**Western Extension Directors Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2021**

**Welcome and Introductions** – Barbara Petty called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

**Roll Call/Sound Check** – Doreen Hauser-Lindstrom

Present: Cody Stone, Barbara Petty, Kelly Crane, Jeff Goodwin, Pete Pinney, Ivory Lyles, Jon Boren, Aufai Areta, Anita Azarenko, and Vicki McCracken.

*Session Recorded* –

[https://uidaho.zoom.us/rec/share/t9z0Zdr5cctEcyG30YtzLPIXYcIfDn5OjNAJ2oH4DcFZKek7-o-rvPLl-nKkdzhJ.KZzFJLnmKY3otpeY?startTime=1636499479000](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/uidaho.zoom.us/rec/share/t9z0Zdr5cctEcyG30YtzLPIXYcIfDn5OjNAJ2oH4DcFZKek7-o-rvPLl-nKkdzhJ.KZzFJLnmKY3otpeY?startTime=1636499479000__;!!JmPEgBY0HMszNaDT!9__ckvYgh1FidZL5L31_R7S28_yXmEKKdHR8jFCJi7KOaur_4VdY3cK5dqTZTA$)

**Guests:** Suzanne Stluka, Deputy Director, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, and Robert Godfrey, Division Director, Division of Animal Systems, NIFA Liaisons to Western Region

* NIFA Priorities
	+ Implement the priorities of the Administration
	+ Meet the needs of partners
	+ Realize the agency that NIFA was meant to be…
* USDA Priorities
	+ Climate change and climate smart agriculture
	+ Racial justice, equity, and opportunity
	+ Enhancing market opportunities
	+ Food and nutrition insecurity
	+ Improve the working environment for USDA personnel
* NIFA Grants
	+ Climate Change
	+ Nutrition Security – Farm to Fork
	+ Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Accessibility – 4-H
	+ Smith Level - Respond to Emergencies
* Questions from WEDA:
	+ Are NIFA liaisons available to support LGU’s? or should we inquire with NPLs: **9/10 times the NIFA liaison will send inquiries to NPLs.**
	+ Who at NIFA is affiliated with 4-H? **Brent Elrod, Dep. Director, Maurice Smith NPL 1890 LGUs, Jeff Sallee, Director search is currently underway, Bonita Williams.**
	+ USDA support for 1994’s to deliver 4-H program? **Conversation started, contact Jeff Sallee.**
	+ FRTEP RFA Status? **Go to RFA Calendar, follow-up with NPL**
	+ Go to Suzanne, Robert, or the National Program Leader with questions.

***WEDA Business Meeting***

**Approve October 9th, 2021, Meeting Minutes** – Blake Naughton/Kelly Crane

Motion by Jon Boren second by Vicki McCracken. Approved unanimously.

***Old Business:***

***New Business:***

**USDA NIFA Civil Rights Compliance Review Update** – Anita Azarenko

* 9 areas examined at OSU in their recent review
* OSU’s DEI Specialist provided leadership for the CR Compliance Review
	+ Also provides CR training on an on-going basis
	+ Worked with leaders, personnel, and advisory boards to collect data for the review
	+ Cooperated with USDA to ensure data compatibility
* 7 OSU Extension Contributors
	+ DEI Unit--leadership
	+ Extension Communications—marketing examples
	+ IT-data reports
	+ Extension Operations—org charts
	+ Program Leaders
	+ Regional Directors
	+ Rural Communities Explorer
* University Contributors: EOA Office, Office of Audit Risk and Compliance, and the Office of Diversity.
* What helped the process?
	+ Data systems: digital measures, website content mgt. system, county-based databases, American Community Survey system
* Time commitment: 350 hours, for 45 days
* Lessons:
	+ Responsiveness from internal and external units is critical
	+ Need full implementation of constituent databases
	+ Need comprehensive data system
	+ Extension volunteers need education on Civil Rights compliance

**Question on securing match, non-federal funding?** – Pete Pinney

Capacity for funding is limited by match requirements of federal funds in AK. Ideas?

* Match requirement is being discussed by ECOP—(Boren).
* Match was discussed with WA delegation (McCracken).
* Municipality, Tribal, and private-sector partnerships (Stone).
* Negotiate return of F&As from Research Office (Stone).

**ECOP Committee Updates**

4-H ECOP Leadership Committee – Jon Boren and Cody Stone

* ECOP 4-H Leadership Committee –Partial funding of $100K was included in the request to ECOP to fund the ECOP Executive Director part-time position for 18 months. The committee has developed a PD, position will be announced in the next month, qualifications may include former Directors or 4-H Program Leaders, target to hire in Feb. 2022.
	+ ODJJP Mentoring Program – need to spend the funding. Will provide further information to PI’s
	+ Sale of National 4-H Center.
* BLC Report – Jon Boren, Cody Stone, and Caron Gala
	+ BAC fly-in re: development of appropriations request and unified system ask
		- FY23/24 budget requests/justification—Boren responsible for Smith-Lever component—submitted.
			* CES Capacity funding declined in consideration of inflation
			* 5-year timeframe – accounting for inflation is 680 Million
			* Health, climate change,
		- BAC meets to review requests on Nov. 16

***Invited Guest & Presentation***

APLU Priorities and Perspectives on Advocacy – Caron Gala, APLU**,** Director of Government Affairs on Agriculture and International Development

* + APLU Structure: Councils and Commissions
	+ FANR Team: Caron, Doug Steele, Caroline Henney, et al.
	+ Council on Governmental Affairs works with Presidents, VPs and Deans
		- CGA Ag Teams (authorization and appropriations)
	+ Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources
		- BAA
			* BAC
			* CLP
			* Section Leadership
				+ CES

ECOP

* + Appropriations Advocacy
		- Seek representatives from University’s with members in Congress on specific committees.
		- CARET
		- Strategic engagement plan
			* Focus on capacity funding
			* Unified ask
			* Engagement with Administration representatives
			* Advocacy and Education toolkit:
				+ DEI
				+ Climate
				+ 4-H
				+ Workforce and economic development
				+ Urban Programs
				+ Broadband
				+ Snap-ED
				+ Health, Equity and Well Being
			* Need regional documentation of program outcomes and future vision
	+ FY-22 Appropriations Update
		- 4.76% S-L increase in Senate, 1.59% House
	+ Build Back Better – (Extension related proposals)
		- Research Facilities—1 billion over 10 years for eligible institutions (APLU is working for additional funding for USDA Farm Bill eligible institutions).
		- NIFA
			* 80 Million for Smith Lever (will be provided to USDA NIFA in year 1, but can be allocated over a 10 year period).
		- Rural Development
			* 97 Million for RPI grants
			* 873 Million for RPD grants
	+ Broadband support is included in the Infrastructure Bill which was recently passed.

Caron: Advocacy is enhanced with a cohesive summary of program impacts at the national scale. The resultant variety is compelling to policy makers.

**4:51 p.m. Adjourned**

 Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 9th, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.