

**North Carolina Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists**  
**2016 Fall Meeting, Annual Business Meeting**  
**November 4, 2016 9:00am – 11:30pm**  
**512 Brickhaven Drive, Room 203**  
**North Carolina State University**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

- See attached sign in sheets

**Welcome and Announcements** (*Joanna Massey Lelekacs*, President, NCSU)

Recap of 2016

- Two programs in 2016:
  - Open Forum with Dr. Richard Bonanno the new Associate Dean, CALS & Director, NC Cooperative Extension Service, NC State University. ~ 50 attendees
  - Local foods programming. Presentation on the Local Foods Flagship Program followed by a specialist panel on Extension local food initiatives. Panelists included Dr. Dara Bloom, Becky Bowen, Liz Driscoll, Abbey Piner, and Dr. Noah Ranells.
- We celebrated our annual awardees in May. Award Winners: Misty Terry, Joanna Lelekacs, April Shaeffer, Liz Driscoll and Tes Thraves.
- We had a special project, requested by Dr. Bonanno. A survey and report of NC State Extension on Department Extension Leader (DEL) positions, resulting in Rich re-establishing a DEL in every department.
- In 2016, there was a thorough review and update of the Association's by-laws resulting in:
  - amended our annual meeting date from May to November and
  - officer and board elections to November.
  - Our current slate of officers agreed to stay on for six more months as we adjust our annual calendar of events.
- The NCACES Board of Directors met for our annual retreat for two days in July at the Center for Marine Sciences and Technology in Morehead City.
  - we planned for a renewed focus on communication (internal and external) and membership recruitment to be led by Board Members Dr. Sanjun Gu and Jackie Miller.
  - developed a program plan for the next three years that reinforces our focus on leadership, scholarship, and excellence.
  - Agreed to experiment with one virtual meeting per year that will focus on a theme of scholarship, to allow us to better engage specialists who do not reside near our regular meeting locations in Raleigh and Greensboro.

2017 meetings:

February 3, 2017: Meeting will be held online with a focus on scholarship.

May 5, 2017: Meeting will be in person at NC A&T State University with a focus on excellence.

November 3, 2017: Meeting will be in person at NC State University with a focus on leadership.

### Committee Needs

- Thank you to all the Committee Chairs from the past year - Committee chairs – Susan Jakes, Carolyn Bird, Jackie Miller and Sanjun Gu, Autumn Guin, Misty Terry and David Green
- We need new volunteers for our Committees.
- We need a chair for the Nominations Committee. Great professional development opportunity and there is a process laid out for you.
  - Sent around a listing where you can please sign up. We have many of the same folks doing a lot of the work. I hope you all will help us move the organization forward by volunteering and taking on a professional development opportunity through greater involvement.

### Thanks to Past Officers and Board Members

- Thanks all the officers and board members from 2015-2016 who agreed to a longer tenure due to switching elections from spring to fall.
- President Elect, Nichole Huff, left mid-year for another position.
  - Misty Terry –came on as Interim Pres-Elect
  - Autumn Guin stepped into Misty's role as Secretary
  - Mark Megalos – seeking a replacement next year, so please consider whether this is a role you are interested in for 2018.
  - Jackie Miller – Website Coordinator extraordinaire. Keeps the information flowing and transparent.
  - Board members continuing (Sanjun Gu, Susan Jakes, Joshua Idassi) and departing (Dara Bloom, Autumn Guin, Eric McConnell)
  - AND, last but certainly not least, David Green – departing past president – honor with certificate and gift

### **Recognition & Awards Committee:** (Susan Jakes, Recognition & Awards Committee Co-Chair, NCSU)

- Michelle Eley and Susan Jakes have graciously taken on co-chairing this work. Carinthia Cherry has volunteered to assist.
- Three awards are given each year
  - Outstanding Specialist,
  - Outstanding Program Individual,
  - Outstanding Program Team
- Award nominations requires a simple process and announcements will come out in the Spring

### **Special Projects Committee: Membership & Communications Report** (*Jackie Miller*, Special Projects Committee Co-Chair, NCSU)

- Need to better market NCACES
- Research on who specialists are revealed no central list. Searching multiple lists resulted in 147 individual names who were not currently involved with NCACES. Those individuals were sent an invitation to this meeting.
- A separate email was sent out to invite previous members to renew membership.

### **Treasurer Report** (*Mark Megalos*, Treasurer, NCSU)

- There is currently \$1,978 in checking, \$1141.07 in savings, and \$314.52 in shares.
- There are nine lifetime members.

