

NC-1100 Meeting Minutes

Date: 19-November-2025

Attendees

- Maria Marshall (Chair)
- Michael Wilcox
- Kathryn Boys
- Cynthia Jasper
- Renee Wiatt
- Bhagyashree Katare (Secretary)
- Jae-Min Lee
- Zuzana Bednarik
- Wookjae Heo

Welcome: Maria Marshall opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing her appreciation for their attendance. The main agenda for the meeting was to finalize the proposal for the next NC1100 multi-state project cycle, which is due December 1.

Maria requested that members send any major additions or missing elements, along with citations.

Review of objectives: Objectives perceived as broad and inclusive, aligning well with NCRCRD work. Members confirmed their research areas fit comfortably within the objectives. Attendees asked whether examples listed under disparities (healthcare, caregiving, housing) were meant to be exhaustive. They also agreed to review the proposal and send additions to Maria before Thanksgiving break.

Members agreed to revise objective 1 for clarity and to slightly broaden its scope. A revised framing for Objective 2 was discussed: focusing on the role of small businesses and farms in addressing health, well-being, economic prosperity, and community development. It was also proposed to refine the wording to reflect the scope more accurately by referencing development policies and programs affecting farms and rural economies.

Members were assigned to specific objectives as follows:

- Maria Marshall - 2 and 3
- Michael Wilcox – 1 and 2
- Kathryn Boys – 1 and 3
- Cynthia Jasper – 1 and 2
- Renee Wiatt- 2 and 3
- Bhagyashree Katare – 1 and 3
- Jae-Min Lee – 1
- Zuzana Bednarik - 2 and 3
- Wookjae Heo - – 1 and 2

Other multistate groups work on rural and community development issues (NC1171, NE715, etc.). So there is an expectation of collaboration with other groups with overlapping interests, members, and topics.

Rural Livability Initiative

1. All Regional Rural Development Centers are collaborating with the University of Wisconsin–Madison on the **Rural Livability Project**, aligned with the “fourth wave” framework (beyond economic activity).
2. A book is in progress with chapters from all centers.
3. A **special issue** in *Review of Regional Studies* on **Rural Livability** is open; deadline **March 15**.

Link for the special issue announcement: <https://rrs.scholasticahq.com/pages/1037-call-for-papers>

Data collection

Baseline household surveys (2020, 2022, 2024) include farming-related questions; in 2024, 10% of households reported farming.

Resources **do exist** for small businesses and farms data collection:

2028 surveys are already budgeted through NCRCRD. The previous small business survey was funded using NC1100 funds. Opportunities remain to include additional questions important to group members.

Members affirmed interest in moving forward with an NC1100 data collection effort focused on small businesses and farms, beyond the Center’s scheduled data collection in 2026 and 2028. Maria noted she has already listed member participation in survey design and data analysis for upcoming waves, emphasizing that contributions may range from suggesting specific questions to reviewing full instruments.

Miscellaneous

Maria explained that the governance section now specifies that the NCRC Center Director serves as chair to ensure continuity, given reporting responsibilities and funding structure. She invited objections if members preferred an alternative structure.

Shelly Surber to send an email to schedule the next meeting in February/March 2026.