTORS

Burlingame, California

September 28, 1983

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

September 28, 1983

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Approved three Administrative Adviser and one technical committee representative changes.	1
2. Approved motion to request WDA Chairman and Recording Secretary to solicit letters and monetary contributions for a book and gift to honor DAL Buchanan.	2
3. Approved motion to delay decision on whether to fill the WDAL position until summer 1984 WDA meeting and until that time to retain the Recording Secretary & request WDA Chairman to perform essential duties of WDAL with authority to seek paid assistance.	5
4. Approved motion to request 1984 WDA Executive Committee to conduct an analysis of the WDAL position during the next year and make a report at the summer 1984 WDA meeting.	5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.0 ARS Reorganization	1
2.0 RIC Report	1
3.0 Recognition of M. T. Buchanan	2
4.0 Progress Report on Water Task Force	2
5.0 Interim Actions Related to WDA Office Within NASULGC	2
6.0 State Assessments for DAL	2
7.0 Biotechnology Lawsuit	2
8.0 Options for WDA Staffing	3
9.0 Adjournment	6

<u>APPENDIX</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
A Memorandum from C. E. Clark to Western Directors	7

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTORS

MINUTES

September 28, 1983
Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza
Burlingame, California

ATTENDANCE:

Arizona	- L. W. Dewhirst	New Mexico	- K. J. Lessman
California	- L. N. Lewis	Oregon	- W. H. Foote
	- D. E. Schlegel	Utah	- C. E. Clark
Colorado	- R. D. Heil	Washington	- L. L. Boyd
Idaho	- L. A. Bulla	Wyoming	- C. C. Kaltenbach
Montana	- J. R. Welsh	OWD	- J. E. Moak
Nevada	- B. M. Jones	Guests	- J. S. Wershow

1.0 ARS Reorganization

Directors discussed briefly the planned reorganization of ARS as outlined in Clare Harris' letter of September 21, 1983.

2.0 RIC Report -- D. E. Schlegel

It was moved and seconded that the WDA approve the following Administrative Adviser or technical committee representative changes recommended by RIC:

- IR-5 Research Information Using the Current Research Information System (CRIS) -- Dr. B. A. McCarl (OR) as technical committee representative to replace P. Casamajor (CA)
- IR-6 National and Regional Research Planning, Evaluation, Analysis, and Coordination -- Dr. C. E. Clark (UT) as Western Administrative Adviser to replace M. T. Buchanan (DAL)
- WRCC-27 Potato Variety Development -- Dr. H. P. Rasmussen (WA) as Administrative Adviser to replace D. N. Moss (OR)
- W- Development of Marketing Strategies for Maximizing Returns to Alfalfa Producers in the Western United States -- Dr. D. M. Briggs (NM) as Administrative Adviser to replace R. M. Kottman (NV)

(Action of WDA: APPROVED)

3.0 Recognition of M. T. Buchanan

It was moved and seconded that the WDA Chairman and Recording Secretary be asked to solicit letters and monetary contributions for a book and gift to honor DAL M. T. Buchanan.

(Action of WDA: APPROVED)

4.0 Progress Report on Water Task Force -- J. E. Moak

WARC held a meeting August 25, 1983 in Oakland to discuss the formation of the task force on water research needs approved by the WDA at the August 3-5, 1983 meeting. WARC decided to narrow the focus of the task force to the plant-water stress area. The Co-chairmen of RPG-1 (V. Van Volk and Herman Bouwer) were charged with forming the task force. Moak distributed copies of their letter requesting task force membership nominations to Directors and asked them to respond to Van Volk.

5.0 Interim Actions Related to WDA Office Within NASULGC

Moak and Dewhirst reported that it had been agreed with NASULGC to leave the WDA computer system within their offices until a decision has been made on replacement of the DAL. The computer will be used by Stansbury and his staff. The remaining WDA furniture has been placed in storage by Buchanan pending a location decision. The telephone answering equipment will be shipped to the Recording Secretary for use in Berkeley.

6.0 State Assessments for DAL -- J. R. Welsh

Treasurer Hovin has billed the Stations for their share of the FY 1984 DAL budget approved last spring. If the position is not filled during the year, there will be a substantial carryover for FY 1985. Since the California office has incurred a large deficit due to salary payments, etc., through September, Welsh encouraged Directors to pay their assessments promptly.

