2021 ECOP Virtual Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 26, 2021, 11:00 a.m. – Noon Eastern Time
Presiding – Chris Watkins, Chair
www.aplu.org/cesgoals

Attachments: Minutes of July 2021 Meeting, ECOP Executive Committee Meetings Minutes, August 12, 2021, 2021 NEDA Registration and Information Site, and information regarding the exploratory committee on ECOP/National 4-H Council/Extension Foundation relationships and Professional Development Committee update. (pg. 4)

Other Important Links: Interactive ECOP Org Chart, ECOP Calendar, 2021 Budget

1.0 Welcome and Call to Order

Chris Watkins called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Attendance is found on page 3. There were no corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, nor additions to the agenda.

2.0 USDA/NIFA Update – Mike Fitzner and Parag Chitnis shared the following highlights:

Most recent hires are coming from land-grant universities. Diversity is emphasized in conversation with stakeholders. Blue Ribbon Panel – Congressional support to explore integration of research/education/extension through National Academy of Sciences effort and close ties to farm bill.

Find contact information for NIFA staff by clicking on “Contact” on the top bar of the NIFA homepage, then scrolling down to the Employee Directory search feature (direct link is https://nifa.usda.gov/contact-us); contact information for NPLs is available at https://NIFA.usda.gov/national-program-leaders, contact information for NPLs by Institute is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/institutes

Find contact information about NIFA funding opportunities by clicking on “Grants” on the second bar on the homepage (https://nifa.usda.gov/grants) or “RFA List” on the Featured Information bar on the homepage (https://nifa.usda.gov/rfa-list). The RFA Calendar https://nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar includes target release dates for RFAs and the proposal submission deadlines (closing date) for already released RFAs.

3.0 APLU Update

Chris Watkins called on Doug Steele: Doug thanked Extension for their nominations for the National Academies of Science Blue Ribbon Panel for land-grant universities. Will be following closely the follow up on workshop he and Caroline Henney attended regarding land-grant universities and US biodefense. As for the unified asks of the Federal Budget – decisions are coming quickly. 2021 APLU Annual Meeting plans are moving forward. There will be a BAA virtual meeting Fly-In October 4, 2021 to discuss topic advocacy, setting priorities, and communications.

4.0 National 4-H Equity Design Team Update

Chris Watkins called on Dorothy Freeman and Aimee Viniard-Weideman:
The ECOP 4-H Leadership Committee Equity Design team asks for 5-7 people to be selected for 4 teams as part of the implementation phase of the project described at https://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/board-on-

www.extension.org/ecop
5.0 **2022 ECOP Budget Discussion**

Chris Watkins: Typically, the Cooperative Extension Section budget is based on collection of $600,000 in assessments with a zero-based budget. Chris entertained a motion to agree on the typical expenditures. A motion was appropriately brought to the floor but did not carry. The motion was withdrawn. During discussion:

Jon Boren confirmed that ECOP 4-H Leadership Committee ask was for additional money for facilitator.

General concern was expressed by several voting members about separating out approval of the typical parts of the budget up to $600,000 and taking separate action(s) to consider approval of the ECOP Program Committee and 4-H Leadership Committee requests that will draw down on reserves.

The Chair tabled decision-making until members had a chance to thoroughly review the latest budget proposal. A poll for a meeting dates in September was requested of the National Office.

6.0 **Adjourn**
**ECOP Voting Members** (Executive Committee in Bold). Attendance is indicated by ✓ and □.

✓ Chris Watkins, Cornell University, Chair
✓ Wendy Powers, University of California, Chair-elect (Liaison to ESCOP)
✓ Mark Latimore, Jr., Fort Valley State University, Past-Chair (2021 NEDA Planning Committee)
✓ Beverly Durgan, University of Minnesota Extension
✓ Laura Perry Johnson, University of Georgia
✓ Rich Bonanno, North Carolina State University (CES Representative to CLP-Farm Bill)
☐ Rosalind Dale, North Carolina A&T State University
✓ Jason Henderson, Purdue University (Liaison to NUEL Steering Committee, Vice-chair ECOP BLC)
✓ Gary Jackson, Mississippi State University
☐ John Lawrence, Iowa State University (Chair of Professional Development Committee)
✓ Ivory Lyles, University of Nevada (Chair of Program Committee)
✓ Barbara Petty, University of Idaho (Liaison to JCEP)
✓ Vonda Richardson, Florida A&M University
Northeast Region Vacancy

**Ex-officio/Non-voting members**
- Jon Boren, Chair, Budget and Legislative Committee, Co-chair of 4-H Leadership Committee, New Mexico State University
- Mike Fitzner and Parag Chitnis, USDA-NIFA
- Caroline Henney, Executive Director, Cooperative Extension System/ECOP
- Ed Jones, 4-H Leadership Committee Liaison, Virginia Tech
- Roger Rennekamp, Extension Health Director, Cooperative Extension System/ECOP
- Michelle Rodgers, BAA-Policy Board of Directors, University of Delaware

Liaisons to ECOP
- Jo Britt-Rankin, BoHS Liaison, University of Missouri
- Chris Geith, CEO, or Designee, Extension Foundation
- Brian Kowalkowski, 1994 Liaison to ECOP and Extension Foundation, College of Menominee Nation
- Vicky McCracken, Designee, Extension Foundation Board of Directors, University of New Hampshire
- Andy Ferrin, SVP-CSO, National 4-H Council
- Char Wenham, CARET Liaison, St. Joseph, MI
- Al Wysocki, ACOP Liaison, University of Florida
  To be determined, ESCOP Liaison

**Executive Director and Administrator Team**
- Ron Brown, Southern Region
- Albert Essel, 1890 Region
- Doreen Hauser-Lindstrom and Lyla Houglum, Western Region
- Caroline Henney, CES/ECOP National Office
- Ali Mitchell, Northeast Region
- Sandy Ruble, CES/ECOP National Office
- Robin Shepard, North Central Region

**Guests**
- Doug Steele, APLU
- Dorothy Freeman, National 4-H Council
- Aimee Viniard-Weideman, Iowa State University
- Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University
- Bob Scott, University of Arkansas
Committee Formation Approved by the ECOP Executive Committee to Explore the Relationship Between ECOP, the National 4-H Council, and the Extension Foundation

On 8/12, the ECOP Executive Committee voted to approve the formation of a committee which is tasked with exploring the relationship between ECOP, National 4-H Council, and the Extension Foundation.

Two representatives from each organization will comprise the make-up of this committee.

The Executive Committee approved Caroline Henney and Jon Boren to represent ECOP. Representatives from National 4-H Council include Jennifer Sirangelo and Martha Bernadett, President and CEO, Molina Foundation, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees. Representatives from the Extension Foundation include Ken LaValley and Megan Hirschman.

The exploratory committee will meet regularly to discuss roles and responsibilities around partnership and resource development and will examine the feasibility of developing an MOU to outline these opportunities. Recommendations resulting from the meetings will be presented to ECOP on or prior to the December 2021 ECOP meeting.

Professional Development Committee Report
Submitted by John Lawrence, Iowa State University

The Professional Development Committee did not meet in June, July or August. Topics we will address in our September 13 meeting:

- Planning topics for upcoming Learning for Leaders. Rosalind Dale has talked to Wendy Powers and has responses to recent survey about topics. Robin is checking with Caroline regarding the next L4L date that we need to coordinate.
- Planning and implementing the New Director/Administrator training. Typically, this has been a brief pre-conference to NEDA which is a virtual meeting Oct 12 - 14, 2021. Robin will talk to NIFA about when its New Administrator orientation will be held.