## Summary of 2024-2025 S1074 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2024–25 S1074 Annual Meeting was held in a hybrid format (in-person and online) on May 20–21, 2025. The meeting took place from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM on May 20 and from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on May 21, including a designated business meeting from 8:20 AM to 9:15 AM on May 21. The in-person portion was held at Haecker Hall on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus and was graciously hosted and organized by Dr. Erin Cortus. Online participation was by Zoom. There were 16 people in attendance.

**Table 3. 2025 Annual Meeting attendees.**

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| **Name** | **State** | **Institution** |
| **Jun Zhu** | **Arkansas** | **University of Arkansas** |
| **Deanne Meyer** | **California** | **UC Davis** |
| **Lilong Chai** | **Georgia** | **University of Georgia** |
| **Lide Chen** | **Idaho** | **University of Idaho** |
| **Erin L. Cortus** | **Minnesota** | **University of Minnesota** |
| **MaryGrace Erickson** | **Minnesota** | **University of Minnesota** |
| **Zong Liu** | **Texas** | **Texas A&M University** |
| **Mahmoud Sharara** | **North Carolina** | **N.C. State University** |
| **Lingjuan Wang-Li** | **North Carolina** | **N.C. State University** |
| **Daniel Anderson** | **Iowa** | **Iowa State University** |
| **Brett Ramirez** | **Iowa** | **Iowa State University** |
| **Lingying Zhao** | **Ohio** | **The Ohio State University** |
| **Xufei Yang** | **South Dakota** | **South Dakota State University** |
| **Julie Smith** | **Vermont** | **University of Vermont** |
| **Jactone Ojego** | **Virginia** | **Virginia Tech** |
| **Nesli Akdeniz Onuki** | **Wisconsin** | **University of Wisconsin-Madison** |

**Business Meeting Agenda:**

* Leadership change
* Annual report
* 2026 project annual meeting
* Webinars in 2025-2026

**Meeting Outcomes:**

**Leadership change**

* Current leadership team – Chair: Dr. Xufei Yang (SDSU); Vice chair: Dr. Lingying Zhao (OSU); Secretary: Vacant. As a result, it was necessary to elect two members to fill leadership roles.
* Dr. Lingying Zhao, the current vice chair, will assume the role of chair for the 2025-2026 term.
* Dr. Erin Cortus (UMN) was elected to be the incoming vice chair.
* Dr. Julie Smith (UVM) was elected to be the incoming secretary.
* All meeting attendees participated in the election and approved the new leadership appointments.

**Annual report**

* The project team will submit the collective annual report to the USDA NIFA within 60 days of the Annual Meeting.
* Dr. Mahmoud Sharara will consult with the project administrative advisor, Dr. Cliff Lamb, to determine whether separate reports are required for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 reporting periods.
* Drs. Xufei Yang and Dr. Lingying Zhao will work with other team members to finalize a state report template. The template will include guidelines and recommendations for addressing the multistate objectives of the S1074 project.

**2026 Annual meeting**

* A tentative plan was proposed to hold an in-person meeting in Fresno, California. Dr. Deanne Meyer graciously volunteered to host the meeting and coordinate field visits.
* Further discussions will be carried out during the next quarterly business meeting.

**Webinars in 2025-2026**

* The team will reach out to other S1074 committees and potential speakers to coordinate seminar topics and availability. In addition to the types of speakers previously invited, the team will also contact representatives from USDA ERS and ARS as potential speakers.
* Future webinars will feature a seminar followed by a round-table discussion.
* Two webinars were proposed: (1) August 27 or 29, 2025 (12 PM – 1:30 PM); and (2) November 5 or 6, 2025 (12 PM – 1:30 PM). Dr. Xufei Yang will lead the organization of the first webinar.

**Additional Notes:**

Dr. Lingying Zhao led a discussion on the development of a collaborative proposal after the business meeting.

Dr. Xiaoyu (Iris) Feng and Dr. Ademola Ajayi-Banji joined the S1074 project after the 2025 Annual Meeting. They both come from the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at North Dakota State University.

## S-1074 Seminar Summaries for 2024-2025

The S-1074 program organized two seminars last year, both held in person during the 2025 Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. They were also accessible virtually via Zoom.

* The first seminar was held on May 20, 2025. Dr. Joe Waddell from Dairy Management Inc. presented on the RuFaS modeling system for dairy industry assessments. RuFaS is a complex, process-based modeling framework composed of numerous integrated sub-models. Dr. Waddell’s presentation prompted lively discussion among S1074 team members, focusing on topics such as data collection and quality, uncertainty analysis, and the practical application of the model to support decision-making by individual dairy producers.
* The second seminar was held on May 21, 2025. Dr. Jennifer Schmitt, from the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota, presented on Food Cubed, an integrated modeling system designed to assess the sustainability of food supply chains. Her presentation focused specifically on supply chains in the animal agriculture sector, tracing inputs such as corn and soybeans used in animal feed through to the consumer market. The seminar generated substantial interest and discussion among S1074 team members. Questions centered on perceived discrepancies between the model’s outputs and participants’ real-world experiences, as well as on the extent of Food Cube’s collaboration with animal producer associations and major food companies.