7.0 Biotechnology Lawsuit -- L. A. Bulla, J. S. Wershow

Bulla and Wershow, professor of agricultural law at the University of Florida, attended a meeting of the Division of Agriculture Biotechnology Committee September 27 in Davis. It was revealed at that meeting that a lawsuit had been filed September 14 in Washington, D.C. by Jeremy Rifkin on behalf of several organizations against Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services, James E. Wyngaarden, Director of the National Institutes of Health, and Richard M. Krause, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of NIH. The suit alleges that biotechnology research conducted under current NIH guidelines is dangerous to the environment and unlawful because it violates: (1) the National Administrative Procedure Act, (2) the National

Environmental Policy Act, and (3) the National Federal Common Law Nuisance. The latter charge would open the case to damages. The suit requests an injunction against biotechnology research and release of organisms, and requests the NIH guidelines be revised to conform to EPA requirements including the need for impact statements on all work. The suit mentions specifically the work at U.C. Berkeley by Lindow on genetically engineered ice nucleating bacteria.

Wershow noted that Rifkin's environmental views are outlined in his book entitled Algey (1983, Viking Press), and encouraged Directors to review the book.

Bulla agreed to send a copy of the suit to Western Directors. The Division committee prepared a synopsis of the suit and preliminary evaluation of the claim for Bob Clodius, and these will be presented to the Division of Agriculture Board of Directors in the near future.

If the suit is successful, it would greatly interfere with the free exercise of scientific experimentation.

8.0 Options for WDA Staffing -- L. W. Dewhirst

Dewhirst reported he had contacted the Chairmen of the other three Regional Associations, and they have agreed that the West can call upon assistance from their DALs for a short period of time. Ronningen will be leaving his position as Northeastern DAL effective June 30, 1984. Huston has signed a new five-year contract with the North Central Directors.

The Chairman of the ESCOP Interregional Coordinating Committee on the DALs, Lamar Harris, has circulated a draft report to committee members. The report includes the four recommendations endorsed by the Western Directors at the August 1983 meeting which are:

1. That the State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and the Regional Associations continue to work with ESCOP and NASULGC to identify national policy issues that are appropriate for a common voice.
2. Since each Regional Association has the responsibility for determining the activities of its DAL, it is recommended that the Chairs of the four Associations, plus the Chairman of ESCOP, meet annually prior to the beginning of the federal fiscal year to approve and coordinate the specific interregional activities of the DALs.
3. Until a specific recommendation is developed by ESCOP for staffing, it is recommended that the DAL from the region of the Chair of ESCOP serve as the Executive Vice Chair.

4. All requests for the services of a DAL should be directed to the Chair of the appropriate Regional Association.

Directors discussed the material distributed by Elmer Clark under date of September 19 which included (1) options for conducting SAES business nationally, (2) options for positions of WDA Recording Secretary and DAL, and (3) suggested items to be included in the job descriptions for the Recording Secretary and DAL (contained herein as Appendix A).

Lewis commented he had found the amount of time required to conduct the business of ESCOP almost overwhelming during the past year. ESCOP has 34 committees and relies on CSRS to provide secretarial support. There is a real need for fulltime staff support for ESCOP which cannot be provided by the Chairman or the DALs. There are pros and cons about whether that staff support should be a Director-level Executive Vice-Chairman or a staff-level Executive Assistant. With an Executive Vice-Chairman there is the danger that the Chairman will begin turning more and more policy decisions over to that individual. It is important that the Chairman of ESCOP retain policy responsibilities because the land grant perspective on issues is essential.

Would the other regions be willing to support a paid ESCOP position in addition to their DALs? This issue will be explored in a meeting between the Regional Association chairmen and the Administrator of CSRS on October 7. They will also discuss what the new CSRS role and support to ESCOP will be.

It was agreed that the Western Directors generally approve the idea of having permanent staff support for ESCOP but are undecided about what form that support should take.

Each of the Regional Association chairmen has agreed that with Buchanan's resignation and Ronningen's planned retirement, now is the best time to consider other possible arrangements for providing the needed regional and national support to the Stations. The Western Directors agreed an arrangement of one paid ESCOP position plus two DALs might be sufficient, provided the duties of the DALs are functionally rather than geographically based.

Dewhirst listed possible scenarios and alternatives that the Western Directors should consider.

Scenario 1: The other regions retain DALs.

