

**North Carolina Association of Cooperative Extension Specialist
2016 Winter Meeting
February 5, 2016 8:45am – 11:00am
J.C. Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC (Room 109)**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

- Signed in: Mark Megalos, Aurora Toennisson, Rhonda Conlon, Jessica Knight, Harriett Edwards, Mike Parker, Dara Bloom, Ben Silliman, Gary Moore, Jackie Miller, Luci Bearon, Mary Lou Addor, Steve Washburn, Lisa Forehand, Sarah Kirby, Nichole Huff, Carinthia Cherry, Mitzi Downing, Wayne Buhler, Ted Feitshans, Amy Chilcote, Deanna Osmond, Eduardo Gutierrez, Cintia Aguilar, Carolyn Dunn, Andrew Behnke, Misty Terry (minutes), Joanna M. Lelekacs
- Others in attendance: Nancy Creamer, Dee Shore, Carl Crozier, Sarah Blacklin, Barbara Board, Rich Bonanno, Travis Burke, Tom Melton, Sheri Schwab, Mike Yoder, Susan Jakes, Becky Bowen, Carolyn Bird, Lucy Bradley, Liz Driscoll, David Green, Ken Sorensen, Robert Bardon, Tristan Laundon, Allison Sain
- Others who registered: Shannon McCollum, Sarah Kotzian, Eric McConnell, James Jeuck, Autumn Guin, Sanjun Gu, Matt Poore, Sekai Turner, Barbara Fair, Larry Hancock

Welcome and Announcements

- Awards nominations for the NC Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists is now open. All nominations are due by 5pm on March 1. Please contact Susan Jakes (susan_jakes@ncsu.edu) for more information.
- Nomination committee for new officers and board members is open. Special thanks to James Jeuck who has chaired the committee in 2015. **The nomination committee is seeking new members.**
- Our next meeting will be on May 6, 2016 at NC A&T. The meeting will focus on local foods. Please contact Nicole Huff (nichole_huff@ncsu.edu) if you are interested in sharing or helping out in any way with the meeting agenda.

Updates and Overview of NCACES

- There were 10 NCACES members present at the Federation Forum in December. At this meeting, an annual report was presented. Go to https://ncaces.ces.ncsu.edu/ncaces_reports/ for a copy. NCACES is continuing to build on the theme of recognizing excellence, promoting scholarship and providing opportunities for leadership with a special focus on communications.
- Historical records of NC Cooperative Extension dating back to 1903 can found in the Special Collections Research Center at D.H. Hill Library, NC State University. Much can be learned by looking at how past administrations dealt with issues affecting our organization.
- Based on the written record, the NC Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists was established in 1973 by S.H. Dodson, President or the Organizing Committee.
- The NC Federation of Cooperative Extension Association (NCFCEA) was formed in 1974 with Jane Taylor, Interim President. Three associations: Agricultural Extension Agents, UHE (Homemakers Association), and 4-H were founding members. George Hyatt, Director NC CES approved the

proposal as a measure to unify the voice of the three organizations and reduce administrative travel to annual meetings. Today, there are seven associations active in NCFCEA.

- In 2015 NCACES developed a strategic plan and is working on revising the by-laws to align the association with the university and college branding campaign. Providing tangible benefits for members was identified as important for members and mentoring of young professionals.
- The take home message is to recognize individuals who served the organization before us, do not lose site of the needs of our constituents, the farm family and surrounding community, and to support and encouragement to the talented folks who will lead our organization in the future.

Administrative Updates – Dr. Barbara Board, Interim Associate Administrator from NC A&T State CEP

- In 2015 NCAT Cooperative Extension staff received \$750,000 from the Kellogg Foundation to research justice in the food systems of NC as well as \$1.2M in funds from SNAP-Ed.
- Program development efforts are underway in partnership with Dr. Mary Lou Addor.
- In October 2015, the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (SAES) hosted the USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden for a listening session for women in agriculture.
- In November of 2015, the Cooperative Extension staff coordinated a tour of programs for the SAES Dean, Dr. Shirley Hymon-Parker and university Provost Dr. Joe B. Whitehead Jr. Two listening sessions were conducted with our county partners and our target audience. Stops were also included that featured programming efforts. In 2016, we will be visiting the western part of the state.
- The NCAT Strategic Planning Council held a grassroots conference in Montgomery County focused on strong families and strong communities. There were 100 participants at the event.
- NCAT is currently seeking an Animal Science Specialist. Please refer any potential candidates to this opportunity.
- The Student Internship Program will be placing 6 interns across the state during the summer of 2016.
- This year marks the 30th anniversary of Small Farms Week (March 22 -26, 2016). The kick-off event will be held in Vance County on March 22.
- This year, NCAT is trying to strengthen county-campus connections and delivery systems.
- The CEP is looking at increasing our inventory of educational resources to support programming.
- We will be focusing on impact development and measurement.
- Efforts to establish an onboarding process for new NCAT Agents is underway.
- Last year we celebrated the 125th anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Act.
- The celebration continues as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the university. As a university, we are doing 125 service projects. In our CEP, we have taken on 14 service projects. Currently, we are doing a statewide food drive. Each county is asked to collect at least 125 food items to contribute to a local charity. On March 23rd, we will acknowledge our partners and how much food was donated. Please join us in this effort.