- Membership is \$15 per year or \$75 for lifetime membership.

**Nominations Committee Report & Introduction of New Officers** (*Autumn Guin*, Nominating Committee Chair, NCSU)

- Nominating Committee met during the 2016 NCACES Board Retreat on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Center for Marine Sciences and Technology in Morehead City, NC.
  - Members included Joanna Lelekacs, David Green, Dara Bloom, Jackie Miller, Nichole Huff, Misty Blue-Terry, Sanjun Gu, and Autumn Guin.
  - Identified people to serve in various available positions and contacted them to determine interest in serving.
  - Nominees who agreed were added to the confirmation ballot sent to the NCACES Membership.

2016-2017 NCACES New Leaders Election Results

| Position        | Name   | Count |
|-----------------|--|-------|
| President       | Dr. Misty Blue-Terry, NC A&T, 4-H STEM                                   | 33    |
| President Elect | Sarah Blacklin, NCSU, Horticultural Science, NC Choices Program Director | 36    |
| Treasurer       | Dr. Mark Megalos, NCSU, Forestry   | 34    |
| Secretary       | Autumn Guin, NCSU, Agricultural and Human Sciences                       | 34    |
| Board Member    | Dr. Matthew Poore, NCSU, Animal Science                                  | 33    |
| Board Member    | Diana Urieta, NCSU, Agricultural and Human Sciences                      | 35    |
| Board Member    | Gary Bullen, NCSU, Agricultural & Resource Economics                     | 35    |

**Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to David Green, departing Past President**

- Dr. David Green was honored with a certificate and a gift card for his service to NCACES and it’s members
- Dr. Green discussed the importance of the association to the university and to administration. “This organization is about leadership not followership – don’t be afraid to say what you think – stand up for what you think and be willing to take a chance. There are many opportunities to do things – the goal is to make it better.”

**Short break**

Federation Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> (Joanna Lelekacs)

- 10 delegates attending this year
- NCACES delegates: Misty Terry, Gary Moore, Jackie Miller, Sarah Blacklin, Mary Lou Addor, Dara Bloom, Ben Silliman, Autumn Guin, Emily Edmonds, Joanna Lelekacs.

**Focus on Leadership Presentations**

## **Special Panel: Strengthening Links Between County and Campus Operations**

*Susan Kelly*, County Extension Director, Richmond County

*Becky Bowen*, CultivateNC Program Manager, ANR/CRD, NC State University

*Michelle Eley*, Community and Rural Development Specialist, NC A&T State University

*Der Xiong*, Extension Agent, Immigrant Agriculture Program, Catawba County

### **Becky Bowen and Susan Kelly**

Becky Bowen was hired to support Susan Jakes' USDA Stronger Economies Together (SET) to guide a region wide conversation about driving economy of the region. Susan Kelly came on as the Richmond County Extension Director around the same time that Becky was facilitating conversations for SET in Lee, Moore, and Richmond Counties. In the Sandhills Region, agriculture is the focus. Agriculture is the biggest industry in the state.

Three years ago they invited people to come in and taste local foods. This resulted in taking SET into Green Field Initiative (nonprofit).

Partnership Opportunities:

- Grant and Award Writing
- Green Field Sandhills Organizational Development (nonprofit)
- Connection to Cooperative Development Resources USDA
- Local Foods Regional Mapping
- Food Hub Research Support – Golden Leaf Grant – Sandhills Ag Innovation Center
- Sandhills Farmers' Cooperative

Becky's connections to local foods helped create some of these connections and to formally incorporating Green Field. SET is now a huge umbrella for community development in the Sandhills region.

Awards and Presentations at NACDEP professional association & the Opal Mann Green Award

Becky is now working in Foothills and Kerr-Tar Region, promoting agriculture and local foods. In working with Regional Economic Developers it is clear that they see agriculture and industry as separate. Education efforts to explain the importance of agriculture lead to local strategies that support successful agriculture and local foods.

### **Michelle Eley and Der Holcomb: Building the New Immigrant Agricultural Program**

Work began in 2007 with an opportunity to work with Hmong people in Catawba County using a nontraditional approach for working with limited resource audiences.

Hmong people are a large population, the 4<sup>th</sup> largest minority group in NC, and are generally undocumented. Originally from Laos mountain region, the Hmong brought agricultural practices to U.S. that include hand work and little machinery. They continue to grow crops from their home such as rice. The United Hmong Association wanted to introduce more modern agricultural techniques. A grant was received from DHHS to begin the work with Hmong People.