Alternatives: The Western Region could:

- A. Employ a WDAL
- B. Employ other staff

1. Retain Recording Secretary position
2. Have the WDA Chairman serve as the DAL
3. Divide DAL responsibilities among the Western Directors
4. Have a part-time DAL within one of the WSAES
5. Contract with one or more regions to provide specific services
6. Let the other three regions do their own thing
7. Delay in filling the WDAL position
8. Name an acting or interim DAL for a year's time

Scenario 2: The other regions agree to have two DALs and one paid ESCOP staff

Alternatives: The Western Directors could:

- A. Approve that arrangement provided the WDA had a vote in the selection of the individuals to serve in those positions and provided the duties were divided functionally rather than geographically

Even if the other regions are committed to their current arrangements for the next five years, the West might be able to delay making a permanent hire until the other regions were able to make alternate arrangements.

It was moved by Jones, seconded by Lewis, that the decision on whether to fill the WDAL position be delayed until the summer 1984 WDA meeting; until that time, the Recording Secretary position be retained and the WDA Chairman be requested to take on the essential duties of the WDAL with the authority to seek paid assistant or consultant help as needed.

(Action of WDA: APPROVED)

Chairman Dewhirst agreed to undertake the requested assignment.

It was moved by Lewis, seconded by Bulla, that the 1984 WDA Executive Committee conduct an analysis and assessment of the WDAL position during the coming year, with one member of the Executive Committee to be designated by the WDA Chairman to coordinate that activity. The Executive Committee would make a progress report at the spring 1984 WDA meeting and a final report at the summer 1984 WDA meeting.

(Action of WDA: APPROVED)

Chairman Dewhirst appointed Clark to serve as the member of the Executive Committee to coordinate the analysis and assessment. It was agreed that costs incurred by the Chairman or his designees in performance of the DAL duties will be reimbursed from the DAL account at Montana. All charges should be sent to Dewhirst who will forward them to Montana.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dewhirst at 11:50 a.m.

- 7 -
APPENDIX A



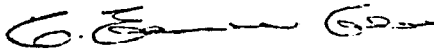
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OFFICE OF THE DEAN
 AND DIRECTOR
 UMC 48

MEMORANDUM

TO: Western Agriculture Experiment Station Directors

FROM: C. Elmer Clark
 Associate Director 

SUBJECT: WDA meeting in September - re DAL issue

DATE: September 19, 1983

A special WDA meeting has been scheduled for September 28th to give attention to the positions and functions of the DALs and their relationships and interactions but with specific attention given to the WDAL position. At Pete Dewhirst's request, I have prepared some material for your review and for discussion purposes at the meeting on September 28th.

The enclosed material is in three parts. (1) A reiteration of the material we discussed in Corvallis regarding "Options for Conducting SAES business - Nationally," (2) Options for Positions of WDA Recording Secretary and Western Director at Large, and (3) Suggested Items to be Included in the Job Descriptions for the Recording Secretary and the Western Director at Large.

This material was previously circulated to members of the WDA Executive Committee. Pete is hopeful that all states will be represented at the meeting. Thanks for giving consideration to this important issue.

CEC/dw

Enclosures

Options for Conducting SAES Business - Nationally*

- I. Continue system as presently constituted.
 1. ESCOP chairman elected from among SAES directors.
 2. Collaboration among the four chairman of SAES Associations.
 3. Employ one DAL from each of the four regions.
 4. Utilize a DAL as ESCOP Executive Vice Chairman.
- II. Change Option No. I by:
 1. Employing a full-time ESCOP Executive Vice Chairman.
- III. Change Option No. I by:
 1. Employing a full-time ESCOP Executive Vice Chairman.
 2. Reducing the DAL staff to two DAL's and dividing essential duties on a systemwide basis.
- IV. Change Option No. I by:
 1. Employing a full-time ESCOP Executive Vice Chairman.
 2. Eliminating the four DAL's.
- V. Change Option No. I by:
 1. Employing an ESCOP Executive Assistant.
- VI. Change Option No. I by:
 1. Continuing to appoint SAES Administrators from the four regions as members of ESCOP.
 2. Appointing DAL's in-turn as Chairman of ESCOP.

*Options 1-5 were discussed briefly at WDA meeting - August, 1983.

OPTIONS FOR POSITIONS OF WDA
RECORDING SECRETARY AND WESTERN DIRECTOR AT LARGE

OPTION I

Eliminate both the WDAL position and the position of Recording Secretary. Assign the minimum essential duties of these two offices among the WDA members.