Administrative Updates – Dr. Travis Burke, recent Interim Associate Dean, CALS, and Interim Director NC Cooperative Extension Service

- Thanks to everyone for the support and opportunity to serve the organization.

Administrative Updates – Dean Dr. Richard Linton, CALS NCSU

- The college is being reorganized to a systems based approach to improve communications.
- There will be 40 new positions over the next few years.
- The research group is informing the reorganization process and how we can integrate research and extension. This is an attempt to have more voices in on how the college should move forward.

Open Forum* – Dr. Richard Bonanno, Associate Dean, CALS, Director of NC Cooperative Extension Service

- It is important to be able to work together on teams
- Strategic plan – so far the focus has been on the county structure and the Specialists may have been put on the back burner. Support for the Specialists is something Dr. Bonanno wants to focus on. The basic principles of CES still apply; we just need to figure out how to fund it.
- Looking forward – connections between applied research and extension need to remain strong.
- Funding - none of our funding is mandatory (County, state, and Fed).
- Cost recovery – no real plans to go all fee-based, just need to generate monies at some meetings to help support Specialists.
- Organizational improvement – budget lines will go towards new faculty start-up packages.
- There is a need for more clear expectations for Extension Specialists; the role of the Specialist should be recognized as important.
- Want to hear your thoughts on department extension leaders. These will be liaisons to champion extension work in the departments. What do we think about this structure?
[Please respond to survey by February 22, 2016 - https://ncsu.qualtrics.com//SE/?SID=SV_1FVlxTrY6LqosLi]
- Strategic plan – going to be some changes – some states have county agents that are expected to do applied research and write grants. With this structure, we have to be conscious of the funding sources (federal, county, and state funds). County level funding is not mandatory. We need to make sure that these connections are considered.
- Travis will stay on to help develop a plan to better train new agents.
- One consideration is hiring people in counties so they can help neighboring counties. For example, a cluster of 5 counties each has an Ag Agent, but 1 is livestock, 1 is fruits and vegetables, etc. Again, these are just thoughts and nothing is solidified.

Other Business and Concluding Remarks

- Opening announcements were reiterated.
- Membership dues can be paid to the treasurer, Dr. Mark Megalos.

**The following questions were received from specialists through the meeting registration. These questions were provided to Dr. Bonanno in advance of this meeting.*

1. *Welcome Dr. Bonanno: We greatly appreciate your making time to meet with Extension Specialists early in your time at NC State. Best wishes, Carolyn Bird*
2. *In your short time here what have you noticed that has changed the most since you were a specialist at NCSU?*
3. *How do you envision the future role of University Extension in support of agriculture, food, and youth?*
4. *What is your vision for the NC CES in 2020?*
5. *What is your 2020 goal?*

6. *To continue funding Extension services, Extension should move towards a cost-recovery approach to many of the services we provide. How do you envision the development, implementation, and university/stakeholder support to this new approach?*
7. *How can you facilitate collaborations among specialists that support an integrated Extension program (vs. everyone pursuing their own projects)?*
8. *Can you identify one to two areas for organizational improvement and how can the specialist association assist Administration to bring about the changes?*
9. *To be consistently able to serve the county agents and other constituents, it is essential for extension administration to consider how travel can be funded, aside from gift monies. As budgets get tighter and tighter for everyone, gifts are not a reliable way to support our programs. What other ways can we do this? What can extension administration do to be of assistance?*
10. *What is the vision for Extension in the next 20 years and what specific high top 5 priorities does Director Bonanno have and what is the time line?*
11. *With Departments merging, with fewer county agents and specialists coupled with Federal, State and County funding down, what doors are open for Extension Specialists and county agents?*