Building trust is critical to program success.

- Hmong came to US because of war – Vietnam War – Lost land, family, way of life

- Hmong people are patriarchal society making change difficult because women are more likely to be involved in conversations.
- Cooperative Extension is seen as less threatening than other (regulatory) organizations.

#### Partners include:

- Cooperative Extension Faculty and Staff at NC A&T
- Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston County Extension Staff
- Catawba Co. Dept of Engineering and Utilities
- Admin & Catawba Co. EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility
- United Hmong Association and affiliated Hmong civic associations

#### Project Goals

- Providing training for Hmong in alternative ag production and marketing
- Demonstrate season extension techniques via experimental field demonstration site
- Provide garden space to families to grow food for consumption
- Provide networking and technical assistance for participating Hmong growing various niche, specialty and alternative products to develop new market outlets

#### Approach

- Growers School sessions, with a one-acre demonstration plot
- Special training in developing niche/specialty crops and sustainable ag practices
- Bi-annual field day events
- Materials translated in Hmong
- Regular farm site visitation
- Creation of direct marketing opportunities via local farmers' markets roadside stands – including booth set-up
- Technical assistance with contracts, land acquisition, loans, bookkeeping, and production goals

#### Big Picture:

- There is no magic bullet
- Trust and respect are critical
- Process evolves based on partners and needs of participants
- Sometimes when we do programming that is not traditionally done – may not always get a warm reception at county level – With a solid plan and well-defined audience it is possible to create buy in.
- Lead to establishing full-time person to work with Hmong people.

#### Questions for All Presenters

Do we integrate diverse populations or create programs specific for each culture?

- Cultural differences create barriers to participation by different cultural groups.
- Discomfort from culturally diverse individuals will keep them from participating and trying to put them into mixed groups will make them uncomfortable and lead to polarization and decreased participation.
- Suggestion to work in specific programs designed for specific cultures and select individuals to begin to work in partnership with others as necessary.

**Other Business** (*Joanna Massey Lelekacs*, President)

Sheri Schwab – last day to register for Extension Conference and invitation to Federation Forum

**Adjourn – 11:35**

**2017 Standing Committees**

**Nominating Committee:**

Chair:

Members:

**Program Committee:**

Chair: Sarah Blacklin

Members: Lisa Forehand, Autumn Guin

**Recognition & Awards Committee:**

Co-Chairs: Susan Jakes & Michelle Eley

Members: Carinthia Cherry

**Professional Improvement & Affairs Committee**

Chair: Joanna Lelekacs

Members: Sanjun Gu, Ben Silliman, Mary Lou Addor

**By-Laws & Audit Committee**

Chair: Gary Moore

Members: Carolyn Bird

**Special Projects Committee**

Co-Chairs: Jackie Miller & Sanjun Gu

Members: Emily Edmonds, Rebecca Dunning, Robyn Stout

**North Carolina Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists 2016 Spring Meeting**  
**May 6, 2016 9:00am – 12:00pm**  
**Godfrey Room, Coltrane Hall**  
**North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University**