OPTION II

Eliminate WDAL position and retain position of Recording Secretary (duties outlined below).

OPTION III

Combine the positions and offices of Recording Secretary and WDAL and perform all needed functions from the office and under the direction of the WDAL.

- a. Suboption: Office location of WDAL (West or East)

OPTION IV

Continue with a Recording Secretary located in the Western Region and a WDAL located in the proximity of Washington, D. C.

Suggested Items to be Included in the Job Descriptions
for the Recording Secretary and the Western Director at Large

I. Recording Secretary

- A. Purpose: To keep WDA affairs (regional projects, RIC, regional planning, research coordination, etc.) moving smoothly.
- B. Location Options: (1) In connection with the office of an Experiment Station Director in the Western Region, (2) as a functional part of the WDAL office.
- C. Qualification Options: (1) Similar to the qualifications of Jill Moak, (2) provided through WDAL and his staff.
- D. Duties:
 - 1. Maintain current files of W-RRF and WRCC activities and provide information to WDA members as needed.
 - 2. Serve as WDA staff as required in RPG, WARC, WRC and RIC activities.
 - 3. Prepare and distribute promptly minutes of WDA official meetings.
 - 4. Maintain a current record of WDA policies and procedures--and serve as a resource to access these at WDA meetings and as needed otherwise by WDA members.
 - 5. Work closely with WDA chairman in preparing and distributing WDA meeting agenda and other matters pertaining to WDA programs.
 - 6. Assist DAL where needed in conducting business with WDA and in communicating information on pertinent events to WDA members.
 - 7. Keep current lists of WDA officers and committees.

II. Western Director at Large (WDAL)

- A. Purpose: To provide a more effective regionally and nationally coordinated research program.
- B. Location
 - 1. Office Options:
 - a. In the proximity of Washington, D.C.
 - In the NASULGC Office.
 - Rent independent office in WADC.
 - Share office with NE DAL at University of Maryland.

b. Within the Western Region.

2. Personal affiliation--The personnel records of the WDAL should be located at a Land Grant institution where arrangements can be made for payment of salary and benefits. WDA should establish a contract with that institution to include provisions that would enable WDA to specify salary level and activities of WDAL without restrictions.

C. Qualifications

1. Ph.D. in the agricultural sciences.
2. A highly qualified person with a minimum of eight years (?) experience in administration of Agricultural Experiment Station research. Or, a junior level administrator with high potential but lacking experience.
3. Ability to maintain effective working relationships with high level officials of the federal government, research agencies, and Experiment Station personnel.

D. Duties

1. Intra-regional involvement

- a. Maintain a familiarity with current research programs, facilities, objectives and needs of the individual western SAES to provide assistance and to represent the collective interests and needs of WDA nationally.
- b. Facilitate interstate, subregional and regional research programs.
- c. Facilitate communications between the states and federal agencies.
- d. Maintain close working relationships and regular communications with office of the WDA Recording Secretary.
- e. In consultation with WDA chairman and Executive Committee conduct activities as assigned or delegated.

2. National involvement

- a. In cooperation with the other DALs, maintain contact with Washington-based congressional and governmental agencies and staffs (OTA, staffs of committees important to WDA and other regions, NSF, NIH, OSTP, OICD, AID, et al).
- b. Keep abreast of national issues which impinge upon agricultural research and report these regularly to WDA.

- c. Represent the interests of WDA on the national scene generally.
- d. Be of service to ESCOP by preparing supporting statements for congressional hearings, developing position papers, developing documents for legislation, strengthening and encouraging the leadership talents of ESCOP members, and providing relevant information for policy considerations.
- e. Serve in-turn with other DALs as Executive Vice Chairman of ESCOP.
- f. Maintain a continuous liaison with national farm organizations, commodity groups, federal agencies and congressional staff.
- g. Represent interests of WDA in preparation of program projections and associated national budget activities--coordinate as appropriate with other DALs, USDA, JC, UAB, NASULGC, etc.
- h. Collaborate with DALs from other regions in advancing the purposes of the SAES system and in compiling and furnishing information and data for special uses, as for legislative bodies, committees, etc.
- i. Maintain close and influential relationships with USDA personnel in Washington, D.C., including the Assistant Secretary, Science and Education.