**Attendance List**

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Department</b> | <b>Email</b>   | <b>Add to NCACES listserv?</b> | <b>NCAT</b> | <b>NCSU</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Misty Terry        | 4-H               | <a href="mailto:mablue@ncat.edu">mablue@ncat.edu</a>               |                                | x           |             |
| Katrina Levine     | AHS               | <a href="mailto:kblevine@ncsu.edu">kblevine@ncsu.edu</a>           |                                |             | x           |
| Chris Gunter       | Hort Science      | <a href="mailto:cgunter@ncsu.edu">cgunter@ncsu.edu</a>             |                                |             | x           |
| Lisa Forehand      | Hort/CEFS         | <a href="mailto:lisa_forehand@ncsu.edu">lisa_forehand@ncsu.edu</a> |                                |             | x           |
| Jeanette Maatouk   | AHS               | <a href="mailto:jimmatou@ncsu.edu">jimmatou@ncsu.edu</a>           |                                |             | x           |
| Joanna Lelekacs    | ANR/CRD           | <a href="mailto:jmleleka@ncsu.edu">jmleleka@ncsu.edu</a>           |                                |             | x           |
| Ben Silliman       | AHS               | <a href="mailto:ben_silliman@ncsu.edu">ben_silliman@ncsu.edu</a>   |                                |             | x           |
| Mary Lou Addor     | EOD/NRLI          | <a href="mailto:mary_addor@ncsu.edu">mary_addor@ncsu.edu</a>       |                                |             | x           |
| Allison Ballantyne | Pesticide Safety  | <a href="mailto:alballan@ncsu.edu">alballan@ncsu.edu</a>           | x                              |             | x           |
| Becky Bowen        | CRD               | <a href="mailto:blbowen@ncsu.edu">blbowen@ncsu.edu</a>             |                                |             | x           |
| Jackie Miller      | CRD               | <a href="mailto:jackie_miller@ncsu.edu">jackie_miller@ncsu.edu</a> |                                |             | x           |
| Susan Jakes        | ANR/CRD           | <a href="mailto:susan_jakes@ncsu.edu">susan_jakes@ncsu.edu</a>     |                                |             | x           |
| Carinthia Cherry   | FCS/4-H           | <a href="mailto:cacherry@ncat.edu">cacherry@ncat.edu</a>           |                                | x           |             |
| Jay Jayaratne      | AHS               | <a href="mailto:jay_jayaratne@ncsu.edu">jay_jayaratne@ncsu.edu</a> |                                |             | x           |
| Emily Foley        | AHS               | <a href="mailto:eifoley@ncsu.edu">eifoley@ncsu.edu</a>             | x                              |             | x           |
| Robyn Stout        | Local Foods       | <a href="mailto:robyn_stout@ncsu.edu">robyn_stout@ncsu.edu</a>     | x                              |             | x           |

| Name            | Department  | Email  | Add to NCACES listserv? | NCAT | NCSU |
|-----------------|---|--|-------------------------|------|------|
| Emily Edmonds   | Local Foods/NCGT  | <a href="mailto:emily_edmonds@ncsu.edu">emily_edmonds@ncsu.edu</a>   | x                       |      | x    |
| Lisa Sanders    | Horticulture  | <a href="mailto:ltsander@ncsu.edu">ltsander@ncsu.edu</a>             | x                       |      | x    |
| Gary Moore      | AHS   | <a href="mailto:gmoore@ncsu.edu">gmoore@ncsu.edu</a>                 |                         |      | x    |
| Steve Washburn  | ANS   | <a href="mailto:steve_washburn@ncsu.edu">steve_washburn@ncsu.edu</a> | x                       |      | x    |
| Manuel Peña     | Animal Science  | <a href="mailto:ompenape@ncsu.edu">ompenape@ncsu.edu</a>             |                         |      | x    |
| Michelle Eley   | CEP   | <a href="mailto:mleley@ncat.edu">mleley@ncat.edu</a>                 |                         | x    |      |
| Rebecca Dunning | CEFS  | <a href="mailto:rddunnin@ncsu.edu">rddunnin@ncsu.edu</a>             | x                       |      | x    |
| David Green     | FBNS  | <a href="mailto:dpg@ncsu.edu">dpg@ncsu.edu</a>                       | x                       |      | x    |
| Mark Megalos    |   |  |                         |      |      |
| Mike Yoder      | Associate Director; State Program Leader, 4-H/FCS                   | <a href="mailto:mike_yoder@ncsu.edu">mike_yoder@ncsu.edu</a>         |                         |      | x    |
| Sheri Schwab    | <i>Associate Director NCCES &amp; Director of County Operations</i> | <a href="mailto:lschwab@ncsu.edu">lschwab@ncsu.edu</a>               |                         |      | x    |
| Deanna Osmond   | Crop & Soil Science   | <a href="mailto:deanna_osmond@ncsu.edu">deanna_osmond@ncsu.edu</a>   |                         |      | x    |
| Autumn Guin     | AHS   | <a href="mailto:autumn_guin@ncsu.edu">autumn_guin@ncsu.edu</a>       |                         |      | x    |
| Der Holcomb     | Extension Agent Catawba County                                      | <a href="mailto:der_xiong@ncsu.edu">der_xiong@ncsu.edu</a>           |                         |      | x    |
| Susan Kelly     | CED & CRD Richmond County   | <a href="mailto:susan_kelly@ncsu.edu">susan_kelly@ncsu.edu</a>       |                         |      | x    |
| Sarah Blacklin  | Hort Science  | <a href="mailto:Sarah_blacklin@ncsu.edu">Sarah_blacklin@ncsu.edu</a> |                         |      | x    |